

Howard Athletics Photo

YAHNARI LYONS: Howard soph hurdler along with NC A&T high jumper Spirit Morgan are the two black college athletes ranked in the top four at their events at NCAA Div. I Track & Field Regionals.

ENDINGS AND STARTS

ALABAMA STATE TAKES SWAC BASEBALL, ADVANCES; D2 TRACK RESULTS; CIAA, MEAC ANNOUNCE AWARDS

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

SERVICE FOR CHARLIE NEAL:

The Homegoing service for legendary broadcaster and black college icon **Charlie Neal** will be held on Saturday, June 12, 2026 at the First Baptist Church of Glenarden at 600 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro, Md.

The viewing will be held at 10:00 a.m. with the funeral at 11:00 a.m.

FAYETTEVILLE STATE ATHLETICS STALWART DR. PEGGY GREEN PASSES:

Fayetteville, N.C. — The **Fayetteville State University** community mourns the passing of **Peggy Green Ed.D.**, a revered educator, coach, administrator, and trailblazer whose influence shaped generations of Broncos both in the classroom and in competition.

Green formerly served as FSU's head volleyball and basketball coach and as an instructor dedicating her career to preparing future educators in health and physical education, embodying a commitment to academic excellence and student success that extended far beyond the classroom.

Green later served as FSU's senior woman administrator from 1989 to 2011, where she was a steadfast advocate for student-athletes and equity in collegiate sports. Her service extended to numerous NCAA committees, including the Division II Women's Basketball Committee, where she served as chair, further amplifying her influence on the national stage.

Her contributions were recognized with numerous honors, including induction into the CIAA Hall of Fame and receiving the prestigious NACWAA Lifetime Achievement Award—one of the highest honors for leaders in women's athletics. Funeral services for Dr. Green were held on Wednesday, May 27 in Carthage, Mississippi.

THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

BLACK COLLEGE ATHLETES IN NCAA DIV. I OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD REGIONALS

EVENT	RANK	NAME	CLASS	SCHOOL	TIME/SCORE	
WEST REGIONAL - MEN						
Three ranked below 30th						
EAST REGIONAL - MEN						
100 METERS						
22	Solomon	Hammond	SR-4	Coppin State	10.13	
30	Derrick	Williams	SO-2	Alcorn State	10.17	
200 METERS						
21	Shanard	Walker	SR-4	Bethune-Cookman	20.43	
30	Derrick	Williams	SO-2	Alcorn State	20.49	
400 METERS						
24	Xzaviah	Taylor	JR-3	N. Carolina A&T	45.61	
110 HURDLES						
5	Isaiah	Taylor	JR-3	N. Carolina A&T	13.30	
9	Jason	Holmes	JR-3	N. Carolina A&T	13.37	
12	Joseph	DeRosier	SO-2	Florida A&M	13.50	
24	Desmond	Smith	SO-2	N. Carolina A&T	13.75	
29	Yashahya	Brown	SO-2	Hampton	13.90	
400 HURDLES						
9	Xzaviah	Taylor	JR-3	N. Carolina A&T	49.58	
18	Isaiah	Taylor	JR-3	N. Carolina A&T	50.33	
4 x 400 RELAY						
12					N. Carolina A&T	3:03.47
HIGH JUMP						
22	Drew	Dillard	SO-2	Howard	2.15m	
30	Roman	Smith	SR-4	Southern	2.14m	
LONG JUMP						
8	Michael	Carter	SO-2	Bethune-Cookman	7.89m	
21	Joseph	Gaynor	SO-2	Florida A&M	7.75m	
29	Marquis	White	JR-3	Hampton	7.69m	
29	Koi	Wedderburn	JR-3	Southern	7.69m	
TRIPLE JUMP						
7	Isaiah	Riggins	SO-2	Alabama State	16.01m	
19	Anthony	Woods	SR-4	Alabama State	15.71m	
25	Kristopher	Stephens	SO-2	Norfolk State	15.64m	
30	Xavier	Partee	JR-3	N. Carolina A&T	15.57m	
WOMEN						
100 METERS						
17	Diandreque	Gaines	SR-4	Florida A&M	11.15	
17	Janaree	Kinchen	FR-1	Florida A&M	11.15	
29	Yahnari	Lyons	SO-2	Howard	11.22	
200 METERS						
4	Yahnari	Lyons	SO-2	Howard	22.34	
16	Diandreque	Gaines	SR-4	Florida A&M	22.72	
100 HURDLES						
15	Marcia	Sey	SR-4	Howard	12.96	
21	Ty'yanah	Adams	SO-2	Florida A&M	13.07	
22	Rasunek	Tyler-Thompson	SR-4	Alabama State	13.08	
24	Brooklyn	Robinson	SR-4	Norfolk State	13.13	
400 HURDLES						
7	Canalya	Billups	SO-2	Howard	56.57	
25	Katelyn	Smith	JR-3	Florida A&M	57.95	
30	Lindsay	Johnson	SO-2	Howard	58.24	
4 x 100 RELAY						
20					Howard	43.64
21					Florida A&M	43.65
HIGH JUMP						
4	Spirit	Morgan	SR-4	N. Carolina A&T	1.84m	
LONG JUMP						
16	Sanaii	Gaines	FR-1	SC State	6.34m	
24	Arayana	Ladson	SO-2	Florida A&M	6.29m	
TRIPLE JUMP						
12	Daedrian	Beville	FR-1	Alabama State	13.22m	
16	Marissa	Tell	SR-4	Grambling	13.16m	
23	Laniyah	Henderson	JR-3	Morgan State	13.03m	
23	Olivia	Dowd	JR-3	N. Carolina A&T	13.03m	

