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## SADDLE UP

**MIKE DAVIS:** Returning to the SWAC to lead Mississippi Valley State basketball.

**TODD DAY (EDWARD WATERS), MIKE DAVIS (MISS. VALLEY STATE) NEW HOOPS COACHES; SPRING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

## UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

### INTERIM TAG REMOVED FOR TODD DAY AT EDWARD WATERS:

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Edward Waters athletics officially ushered in a new era for its men's basketball program, announcing Todd Day, Sr. as the Tigers' head coach during a press conference held on campus Friday.



EWU Sports Photo

**Day**

Day, who initially joined the program early in the 2025–26 season in an interim role, now takes the reins on a full-time basis after guiding the Tigers to a 15-16 overall record, including a 12-12 mark in SIAC play. His leadership

brought stability and competitive energy to the program, positioning EWU for continued growth moving forward.

A proven winner with a strong coaching pedigree, Day arrives with an impressive track record of success at the NAIA level from his time at **Philander Smith University**. There, he led the program to back-to-back 20-plus win seasons during the 2022–23 and 2023–24 campaigns. His tenure was highlighted by a Gulf Coast Athletic Conference Tournament Championship in 2024, solidifying his reputation as a program builder.

With the interim tag now removed, Day assumes full responsibility for all aspects of the program, including player development, recruiting, game preparation, staff leadership, and community engagement. His vision centers on building a disciplined, hard-nosed team culture while strengthening the program's presence both within the SIAC and the Jacksonville community.

The announcement marks a significant step forward for EWU men's basketball, as the Tigers look to build upon last season's foundation and take the next leap under Day's leadership.

### MIKE DAVIS RETURNING TO THE SWAC AT MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE:

ITTA BENA, Miss. - **Mississippi Valley State** will host an introductory press conference for newly named Head Men's Basketball Coach **Mike Davis** on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. inside the R.W. Harrison HPER Complex.

Davis brings more than 35 years of coaching experience, including 24 seasons as a head coach and 14 postseason appearances. Over the course of his career, his teams have reached the 20-win mark nine times and produced 15 winning seasons.

He has compiled a 412-360 overall record as a head coach with stops at Indiana, UAB, **Texas Southern**, and Detroit Mercy. During that span, Davis led his programs to nine NCAA Tournament appearances, including four with Indiana, one with UAB, and four with Texas Southern.

He most recently served as an assistant coach at University of Memphis from 2024–26 before joining MVSU.

Davis is widely recognized for his tenure at Indiana, where he succeeded legendary coach Bobby Knight and guided the Hoosiers to the 2002 NCAA Championship game and a share of the Big Ten regular-season title. He finished his six-year stint at Indiana (2000–06) with a 115-79 overall record and five postseason appearances, including three consecutive NCAA Tournament berths.

Following Indiana, Davis took over at UAB (2006–12), where he compiled a 122-72 record and led the Blazers to four consecutive postseason appearances, highlighted by an NCAA Tournament berth in 2011. His teams also achieved four straight 20-win seasons and maintained strong academic performance, including four consecutive semesters with a perfect APR score.

At Texas Southern (2012–18), Davis posted a 115-89 record and dominated **Southwestern Athletic Conference** play with an 88-20 mark. His teams captured four regular-season titles and four SWAC Tournament championships, advancing to four NCAA Tournaments. In 2018, Texas Southern earned its first NCAA Tournament victory, defeating **North Carolina Central** in the First Four. Davis was named SWAC Coach of the Year three times (2013, 2015, 2016), and his players earned numerous individual honors, including five SWAC Player of the Year selections.

Davis moved on to serve as head coach at Detroit Mercy (2018–24), where posted a 60-119 mark.

Davis began his collegiate coaching career as an assistant at Alabama (1995–97) and Indiana (1997–2000), where he built a reputation as a strong recruiter and player developer.

As a player, Davis starred at Alabama, where he scored 1,211 career points and ranks among the program's all-time leaders in steals. A former Alabama Mr. Basketball and All-American, he helped lead the Crimson Tide to multiple postseason appearances.

