

# BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



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## NEW HONORS, ROLES

**NEW LEADERS AT GRAMBLING, FAYETTEVILLE STATE, VIRGINIA STATE, ALABAMA STATE HOOPS**

**ROB PARKER:** Noted sports journalist inaugurates Black Sportswriters Hall of Fame at North Carolina A&T with nine distinguished inductees.

## UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS



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**2025 INDUCTEES:** (L. to r.) Michael Wilbon, Claire Smith and William "Bill" Rhoden at Saturday's induction ceremony.

## BLACK SPORTSWRITERS HALL OF FAME DEBUTS AT NORTH CAROLINA A&T:

GREENSBORO, NC – **North Carolina A&T State University** was unveiled Saturday as the home of the new Black Sportswriters Hall of Fame with the induction of its inaugural class.

The new Hall is the brainchild of ubiquitous sports journalist and entrepreneur Rob Parker, who has a distinguished 39-year career that includes stints at the *Detroit Free Press* and *Newsday* as those institutions' first black sports columnist. He has also become a noted and provocative radio, internet and TV sports commentator.

Parker worked with NC A&T lecturer **David Squires** and a host of veteran sports journalists to bring the Hall into existence. The on-campus effort was championed by late former Dean of NC A&T's College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, **Dr. Frances Ward-Johnson**, and former Journalism and Mass Communications Department Chair, **Dr. Robbie Morganfield**.

In addition to an "Original Six" inductees (see below) honored posthumously, Saturday's honorees included;

Former *Washington Post* sportswriter and columnist Michael Wilbon who has spent the last 23 years as co-host of the popular ESPN show *"Pardon the Interruption"* alongside Tony Kornheiser and as a key analyst for ESPN's NBA coverage as a regular contributor of the network's *NBA Countdown* show;

Baseball pioneer and Hall of Fame sportswriter Claire Smith, the first woman to cover Major League Baseball (New York Yankees) full time as a writer at the *Hartford Courant*, who later was a national baseball writer for the *New York Times* and *Philadelphia Inquirer* and a coordinating editor for ESPN's MLB coverage;

And, noted sportswriter and author, **Morgan State** grad **William "Bill" Rhoden**, whose five decades in the business includes 34 years spent at the *New York Times*, 26 covering the intersection of sports, race and society in his column *"Sports of the Times"* and book titles on similar subjects.



BSHOF graphic

**THE ORIGINAL SIX:** The six trailblazing luminaries honored and inducted posthumously into the Black Sportswriters Hall of Fame at North Carolina A&T Saturday include: Virginia State graduate Bryan Burwell, the versatile and award-winning journalist and author whose on-screen talent heightened his notoriety as a vaunted reporter for HBO's *Inside the NFL* and *Real Sports*; Thomas Greer, a trailblazing sports and newspaper editor who rose to helm both at the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* and pave the way for a legion of black sportswriters; Howard graduate Sam Lacy, a groundbreaking sportswriter, reporter, fearless columnist, editor, and television/radio commentator who worked in the sports journalism field for parts of nine decades and wrote a sports column for the *Baltimore Afro American* newspaper for nearly 60 years; West Virginia State product Wendell Smith, a sportswriter and eventual sports editor of the *Pittsburgh Courier* who worked with Lacy to advocate for the integration of Major League Baseball leading to Jackie Robinson's breaking the color line before joining the *Chicago Herald-American* and moving into television; Larry Whiteside, a sportswriter who advocated for the inclusion of blacks in professional sports journalism, and spent four decades writing about the Boston Red Sox at the *Boston Globe* as the only black journalist at the time covering Major League Baseball for a daily metropolitan newspaper; And, Knoxville College grad Ralph Wiley, an iconic figure whose in-depth stories and books tackled race and social issues with insight and honesty, penned 28 cover stories for *Sports Illustrated* magazine on a variety of sports topics and issues and became a regular voice on ESPN shows such as *The Sports Reporters* and *SportsCenter*.