For NCAA Division I Outdoor Track & Field, 48 declared individuals per event are accepted into each First Round site, and then the top 12 from each site advance to the Championships, so that means 24 total qualifiers per event from East + West combined make it to the championship round (Eugene, OR - June 10-13). We have listed above athletes ranked in the top 30.

There were three other HBCU athletes in the West Regional and 38 others in the East Regional ranked below 30th.

CIAA announces 2026 awardees

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA®)** recognized outstanding student athletes, administrators, and member institutions during the 2026 CIAA Membership Awards Luncheon, celebrating excellence in academics, athletics, leadership, service, and institutional achievement throughout the 2025 to 2026 academic year.

Held as part of the conference's annual membership meetings, the luncheon highlighted the accomplishments of individuals and institutions that continue to advance the legacy and mission of the CIAA through leadership, competitive success, academic excellence, and community impact.

Institution awards went to **Fayetteville State** and **Virginia Union**.

FSU once secured the **Loretta Taylor Women's All-Sports Award**, presented to the conference's top women's athletics program based on a championship point system. During the 2025–26 season, the Broncos won conference championships in cross country, volleyball, indoor track & field, and bowling, finished runner-up in women's basketball, and placed third at the outdoor track & field championship.

Virginia Union took home the **C.H. Williams All-Sports Trophy** awarded annually to the institution with the conference's top men's athletic program. The Panthers won titles in indoor and outdoor track, the latter the first in 92 years of competition. This marks the second time Virginia Union has earned the honor after previously winning the award during the 2023-24 academic year. Virginia Union also became the first private institution to win the award multiple times since **Hampton University** accomplished the feat in 1991, 1992, and 1993.

Among the afternoon's highest individual honors were the CIAA Scholar Athlete of the Year awards.

Faith Kiplimo of **Fayetteville State**, a freshman distance runner from Kenya, was named the 2026 CIAA Female Scholar Athlete of the Year after earning a perfect 4.0 GPA while majoring in Nursing and excelling competitively at the championship level. Kiplimo won the 5,000 meters at the CIAA Outdoor Track & Field championships and took firsts indoors at 800 meters, one mile, 3,000 meters and the distance medley relay.

Jamieson Alston, an all-CIAA linebacker for **Winston-Salem State** football, earned 2026 CIAA Male Scholar Athlete of the Year honors after maintaining a 3.89 GPA in Business Administration while serving in multiple leadership and honor organizations across campus. Alston led the Rams with 81 tackles, 12.5 tackles for losses.

The CIAA also announced the recipients of the 2026 CIAA Post Graduate Scholarships, awarded to graduates pursuing advanced degrees in athletics, sports administration, sports medicine, and media relations. This year's recipients of the **Eric Moore Postgraduate Scholarship**, awarded in collaboration with the McLendon Foundation, were **Jade Holiday**, a women's volleyball player at Fayetteville State



and **Janiah Beech**, a cheerleader at **Elizabeth City State**.