# Howard names John Wall president of basketball operations

WASHINGTON (April 30, 2026) — **John Wall**, a five-time NBA All-Star and former standout with the Washington Wizards, has been named president of basketball operations for **Howard University** Men's Basketball, Head Coach **Kenneth Blakeney** announced last week.

Wall will work alongside Blakeney and General Manager & NIL Strategist **Daniel G. Marks** to help shape the program's strategic vision. His responsibilities include roster construction, talent evaluation and player mentorship, while gaining experience in revenue sharing, budget management, agent negotiations and name, image and likeness (NIL) matters.

Known for his basketball IQ during his playing career, Wall's basketball acumen has helped him seamlessly transition into broadcasting, contributing to NBA coverage on Amazon Prime Video, The Association, and Monumental Sports Network. He also hosts the *John Wall Holiday Invitational*, a premier high school basketball tournament held annually in his hometown of Raleigh, North Carolina.

"We call our program The Dream Factory because we believe anything is possible for the young men who commit to playing at Howard," Blakeney said. "When John served as our honorary captain this season, we learned his dream was to run an NBA front office. Given his expertise and community ties, this opportunity became a natural fit. I look forward to this role serving as a launching pad for his NBA executive career."

The hire connects two prominent Washington institutions: Howard and Wall, who was selected No. 1 overall in the 2010 NBA Draft. During his tenure with the Wizards, he led the franchise to its most sustained success in decades including winning playoff series in back-to-back seasons (2013-14 and 2014-15) for the first time since the 1970's. Wall was selected to five consecutive All-Star Games from 2014–18 and earned All-NBA third-team honors in 2017. He holds franchise records for assists (5,282) and steals (976).

Howard has experienced historic success under Blakeney, recording multiple NCAA Tournament appearances, conference tournament titles and regular-season championships over the past five seasons. They are one of only five mid-major programs (out of 222 from traditional one-bid



**JOHN WALL:** Former NBA top pick to join Howard basketball.

leagues) to reach the NCAA Tournament in three of the past four seasons. The Bison secured their first NCAA Tournament victory in school history in March with a win over the UMBC Retrievers.

Wall has already begun working with the program during the transfer portal cycle, participating in staff strategy sessions and evaluating prospective players, including recently committed center **James Brown** from the University of North Carolina.

"Stepping into this role is something I'm truly excited about," Wall said. "Washington, DC has always been my second home, and it means a lot to me to be able to come back and pour into a community that's given me so much. Howard is an HBCU program that's proving to the world that Black Excellence has no limits. To be part of what is building here and help shape the future of these young men is something I take a lot of pride in."

Both Wall and Blakeney emphasized the partnership's potential impact beyond basketball. Through Howard's national advocacy efforts and the John Wall Family Foundation initiatives in Raleigh and Washington, the collaboration aims to expand community engagement and outreach efforts.

## BCSP Notes

### Winston-Salem State women repeat, Virginia Union claims men's 2026 CIAA Outdoor track title

PETERSBURG, VA (May 2, 2026) — The 2026 CIAA Outdoor Track and Field Championship wrapped up Saturday at Rogers Stadium on the campus of **Virginia State University**, with **Winston-Salem State** and **Virginia Union** crowned the overall champions on the women's and men's sides, respectively.

Winston-Salem State claimed the women's team championship for the second consecutive season, finishing with 130 points after holding off **Clafin** (125.42) and **Fayetteville State** (102.26). On the men's side, Virginia Union captured the CIAA crown with a commanding 156 points, followed by **Johnson C. Smith** (109) and **Lincoln (Pa.)** (93).

Winston-Salem State head coach **Antonio Wells** was named Women's Coach of the Year after guiding the Rams to back-to-back titles. **Frank Charles** of Virginia Union earned Men's Coach of the Year honors following the Panthers' dominant championship performance.

