

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE™

UPS AND DOWNS

HBCU PRODUCTS ENTERING NBA; HAMPTON PRODUCT NEW WWE STAR; VUU STAR'S SON FACING GAMBLING CHARGES



CIAA Photo

EXTENDED: Commissioner Jacqie McWilliams-Parker's contract has been extended by the CIAA's board of directors through 2031.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

CHARLOTTE HORNETS GET SON OF VIRGINIA UNION STAR IN NBA DRAFT

Look for another son of a black college product in the NBA next season.

Christian Anderson Jr., a 6-3 sophomore point guard from Texas Tech, was seleted by the Charlotte Hornets with the 18th pick in the recently completed 2026 NBA Draft.

His father, **Christian Anderson Sr.**, a 6-6 forward, played at **Virginia Union** in the 1999-2000 season after a stint at College of Charleston and then had a ten-year career playing overseas in Switzerland and Germany. As a senior at VUU, Anderson Sr. averaged 16.3 and 7.0 rebounds per game while the Panthers finished 26-5, 18-2 in the **CIAA**.

As the 18th pick in the draft, Anderson Jr. will have a contract that pays him \$21,257,017 over four seasons or \$4,390,440 per year.

Anderson Jr. averaged 18.5 points, 3.6 rebounds, 7.4 assists and 1.5 steals in 38.4 minutes per game, competing in 33 games (all starts) for the 23-11 Red Raiders this season. He was named All-Big 12 First Team, a Third-Team All-American, Big 12 Most Improved Player and was on the Wooden Award national ballot this past season. Anderson Jr. led the Big 12 in assists (244) and minutes per game (38.4) and logged a pair of 30-point games in his sophomore season.

Among his standout performances this season, Anderson had 27 points as the Red Raicers handed Duke its first loss of the season, 82-81. He was 9 of 14 from the field, 5 of 9 on 3s, handed out 5 assists and grabbed 3 steals. He had 22 points (11 of 18, 3 of 4 3s) to top pick A. J. Dybantsa of BYU's 13 points in a win over the Cougars.

"(He is) One of the best shooters in the draft," said Jeff Peterson, the Hornets' president of basketball operations. "He shot about 40% on three, just right under eight attempts a game. Shoots them off-balance, catch-and-shoot, spot ups — just in various ways. And then his IQ as well. He's one of the best pick-and-roll players in the draft, too. Does a tremendous job of valuing the ball."

As a freshman at TTU, Anderson played behind former **Howard** and Minnesota point guard **Elijah Hawkins** who served as a mentor for him. He started seven of the Red Raiders 38 games, oft times playing on the floor with Hawkins, averaging 10.3 points, while shooting .421 from the field and .387 from 3-point range, .816 from the line.

The skill, toughness and play-making ability of Anderson may be one reason the Hornets traded away star LaMelo Ball (to Minnesota) and turned the reins of the team over to former UNC star Coby White, who was acured from Chicago late in the season. Anderson will likely be penciled in as White's back-up.

HARRIS, NKRUMAH, THOMAS MAKE NBA NBA SUMMER ROSTERS

MEAC Player of the year, **Howard** forward **Bryce Harris**, Ohio Valley Conference Player of the Year, **Tennessee State** swingman **Aaron Nkrumah** and **Langston** guard **Orlando Thomas** were named to NBA Summer League squads last week after signing undrafted free agent contracts.

Harris, a 6-4, 220-pound specimen led the MEAC in scoring (17.1 ppg.) and rebounding (6.9 rpg.) en route to also capturing the league's tournament MVP award. Harris also led the Bison to the MEAC tournament title and the program's first NCAA Tournament win in the First Four over UMBC.

He signed an NBA Summer League contract Thursday with the Oklahoma City Thunder after participating in a pre-draft workout with the organization earlier this month. The agreement gives the former Bison an opportunity to compete for a spot within OKC's player development system.

The 2026 NBA Summer League takes place July 9-19 in Las Vegas.

Nkrumah, listed as a 6-6 guard, was named the 2025-26 OVC Player of the Year after averaging 17.7 points, 5.5 rebounds, 3.0 assists, and 2.8 steals per game while shooting 35.1% from 3-point range. He led the Tigers to their first OVC title and NCAA berth in over 30 years.