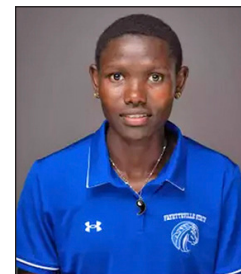
The luncheon also celebrated recipients of the CIAA's annual administrator awards, voted on by conference membership and leadership. 2026 CIAA Faculty Athletics Representative of the

Year honors were presented to **Dr. Deborah Quick** of **Johnson C. Smith** in recognition of her longstanding commitment to student athlete success and institutional leadership.

Deron Norwood of Fayetteville State was named the 2026 CIAA Compliance Director of the Year, while **Tristan Gunter** of **Bowie State** earned the **John Holley Sports Information Director of the Year Award**.

Lataya Hilliard Gray of Elizabeth City State received Senior Woman Administrator of the Year honors for her leadership, advocacy, and service within collegiate athletics. **Anthony Bennett** of Fayetteville State was recognized as the 2026 CIAA Athletic Director of the Year, endorsed by BSN SPORTS, for excellence in leadership, competitive success, and student athlete achievement.

The conference's prestigious **Jeanette Lee Award** was presented to **James DuBose**, Director of Athletics at ECSU, in recognition of his servant leadership, steady guidance, and



Kiplimo



Alston

commitment to advancing the CIAA during a period of transition and growth for the conference.

Fayetteville State University earned the 2026 Loretta Taylor Women's All Sports Award, while Virginia Union University received the C.H. Williams Men's All Sports Award.

Virginia Union University was also recognized with the 2026 Most Positive Game Environment Award, voted on by the CIAA Student Athlete Advisory Committee to acknowledge outstanding sportsmanship demonstrated by student athletes, coaches, and institutions throughout the year.

The luncheon concluded with closing remarks from CIAA Commissioner **Jacqie McWilliams Parker**, who congratulated the conference's honorees and reflected on another successful year across the association.

MEAC All-Sports Awards return to Norfolk State and Howard

NORFOLK, Va., May 22, 2026 -- **Norfolk State University** and **Howard University** continued their championship tradition Friday night, earning the **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference's** highest all-sports honors as the league celebrated the close of its historic 55th anniversary season.

Named after the founder of **Bethune-Cookman College**, the **Mary McLeod Bethune Award** honors the MEAC's top women's athletic program each academic year. The **Talmadge Layman Hill Award**, named after the former **Morgan State** student-athlete, coach, and MEAC pioneer, recognizes the conference's top men's athletic program.

The honors capped another historic year for both institutions. Norfolk State secured its fourth men's all-sports title in the past five years and 15th in program history, extending its conference record. Howard earned its fifth consecutive women's all-sports title and ninth overall.

Each institution received a \$20,000 award in recognition of its accomplishments. Norfolk State powered its run to the men's title behind conference championships in cross country, indoor track & field, and outdoor track & field, finishing with 41.5 points in the final standings.

South Carolina State finished second with 37 points after winning the MEAC football championship, **Celebration Bowl** title, and a regular-season men's tennis championship. **North Carolina Central** placed third with 30 points, followed by Howard with 29.5 points.

On the women's side, Howard continued its conference dominance with 62.5 points, fueled by championships in cross country, indoor track & field, outdoor track & field, and regular-season titles in women's basketball and softball.

Norfolk State finished second with 45 points, while **Morgan State** placed third with 40.5 points, and **Delaware State** finished fourth with 39 points.

North Carolina Central was recognized for academic excellence, posting the MEAC's highest Academic Progress Rate (APR). The Eagles athletic department received a \$10,000 award.

Howard was also honored as the conference's Graduation Success Rate (GSR) leader. The Bison posted an 83-percent GSR, the highest among MEAC institutions earning a \$25,000 award.

Points are awarded in a descending order beginning with nine (9) points for championships or first-place regular-season finishes. The second-place team receives seven (7) points. Tied teams split the point total.

Points were awarded for regular-season finishes in each sport except cross country, indoor track & field and outdoor track & field, where points were awarded based on finishes at MEAC championships.

