

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



Howard sports photo

MARCIA SEY: Howard soph finished third in the 100 meter hurdles and was part of the Bison's 4x100 relay team that finished sixth at the NCAA D1 Outdoor Track & Field Championships.

DUST 'EM OFF

THREE TRACK ALL-AMERICANS; LIST OF HBCU DIV. I TRACK CHAMPIONS; NEW HOOPS COACHES AT ALLEN, VUU; UFL CHAMPS

Spring Sports Round-Up

Three top eight finishers at NCAA Div. I Outdoor Track & Field Championships

No new names were added to the list of HBCU NCAA Div. I Track & Field national champions (see STAT CORNER) but there were some high finishers at last week's Outdoor Championships in Eugene, Oregon.

Howard 100-meter hurdler **Marcia Sey**, **Arkansas-Pine Bluff** quartermiler **Jordan Pierre**, **Coppin State** 400-meter hurdler **Jarrett Gentles** and the Howard women's 4x100 meter relay team reached Friday (men) and Saturday (women) finals competition.

Sey, Pierre and the Howard 4x100 relay team finished in the top eight in their respective events to earn first team Div. I all-American status.

Sey, a junior at Howard, got off to a great start, led over the first three hurdles and finished a strong third in 12.93 seconds in Saturday's women's 100 meter hurdles' final. Her third-place finish is the highest in program history

Oregon junior Aliyah McCormick won the event in 12.81 seconds. Texas A&M junior Jaiya Covington, like Sey was timed in 12.93 seconds but was credited second by 5/1000th of a second over Sey (12.928 to 12.93). Sey had qualified with a 12.88 clocking in the semifinals.

Pierre, a UAPB sophomore, ran 45.75 seconds to finish third behind winner and fellow

sophomore Samuel Ogazi (44.84) of Alabama and junior William Jones of LSU (45.53) in Friday's 400 meter finals. He made the finals with a 45.44-second clocking in the semifinals that was the eighth-best time.

Sey was also part of the Howard contingent that finished sixth in 43.23 seconds in the women's 4x100 relay final on Saturday won by Southern Cal (42.22). Sophomore **Ai'vana Gray-Williams**, senior **Kailei Collins**, senior **Tiffani Rae Pittman**, sophomore **Mackenzie Robinson** and sophomore **Kiya Lawson** were among the runners in the Lady Bison relay squad. Collins, Sey, Pittman and Gray-Williams set a new program-best of 43.08 seconds in Thursday's semifinals.

Sey and Pierre earned six points for their schools in the team competition. Howard's sixth-place finish in the relay was good for three points.

Coppin State sophomore **Jarrett Gentles** made Friday's 400 meter finals and finished ninth in 51.50 seconds. It did not earn the Eagles any points but did merit Gentles second team all-American status.

Also earning second team all-American status was **North Carolina A&T** junior **Spirit Morgan** who finished tied with five others in Saturday's women's high jump final. All cleared 1.84 meters (6' 1/2") but were placed based on misses at the height.

Morgan finished ninth.



UAPB sports photo



Howard sports photo

BRONZE MEDALISTS: Arkansas-Pine Bluff's Jordan Pierre (l.) and Howard's Marcia Sey (r.) both finished third to achieve first team all-American status in their events at the NCAA Div. I Outdoor Track & Field Championships in Eugene, Oregon last week. Pierre was third in the men's 400 meters while Sey was third in the women's 100 meter hurdles.

FINAL TEAM SCORES

MEN	WOMEN
1) Texas A&M	1) Georgia
2) Southern Cal	2) Southern Cal
3) Arkansas	3) Texas A&M
T46) Arkansas-Pine Bluff	T31) Howard
Missouri	California
Harvard	Clemson
Florida State	
Villanova	

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS



Hampton Sports photo

TRAILBLAZER: In 1932, George Williams of Hampton Institute (now Hampton University) became the first black athlete and first from an Historically Black College to win an event at the NCAA Track & Field Outdoor Championships! Williams tied the third best javelin mark in meet history with his winning heave of 215 feet, no inches. Not only did the Hampton senior PR by nearly 10 feet, but he won the event by more than 10 feet.

BCSP Notes

Harris leads DC Defenders to victory in UFL Championship Game; Rowland stands out

The D.C. Defenders scored on their first 10 possessions and would have likely been a perfect 11-for-11 had they not taken a knee in the closing minute in scoring a dominant 58-34 win over the Michigan Panthers in Saturday's UFL Championship Football game.

The victory put a bow on former **Tennessee State** quarterback and interim head coach **Shannon Harris**' first season as Defenders' coach, a job he took on six days before the season opener. Last week, Harris was named the *2025 Buddy Teevens UFL Coach of the Year*.