# More rotation of hoops coaches

## Crarey departs Florida A&M for Grambling

GRAMBLING, La. | One week after **Grambling State** men's basketball head coach **Donte' Jackson** left to take over at fellow SWAC member **Alabama A&M**, **Florida A&M** head men's coach **Patrick Crarey II** has left FAMU to become the new head man at Grambling.

The **Grambling State** Department of Intercollegiate Athletics and Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics **Dr. Trayvean D. Scott** introduced Crarey as the 14th head coach of the Tigers Friday morning.

Crarey



"Coach Patrick Crarey II is the right leader at the right time for Grambling State men's basketball," said Scott. "His track record of winning, his commitment to developing young men, and his relentless drive align perfectly with the standard of excellence we are building across our athletics program."

Crarey comes to Grambling after spending just one season at Florida A&M. He was originally hired by departed Athletics Director **Tiffany Dawn-Sykes** on a three-year contract before the FAMU Board of Trustees rejected it and gave him a one-year "prove it" contract at \$150,000.

His FAMU squad, picked in the preseason to finish 11th in the 12-team conference, exceeded expectations posting a 13-16 overall record and a 10-8 mark in conference play, good for seventh in the league standings.

Through the middle of the SWAC regular season, Crarey led the Rattlers to nine wins in ten conference games and into the top half of the standings before losing four close games in a five-game stretch to close out the season. His Rattlers lost in the SWAC Tournament quarterfinals 76-75 to **Bethune-Cookman**. Crarey coached **Sterling Young**, who was named the SWAC men's basketball player of the year.

Crarey was offered a two-year deal for \$230,000 total by FAMU in February.

Prior to coaching at FAMU, Crarey served as head coach at St. Thomas University for three years, posting a 61-27 record with two consecutive NAIA Tournament appearances and three straight winning seasons.

In the 2023-24 season, Crarey was the Sun Conference Coach of the Year. His team included NAIA second-team all-American **Milton Matthews** who came with him when he took over at FAMU. Matthews was the 2024-25 SWAC Newcomer of the year.

Crarey also spent a decade as the men's basketball coach and as the athletics director at Washington Adventist University in Maryland. During his tenure at Washington Adventist, Crarey led the Shock to a National Independint Schools national championship in 2014 and was recognized as the conference coach of the year twice (2014 and 2017).

## Fayetteville parts with Luke D'Alession quickly hires former Bluefield State coach Devin Hoehn

FAYETTEVILLE, NC – It turns out the SWAC is not the only HBCU conference with basketball coaches rotating chairs.

After **Fayetteville State** announced Wednesday a "mutual decision" between the school and men's head basketball coach **Luke D'Alessio** to end their relationship after five seasons, **Devin Hoehn** of fellow CIAA member **Bluefield State** was hired on Thursday.

Hoehn had announced his resignation from Bluefield State Wednesday.

In the just-completed 2024-25 season, Hoehn led Bluefield State to the CIAA Tournament championship game where it fell to **Virginia State**. Hoehn's squad defeated D'Alessio's FSU squad 75-61 in the tourney's semifinal round after falling to FSU in the regular season.

"We are thrilled to welcome Devin Hoehn to FSU," said Director of Athletics **Anthony Bennett**. "Devin's proven track record of success, his dynamic coaching style, and his commitment to developing players both on and off the court make him the perfect fit for our program."

"This is home!" said Hoehn on the opportunity at Fayetteville State. "I am going to give the university everything that I have."

This season, Hoehn led Bluefield State to a 19-12 overall record, a No. 2 Northern Division ranking for the CIAA Tournament with a 10-6 record, and a trip to the CIAA Championship game. His team's uptempo style saw it finish first in the conference in scoring (89.8 points per game), field goals made, free throws attempted and made, rebounds, offensive rebounds, blocks, and steals. While predicted to finish 12th in the CIAA preseason poll this season, Bluefield State finished with its first winning record as an NCAA member with a historic 19-win campaign.