Top individual accolades highlighted standout seasons across the conference. **Jhnyia Knuckles** of Clafin was named Women's Field Athlete of the Year, while **Morgan Coverson-Springs** of Clafin earned Women's Track Athlete of the Year honors. On the men's side, **Zachary Jones** of Virginia Union captured Men's Field Athlete of the Year, and **Leonie Bentley** of Virginia State was recognized as Men's Track Athlete of the Year.

MVP performances were on full display throughout the meet. **Latrice Brown** of Clafin claimed Women's Track MVP honors with 24 points after winning the 100 meters (11.88), 200 meters (23.92), contributing to the championship-winning 4x100 relay, and scoring in the 4x400 relay. **Ja'myah Walker** of Bluefield State earned Women's Field MVP honors with 18 points, highlighted by a victory in the shot put (13.50m) and a runner-up finish in the javelin.

On the men's side, **Miles Artis-Ablack** of Virginia State was named Men's Track MVP after scoring 18 points across the sprints and relays, while Jones of Virginia Union secured Men's Field MVP honors with 23 points after winning the discus and posting top-four finishes in the shot put and javelin.

Before Saturday's finals began, the CIAA recognized graduating seniors from each of the institutions. Later, the CIAA also recognized its academic standouts. The **Shaw** women's track and field team earned the highest team GPA award, while the Clafin men's team received the highest GPA honor.

Saturday's competition featured decisive moments across both disciplines. In the field events, **Sabrina Hogan** of Livingstone won the women's triple jump with a mark of 11.75 meters, while **Divine Gee** of Johnson C. Smith captured the men's triple jump at 14.78 meters.

On the women's track, Clafin captured the 4x100 relay in 45.42, while Johnson C. Smith closed strong to win the 4x400 relay in 3:46.85. Individually, Brown continued her standout weekend by sweeping the women's 100 and 200 meters, teammate **Obiageli Akubude** won the 100-meter hurdles in 13.99, and **Brea Childs** of Clafin took the 400 meters in 55.14. **Janya Barnes** of Johnson C. Smith claimed the 400-meter hurdles in 1:01.87, **Rainn Sheppard** of Winston-Salem State delivered a pivotal win in the 800 meters in 2:09.75, and **Faith Kiplimo** of Fayetteville State closed the meet with a victory in the 5,000 meters in 18:11.60.

The men's sprint events belonged to **Bowie State**, which won the 4x100 relay in 40.69, while **Dareon Faircloth** captured the 100 meters in 10.44 and **Marlin Newsome Jr.** won the 200 meters in 21.03. Lincoln (Pa.) captured the 4x400 relay in 3:11.08 and saw **Carlo Johnson** claim the 400 meters in 47.18. **Jakarriez Sanders** of Clafin won the 800 meters in 1:55.38, **Antonio Smith** of Virginia Union captured the 110-meter hurdles in 14.20, and **Princewell Martin** of Johnson C. Smith took the 400-meter hurdles in 52.74. The men's 5,000 meters title went to **Emmanuel Kipchirchir** of Virginia State, who crossed the line in 15:39.95.

### Edward Waters captures 2026 SIAC Baseball title with thrilling 6-4 victory over Spring Hill

MACON, Ga. — The **Edward Waters** baseball team etched its name in the record books once again, capturing the 2026 SIAC Baseball Tournament Championship with a hard-fought 6-4 victory over **Spring Hill** in the title game.

The championship marks the Tigers' second SIAC crown in the last three seasons and caps off a historic run fueled by momentum, resilience, and championship-level execution. Edward Waters closed the season on an 11-game winning streak, going a perfect 4-0 in tournament play.

EWU's postseason journey was nothing short of dramatic. The Tigers opened the tournament with a thrilling 12-11 victory over **Benedict** before edging **Miles** 8-7 in another nail-biter. Edward Waters then delivered back-to-back wins over top-ranked Spring Hill, including the decisive championship game, to secure the title.

In the championship matchup, the Tigers leaned on timely hitting and strong pitching performances to seal the win. Tournament MVP **Andres Carracciolo** led the way offensively, recording two hits, an RBI, and a stolen base. All-Tournament selection **Bobby Torres** delivered a clutch performance as well, tallying two hits, three RBIs, and a run scored.