Harris took over after former **Alabama State** and NFL standout and former ASU and **Virginia State** head coach **Reggie Barlow** departed to take the head coach position at Tennessee State. Harris, if he doesn't stay on as the Defenders' head coach, is expected to now join Barlow's staff at TSU.

Tennessee State product, versatile scatback/wide receiver/kick returner **Chris Rowland**, was one of the offensive standouts for the Defenders.

Rowland had six carriers for 53 yards (8.8 yards per carry) including the Defenders' final score on a 19-yard run with 3:33 left to play. He also had five receptions for 45 yards, totalling 98 all-purpose yards.

QB Jordan Ta'amu was the game's MVP after completing 21 of 28 passes without an interception for 390 yards and four TDs and running for one score. Jayden Mickens had six receptions for 132 yards including a 26-yard TD reception. The Defenders piled up 580 offensive yards and did not punt.

Virginia State product and Defenders' defensive back **Willie Drew Jr.** had two solo tackles and a recovery of a Panthers' fumble on a kickoff return.

BCFHOF inducts six, honors top black college team and players of 2024

The *Black College Football Hall of Fame* added six new members at its 16th annual induction ceremony in Atlanta on Saturday, June 7 and recognized the 2024 outstanding college player, team and NFL player from the black college ranks in the ceremonies.

The six new members enshrined were:

- **Henry Dyer, Grambling State:** Grambling's first 1,000-yard rusher, Dyer was a first-team All-SWAC selection from 1963-65 and led the nation in scoring with 110 points. He was drafted in the fourth round of the 1966 NFL Draft by the Los Angeles Rams.
- **Rashean Mathis, Bethune-Cookman:** A three-time All-MEAC first-team honoree and 2002 FCS *Buck Buchanan Award* winner, Mathis excelled as a defensive back at B-CU from 1999-2002. He was a second round NFL draft choice who had a distinguished 13-year NFL career with 32 career interceptions.
- **Jacquay Nunnally, Florida A&M:** Nunnally was a standout wide receiver for the Rattlers from 1997-2000 who set the FCS career record for receptions with 362.
- **Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie, Tennessee State:** Rodgers-Cromartie starred as a defensive back at TSU from 2004 to 2007 and was drafted in the first round, 16th overall, in the 2008 Draft and later became a two-time NFL Pro Bowler.
- **Jay "Sky" Walker, Howard:** The dynamic quarterback and MEAC Player of the Year led Howard to the 1994 MEAC title and the Bison's first FCS playoff berth.
- **Coach Fred "Pop" Long, Wiley College:** A coaching legend, Long's career spanned over four decades (1921-1965), four teams and 224 wins. He led Wiley to ten SWAC titles and black college national championships in 1928, 1932 and 1945.

The ceremony also honored these players and this black college team from the 2024 season:

- **Jada Byers, RB, Virginia Union** - Byers received the *2024 Black College Football Player of the Year* award, earning the *Deacon Jones Trophy* for his remarkable season leading the VUU Panthers to their second straight *CIAA* title and to two wins in the NCAA Div. II playoffs, reaching the national quarterfinals. Byers rushed for a league-best 2,061 yards, averaged 146.9 rushing yards per game, 17 TDs and 162 points (all 2nd best in D2 football).
- **Cobie Durant, DB, South Carolina State/Los Angeles Rams** - Durant was named the *2024 Black College Football Pro Player of the Year*, an honor presented by the NFL Players Association (NFLPA). Durant totalled 37 tackles, 25 solos, one sack, one interception and one forced fumble for the Rams in the 2024-25 season.
- **Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) and Celebration Bowl** champion **Jackson State** (12-2) was honored as the *HBCU Team of the Year*, and head coach **T.C. Taylor** was recognized as Coach of the Year.

Allen names former Morehouse head man Whittler as its new head men's basketball coach

COLUMBIA, S.C. - **Allen University** named former **Morehouse** head men's basketball coach **Douglas Whittler**, a proven leader and championship winning coach, as the new head men's basketball coach for the Yellow Jackets.

"We couldn't be more excited about having Coach Whittler leading our men's basketball program," said Director of Athletics **Phillip Wallace Jr.** "I have known Coach Whittler for many years, and his leadership and coaching abilities are top notch. I have no doubt that he will lead us to a



Whittler

championship level."

Whittler arrives as the new head coach at Allen following a four-year tenure in the same position at Morehouse. During his time as head coach, Whittler amassed an overall winning percentage of 65.5% (76-40) and a 73.4% mark in conference play (59-21), marking the highest win total of any Morehouse coach in their first four seasons, and posting the second-highest winning percentage in program

history.

He is replacing **Shawn Walker** who was let go after compiling a 21-36 record in two years leading Allen. **Andre Payne**, who was hired in April to replace Walker, decided to return to his previous job as women's basketball coach at **Talladega College** with the added role of athletics director.