Hoehn took over the budding program at Bluefield State in 2021. He developed **Jordan Hines** into the CIAA Player of the Year, HBCU DII Player of the Year, and Atlantic Region Player of the Year. His four-year record at Bluefield State was 51-63.

He began his coaching journey fresh off his notable playing career at West Liberty where he helped the Hilltoppers to three Elite Eights, two Final Fours and two national championship game appearances. During his senior season, he posted averages of 17.3 points, 3.7 rebounds and 2.8 assists in 32 starts, good enough to be named first team all-conference.

Hoehn transitioned into coaching when he followed his former head coach Jim Crutchfield to South Florida back in 2017.

He later was an integral part of the coaching staff at Nova Southeastern University from 2017 to 2021. He helped propel the Sharks to the NCAA Div. II Tournament for the very first time in 2018-19 on their way to an eventual Elite Eight appearance. The next season, NSU rose all the way to No. 1 in the national poll, ultimately finishing with a 23-6 record and a second straight bid to the tourney.

Hoehn holds a Bachelor of Arts in Athletic Administration and Coaching from West Liberty University. He hails from Parkersburg, West Virginia.

# Former Howard standout, head coach, Jackson State, Colorado assistant moves to Wyoming

LARAMIE, Wyo. – Former **Howard** standout and head coach **Gary "The Flea" Harrell**, who has spent the last six years as an assistant to **Deion "Coach Prime" Sanders** at **Jackson State** and Colorado, has taken a new position as the running backs coach at Wyoming.

UW Head Football coach Jay Sawvel announced the addition of Harrell to the Wyoming Cowboys' coaching staff last week. Harrell comes to Wyoming after serving as the running back coach at Colorado since the 2023 season. He also had the title of assistant head coach at both CU and JSU.

"Coach Harrell really stood out during the interview process with his experience with the position and his overall experience as a coach which includes time as a head coach at his alma mater," Sawvel said. "He is well-respected with a great sense for the game offensively, and we are excited to have him here at the University of Wyoming and excited to get him in the room and out on the field with our team."

"I'm very excited for this next step and excited to be amongst this staff," Harrell said. "I have heard great things about the atmosphere here at the University of Wyoming and excited for this opportunity to bring my

## Nadine Domond leaves Virginia State to take over Morgan State's women

BALTIMORE, Md. (April 9, 2025) — **Morgan State** announced Wednesday that former **Virginia State** head women's basketball coach **Nadine Domond** will be moving from Petersburg, Va. and the CIAA to become the new head coach of the Lady Bears' women's program of the MEAC in Baltimore.

The transition for Domond comes after leading VSU to back-to-back 20-win seasons and historic success, including their first-ever appearance in the NCAA Division II Women's Basketball Tournament.

Her 2024-25 campaign included a 21-5 regular season record, a CIAA Northern Division title, and a CIAA championship game berth. She was named CIAA Women's Basketball Coach of the Year and the HBCU All-Stars Lonnie Bartley NCAA Division II National Coach of the Year.

Domond's distinguished basketball pedigree includes being a second team All-Big Ten selection at Iowa under legendary Hall of Fame coach **C. Vivian Stringer**, winning the 1997 Big Ten Championship, and making three NCAA Tournament appearances. Domond also earned a USA National Team Silver Medal in 1997.

She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Iowa in 1998, majoring in African American World Studies and Instructional Design. Following a stellar college career, she was selected as the New York Liberty's 19th overall pick in the 1998 WNBA Draft and played for the Sacramento Monarchs. In 2019, she was inducted into the Connecticut Women's Basketball Hall of Fame.

Her coaching career began in the **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** (MEAC) as a graduate assistant and then assistant coach at **Hampton**. She then moved on to coaching roles at Rutgers, under Coach Stringer, and at **Grambling State**, where she earned SWAC Coach of the Year honors in 2015, and later at Virginia State.