On the mound, **Tyler Pfirrmann** set the tone with a solid start, pitching 4.1 innings while striking out six and allowing just two earned runs. Freshman standout **Ty Mitzel**, also an All-Tournament selection, earned the win (2-0) in relief after tossing 4.2 innings of two-hit baseball, surrendering only one earned run to shut the door on Spring Hill.

The championship run adds another milestone to an already historic season for the Tigers. Head Coach **Reginald Johnson** surpassed 400 career victories during the year, further cementing his legacy as one of the program's most successful leaders.

Edward Waters also saw several players earn top conference honors. **Daniel Donaldson-Fountain** was named SIAC Player of the Year and earned First-Team All-SIAC recognition as an outfielder. Torres claimed SIAC Utility Player of the Year honors while also earning First-Team All-SIAC distinction. Pfirrmann was named First-Team All-SIAC Starting Pitcher, while **Angelo Prieto** and **Jordan Smith** received Second-Team All-SIAC Outfielder honors. Smith also added All-Tournament Team recognition for his postseason performance.

With the SIAC Championship secured, the Tigers now turn their attention to the next stage, awaiting a potential bid to the NCAA South Regional Tournament.

### Spring Hill completes three-peat, rolls past Fort Valley State 10-4 to capture SIAC Softball title

COLUMBUS, Ga. — It was mission accomplished for the **Spring Hill College** softball team as the Badgers successfully defended their SIAC Softball Tournament Championship with a win over **Fort Valley State** in the winner-take-all final game. Spring Hill completed the three-peat by winning the rematch of last year's SIAC Tournament final and became only the second school to win three SIAC Tournament Championships in a row, joining **Tuskegee** who did it in the mid-2010s.

Spring Hill's bats were held in check by the Wildcats in the first game of the day as the Badgers had just one hit in the 4-1 defeat. But head coach **Hannah Fillmore** made a few adjustments, moving **Meadow Villar** to the leadoff spot, sliding **Janci Aube** into the two hole, and pushing **Oscha Carter** into a table-setting spot in the bottom third of the lineup to take advantage of her speed, just to name a few. The moves paid off as Spring Hill scored 10 runs, their most of any game in the tournament, on 14 hits and six walks.

Villar was 2-for-2 with three runs scored in the leadoff position and Aube, sitting behind her, was 3-for-3 with a run scored and an RBI. **Jesslyn Gordon** led the team with three RBI and **Bethany Ahrens**, hitting clean up, was 2-for-3 with two RBI. **Destiny Pierce** and **Molly Pitts** each had two hits and an RBI, **Amanda Glowacki** had an RBI walk, and **Kayla Coley-Drayton** had a pinch-hit home run in her lone plate appearance.

**Emma Curry**, who had pitched well to close out the first game of the day, earned the win, allowing four earned runs and striking out 5 in 5.1 innings pitched. She was dealing through the first five innings, but Fort Valley State tagged her for a couple of home runs in the bottom of the sixth inning that chased her from the game. **Leighanna Turk** came on in relief, worked out of the sixth inning and then closed the door in the seventh to pick up the save.

Ahrens was named the 2026 SIAC Softball Tournament Most Valuable Player after going 2-1 with a 1.56 ERA and 15 strikeouts across 18 innings pitched and batting 5-for-12 with 5 walks and 5 RBI. Her five RBI all came against FVSU, with her two-RBI single in the winner's bracket final being the difference in that game and her two-RBI single in the championship final giving Spring Hill much needed insurance in the sixth inning.

Ahrens was joined on the All-Tournament Team by Aube, Pierce, Gordon, and Carter, all were at the top of their game in leading Spring Hill to their fourth overall SIAC Tournament Championship.

The Badgers have earned an automatic bid into the 2026 NCAA Division II Softball Championship. They will find out their path during the selection show on Monday, May 11, at 10 a.m. ET.