Whittler's teams were consistently among the **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference's** top teams as the Maroon Tigers won three consecutive SIAC East Division regular season championships under his leadership from 2022 through 2024.

"I would like to thank President (**Ernest McNealey**) and Director of Athletics Wallace for this opportunity," said Whittler. "It is truly a blessing to me and my family to be a part of the Allen University family. I am looking forward to working with the faculty and staff here at Allen to elevate our men's basketball program to a championship level not only in the SIAC, but nationally as well."

In 2024-25, Whittler led Morehouse to a second place finish in the SIAC East Division during the regular season. Whittler was also selected as one of four head coaches to serve as a co-head coach in the *2025 HBCU All-Star Game*.

Whittler, a former first-team all-SIAC player for Morehouse was named interim head coach at Morehouse prior to the 2021 season following the passing of longtime head coach **Grady Brewer**. Prior to being named head coach, Whittler spent 12 years as a member of the coaching staff. From 2009 to 2015, he served as an assistant coach, and then was promoted to associate head coach from 2015 to 2021.

Virginia Union selects Alico Dunk as its next women's hoops coach

Virginia Union University named **Alico Dunk** on Friday as the 10th coach in the history of the VUU women's basketball program. A press conference was held at 12:00 noon Friday at Barco-Stevens Hall on the Virginia Union campus in Richmond, Va.

"We are excited to introduce to you our next head women's basketball coach," said Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics **Joe Taylor**, who said VUU received over 150 applicants for the job.

"It's an honor to lead this basketball team," Dunk said in his remarks. "I would like to extend my gratitude to (VUU) President (**Dr. Hakim J.) Lucas**, AD Taylor and the leadership team for entrusting me with this incredible opportunity. It's an honor to lead this basketball team."

Dunk comes to VUU after being the head coach of the **Stillman College** women's basketball program for the past eight seasons.

As Stillman's head coach, Dunk guided the Tigers to a 26-6 record, the most single season wins in the program's history, and the 2025 **HBCU Athletic Conference** regular season title. The Lady Tigers notched their first win in the NAIA national tournament while Dunk's 112 wins are the most by a Stillman women's basketball head coach in the last four decades.

Prior to Stillman, Dunk spent two seasons as the head men's coach for **Elizabeth City State University**. Prior to that, he spent five years as the head coach of the ECSU Lady Vikings, compiling an 83-56 record.

He was the men's assistant coach from 2003-2009 which included the Vikings' 2007 *CIAA* Tournament Championship.

During his five-year stint as coach of the women's team, Coach Dunk built an impressive resume. Under his guidance the Lady Vikings won the *CIAA* Northern Division title twice and he was tabbed as the 2013 *CIAA* Coach of the Year after leading ECSU to the best record in school history of (24-4, *CIAA* 15-1).

A native of Ayden, North Carolina, Dunk was a two-sport athlete at Ayden-Grifton High School in both basketball and football. Upon graduation in 1994, he attended the University of Tennessee and then transferred closer to home to play for the Pirates of East Carolina University in Greenville. At ECU he served as the team captain his junior and senior seasons and obtained a Bachelors of Science in Exercise and Sports Science in 1999.

Upon graduation from East Carolina, Dunk taught at Hertford County High School where he was the head girls' basketball coach for one season. The next year he played professionally in Asia before coming to ECSU.

In 2010 he earned a M.S. in Sports Management from **Virginia State**.

THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

BLACK COLLEGE NCAA INDIVIDUAL DIV. I TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONS

YEAR (M, W)	NAME / SCHOOL	EVENT	TIME
2022 (M)	Randolph Ross, NC A&T	400 meters Outdoor	44.13
	Randolph Ross, NC A&T	400 meters Indoor	44.62
	Javonte Harding, NC A&T	200 meters Indoor	20.46
2021 (W)	Cambrea Sturgis, NC A&T	100 meters Outdoor	10.74
	Cambrea Sturgis, NC A&T	200 meters Outdoor	22.12
2021 (M)	Randolph Ross, NC A&T	400 meters Outdoor	43.85
	Daniel Stokes, Randolph Ross, Akeem Sirleaf, Trevor Stewart, NC A&T	4x400 relay Outdoor	3:00.92
	Randolph Ross, Daniel Stokes, Elijah Young, Trevor Stewart, NC A&T	4x400 relay Indoor	3:03.16
2019 (W)	Kayla White, NC A&T	200 meters Indoor	22.66
2019 (M)	Tyrell Richard, SC State	400 meters Indoor	44.82
2010 (W)	Francena McCory, Hampton	400 meters Outdoor	50.69
	Francena McCory, Hampton	400 meters Indoor	50.54
2009 (M)	Ronnie Ash, Bethune-Cookman	110 meter H Outdoor	13.27
2009 (W)	Francena McCory, Hampton	400 meters Indoor	51.55
2009 (M)	Ronnie Ash, Bethune-Cookman	60 meter H Indoor	7.63
2007 (W)	Yvette Lewis, Hampton	Triple Jump Outdoor	13.73m
2006 (M)	Michael Tinsley, Jackson State	400 meters Outdoor	48.25
2006 (W)	Yvette Lewis, Hampton	Triple Jump Indoor	13.75m
2005 (W)	Tremedia Brice, Texas Southern	200 meters Indoor	22.90
2005 (M)	Kevin Hicks, Florida A&M	800 meters Indoor	1:46.97
2003 (M)	Brian Johnson, Southern	Long jump Indoor	8.28m
1989 (W)	Beatrice Utunde, Texas Southern	Long jump Indoor	6.38m
1988 (W)	Mary Onyali, Texas Southern	200 meters Outdoor	22.70
1988 (M)	Rochelle Stevens, Morgan State	400 meters Outdoor	51.23
1987 (M)	Paul Emordi, Texas Southern	Long jump Outdoor	8.25m
1986 (W)	Maria Usifo, Texas Southern	400 meter H Outdoor	55.16
1986 (W)	Moswumola Soneye, Linda Esemimo- Kumoh, Mary Onyali, Maria Usifo, Texas Southern	4x100 relay Outdoor	43.71
1983 (M)	Reginald Kelly, Jackson State	Long jump Indoor	26-6.75'
1982 (M)	Eugene Sanders, Miss. Valley. St.	600 yards Indoor	1:08.51
1981 (M)	Eugene Sanders, Miss. Valley. St.	600 yards Indoor	1:09.84
1980 (M)	Evans White, Prairie View A&M	880 yards Indoor	1:52.32
1979 (M)	Evans White, Prairie View A&M	880 yards Indoor	1:51.90
1974 (M)	James Gilkes, Fisk	220 yards Outdoor	19.90
1974 (M)	Charles Foster, NC Central	120 yard H Outdoor	13.35
1973 (M)	Rod Milburn, Southern	120 yard H Outdoor	13.1
1973 (M)	Rod Milburn, Southern	60 yard H Indoor	6.9
1971 (M)	Rod Milburn, Southern	120 yard H Outdoor	13.6
1971 (M)	Larry Black, NC Central	220 yards Outdoor	20.5
1966 (M)	Martin McGrady Central State	600 yards Indoor	1:09.4
1966 (M)	Ray Pollard, Herman Hawthorne, Malbert Brown, Howard Stanback, Morgan State	4x400 relay Indoor	3:16.5
1965 (M)	Theron Lewis, Southern	440 yards Indoor	47.8
1965 (M)	Dennis Edgehill, Henry Hawthorne, Tim Johnson, Nick Lee, Morgan State	4x400 relay Indoor	3:15.6
1964 (M)	Bob Hayes, Florida A&M	200 meters Outdoor	20.4
1963 (M)	Clifton Mayfield, Central State	Long jump Outdoor	26' 7"
1963 (M)	Norman Tate, NC Central	Triple jump Outdoor	51-0.25'
1962 (M)	Hubert Brown, Morgan State	440 yards Outdoor	46.9
1960 (M)	Ralph Boston, Tennessee State	Long jump Outdoor	25-5.75'
1958 (M)	Elias Gilbert, W-S State	120 yard H Outdoor	13.9
1957 (M)	Bob McMurray, Morgan State	440 yards Outdoor	46.8
1957 (M)	Lee Calhoun, NC Central	120 yard H Outdoor	13.6
1956 (M)	Lee Calhoun, NC Central	110 meter H Outdoor	13.7
1952 (M)	George Rhoden, Morgan State	400 meters Outdoor	46.3
1951 (M)	Art Bragg, Morgan State	100 yards Outdoor	9.6
1951 (M)	George Rhoden, Morgan State	220 yards Outdoor	20.7
1951 (M)	George Rhoden, Morgan State	440 yards Outdoor	46.5
1950 (M)	George Rhoden, Morgan State	440 yards Outdoor	47.2
1950 (M)	Bill Brown, Morgan State	880 yards Outdoor	1:51.2
1946 (M)	Lewis Smith, Virginia Union	880 yards Outdoor	1:52.6
1944 (M)	Elmore Harris, Morgan State	220 yard H Outdoor	23.9
1944 (M)	Elmore Harris, Morgan State	440 yards Outdoor	47.9
1942 (M)	Adam Berry, Southern	High jump Outdoor	6-7.75'
1932 (M)	George Williams, Hampton	Javelin Outdoor	215-0'