BCSP Spring Notes

Alabama State Claims SWAC Baseball Tournament title; Advances to Tuscaloosa Regional

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.- **Alabama State** captured the 2026 SWAC Baseball Tournament Championship Sunday afternoon with an 8-6 victory over **Florida A&M** at Rickwood Field, securing the Hornets' first conference tournament title and NCAA Tournament berth since 2022.

Alabama State used a balanced offensive attack and timely pitching performances to hold off a late Florida A&M rally and finish the tournament championship run with 13 hits.

Tournament MVP, ASU infielder **Miguel Oropoza**, paced the Hornets throughout the tournament, batting .571 with eight hits, 13 RBI, two home runs and a 1.143 slugging percentage across four games. Oropoza also contributed in the championship game with two hits, one RBI and two runs scored.

Fabian Santana continued his strong tournament performance in the title game, collecting two hits and one RBI. Santana closed tournament play batting .571 with eight hits and five RBI.

Trey Callaway delivered the biggest hit of the championship contest with a sixth inning three-run home run that extended the Alabama State lead to 8-2. Callaway finished the tournament with six RBI and a home run while batting .313 in four games.

On the mound, **Jorhan LaBoy** and **James Peterson** anchored Alabama State's pitching staff throughout the tournament. LaBoy posted a 1.93 ERA with six strikeouts in 9.1 innings pitched while Peterson recorded two saves and 11 strikeouts across 13.2 innings.

The Hornets learned on Monday that they will be placed in the Tuscaloosa Regional as part of a field that includes national seed Alabama, Oklahoma State and USC Upstate. Alabama State will play the Crimson Tide on Friday, May 29, at 7 p.m. on ESPN+.

Alabama (37-19) heads into the tournament as an at-large entrant and No. 7 national seed. The two teams faced off twice earlier this season. Alabama won the first game 2-1 on February 18 in Tuscaloosa and the second 13-4 in Montgomery on March 4.

Alabama State (34-21), the only HBCU in the field, is in the NCAA Tournament for the third time in program history.

ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

Ryan Hunter - SOU; Andrey Martinez - B-CU; Vinny Saumell, Aaron Grant - UAPB; Alex Monile, Jesus Campa, Jackson McKenzie, Jay Campbell - FAMU; Fabian

Santana, James Peterson, Jorhan LaBoy, Miguel Oropoza (MVP) - ALST

HBCU top finishers few and far between at NCAA Div. II Outdoor Track & Field championships

EMPORIA, Ga. – An event once dominated by **Saint Augustine's** of the **CIAA** and **Lincoln (Mo.)** – the NCAA Div. II Outdoor Track & Field Championships – had few top finishers from the black college ranks in the event completed here Saturday.

Virginia State had the top men's finish, tying for 30th place in the men's competition with seven points.

VSU sophomore **Leonie Bentley** earned two All-American honors and scored all seven points for the Trojans. In the 100-meter dash he qualified for the final with a time of 10.42 seconds then in the finals he placed sixth with a time of 10.34, good for three points.

In the 200-meter dash he qualified for the final with a time of 20.64 and in the final placed fifth with a time of 20.82 seconds for four points.

CIAA outdoor champion **Virginia Union** finished in a tie for 33rd with six points that came by virtue of junior **Zachary Jones's** third-place finish in the discus. Jones, the CIAA champion, threw a personal best of 58.06 meters (190' 6") in the final.

Benedict tied for 42nd with four points as senior long jumper **Zach Washington** placed fifth in the competition with a leap of 7.45 meters (24' 5 1/4").

Lincoln (Mo.) senior triple jumper **Malik Drummond** finished seventh in his event with a personal-best jump of 15.68 meters (51' 5 1/2 ") for two points.

Clafin was the only black college team to score on the women's side tying for 47th with four points. The Lady Tigers got its points by virtue of sophomore **Morgan Coverson-Springs** fifth-place finish in the 100-meter hurdles in a personal-best time of 13.38 seconds.

Led by legendary head coach, now retired head coach **George "Pup" Williams**, Saint Augustine's has captured a staggering 39 NCAA Division II national championships across both indoor and outdoor track and field, including 16 men's outdoor championships. St. Aug's won seven straight men's outdoor titles between 1989 and 1995 and had a five-peat from 2013 to 2017.

Under the guidance of 24-year Head Coach **Victor Thomas**, the Lincoln (Mo.) women's program has won 14 NCAA National Championships, eight outdoors.