"Coach Domond brings a level of excellence that is consistent with the direction we are taking our athletic programs at Morgan," said **Dena Freeman-Patton**, vice president and director for Intercollegiate Athletics. "Her success as both a coach and a player, her ability to recruit and connect within the DMV, and her commitment to building young women into champions on and off the court made her the clear choice. "

Coach Domond becomes the first new head coach of the Lady Bears in nearly a decade, succeeding **Ed Davis Jr.**, who retired following the 2024-25 season, closing a storied 33-year career in collegiate coaching.

"I'm incredibly honored to join Morgan State University as the next head coach of the Lady Bears. This opportunity comes at the perfect time—not just in my journey but in the evolution of women's college basketball and the rise of HBCU programs across the country," said Coach Domond.

An official introductory press conference for Coach Domond will be held on campus in the coming weeks. Details will be forthcoming.

## Johnetta Hayes returns to the SWAC to lead the Alabama State Lady Hornets

MONTGOMERY, Ala. | **Alabama State University** Vice President and Director of Athletics **Dr. Jason Cable** introduced **Johnetta Hayes** as the new Hornets' head women's basketball coach at a press conference Tuesday, April 15, at 1 pm.

Hayes is a veteran coach with 10 years of head coaching experience, including six highly successful seasons as the head coach at **Texas Southern University** from 2013-19.

"Today, we celebrate Johnetta Hayes as the new head women's basketball coach at Alabama State University," Cable said. "Her passion for the game, commitment to player development, and vision for success align perfectly with our vision."

Hayes spent the 2024-25 season as an assistant coach for Rutgers. She becomes the third head coach in the history of the women's basketball program. She replaces **Freda Freeman-Jackson**, who announced her retirement in March after 27 seasons as the program leader.

During her tenure at Texas Southern, she posted an 83-24 SWAC record, winning 78% of her conference games with an overall record of 115-74. She led TSU to two SWAC regular season titles, one SWAC Tournament title, and four overall postseason tournaments (one NCAA, two WNIT, and one WCBI). Haynes's overall record as a head coach is 197-165 and 130-80 in conference games, with additional head coaching stops at **Wiley College**, and the University of Maryland-Baltimore.

Before Rutgers, Hayes served as the head coach at UMBC for four seasons, leading the team to new heights and historic milestones. In the 2022-23 season, Hayes led the Retrievers to an 11-win improvement, one of the best in the nation. '

Before her time in Baltimore and Texas Southern, Hayes spent two years as an assistant on coach **Cynthia Cooper-Dyke's** staff at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington. During the stint, the Seahawks recorded back-to-back 20-win seasons and WNIT appearances. Before UNCW, Hayes was an assistant coach at North Texas (2008-10).

Hayes has also served as the head coach at Wiley (Texas) College (2006-08) and as an assistant coach at **Prairie View A&M** (2004-06).

The Houston, Texas native was a four-year letter winner at Rice (2000-04). She earned first team All-WAC honors in 2003 after leading Rice in scoring, rebounding, blocked shots, and field goal percentage.

Hayes graduated with a Bachelor of Liberal Arts degree from Rice University in 2004 and earned a Master of Education from Prairie View A&M University in 2006.

energy and work with this great group of young men."

The Miami, Fla. native got his nickname while carving out a Hall of Fame career at Howard (1990-1994) as a receiver, kick returner and team leader. He was a four-year letter winner, started every game for Howard's undefeated 1993 team and was a member of the MEAC championship team that same season. He holds the Howard record for most receptions in a game (13) and in a career (184). He then spent two seasons in the NFL and spent time in the World League and the Canadian Football League.

He led running backs for a season at **Alabama State** and served two years with Lane Kiffin at Florida Atlantic before spending five total seasons compiling a 20-35 record leading his alma mater. Harrell spent two seasons as the offensive coordinator for **Bowie State** (2009-10), was at **Morgan State** in 2008 and 2009 and served as a **Texas Southern** assistant coach for wide receivers from 2004-06.



Harrell