He signed an Exhibit-10 contract with the Denver Nuggets Thursday. An Exhibit-10 contract is a one-year, non-guaranteed NBA minimum-salary contract that secures a player for training camp, Summer League, and the preseason.

Thomas, a 6-3 left-handed guard, was named an NAIA second team All-American after leading Langston to the 2026 NAIA championship game. He averaged 15.8 points, 4.6 rebounds, and 1.2 steals per game, while shooting an efficient 42.3 percent from three-point range—numbers that helped solidify his reputation as both a scorer and perimeter threat.

He has signed to join the Detroit Pistons Summer League team.



Harris



Nkrumah



Thomas

BCSP News

CIAA extends Commissioner through 2031, plans changes to football format

CHARLOTTE, NC — The **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA®)** Board of Directors concluded its 2026 Spring Board Meeting at **Lincoln University (PA)** with several strategic actions designed to strengthen the conference's future, including the extension of Commissioner **Jacqie McWilliams Parker's** contract through 2031.

The Board unanimously approved the contract extension following its annual review of the commissioner's performance. The extension comes as the conference advances strategic priorities focused on championship excellence, student-athlete success, institutional growth, and national visibility.

"I am grateful to the Board of Directors for their continued confidence and support of our vision for the CIAA," said Commissioner McWilliams-Parker.

Among the most significant actions was the approval of an expanded CIAA Football Championship format. Beginning this fall, the championship will transition to a new playoff structure, with details to be announced at CIAA Media Day on July 15, 2026, to be held in Durham, NC. The move is intended to enhance postseason opportunities for student-athletes while increasing excitement and engagement around CIAA football.

As previously approved during the Fall 2025 Board Meeting, women's flag football will officially become a varsity sport across the conference beginning with the 2026–27 academic year.

Belton from Hampton football to WWE Superstar, to marriage

Former **Hampton** University wide receiver **Trick Williams** (born **Matrick Belton**) is currently a massive breakout star in the WWE.

Following his college football career, he transitioned to professional wrestling and



Hampton Sports Photo



WWE Photo

TRICK WILLIAMS: Former Hampton wide receiver Matrick Belton (l.) is now in 2026 WWE Superstar Trick Williams (r.) .

has achieved major milestones, including winning the United States Championship at WrestleMania.

Williams played two seasons (2012 and 2013) as a wide receiver for the Pirates. He transferred and walked on as a receiver for South Carolina. He sat out in 2014 and played for the Gamecocks in 2015 to 2016.

He participated in the Philadelphia Eagles rookie camp before turning his sights to sports entertainment.

After being cut from the mini-camp, Belton sent a tape to WWE in an attempt to enter the XFL, a quickly defunct football league also run by Vince McMahon. While he was unsuccessful, WWE reached out to him via email to encourage him to try out wrestling. He participated in a WWE tryout in December 2018.

He began his professional wrestling career in 2018 under the ring name Sweet Daddy Trick when he trained in Philadelphia with his uncle. He then signed a developmental contract with WWE in February 2021 and debuted in September of the same year under the Trick Williams ring name.

Williams signed with the WWE and quickly became a prominent figure on NXT and SmackDown.Championships. Since then, he has become the WWE United States Champion, a two-time NXT Champion, a



MARRIED: Matrick Belton (Trick Williams) and Anriel Howard (Lash Legend) at their June 20 wedding in Jamaica.

one-time NXT North American Champion, and was the winner of the 2023 Men's Iron Survivor Challenge.

He won the TNA World Championship, his first world championship, in May 2025 and became the first WWE-contracted wrestler to win a TNA championship. In 2026, he started being managed by Lil Yachty.

The new star regularly incorporates his HBCU background and football athleticism into his wrestling persona, becoming a fan-favorite entertainer. He was featured on a special ESPN segment last week highlighting his Hampton connection.

On June 20, Belton married former college basketball star and now fellow WWE Superstar Anriel Howard who performs under the nickname Lash Legend in a lavish ceremony in Jamaica. The wedding was featured in an exclusive in the June 23 edition of PEOPLE Magazine.

The bride, 29, and groom, 32, first connected through work. "We were truly friends for a couple years," Howard remembers. "Then once we both were single we decided to get to know each other romantically."

The couple got engaged during Thanksgiving dinner at their new home on Nov. 27, 2025, and now look forward to "continuing to travel the world together, and eventually starting a family together."

BCSP Notes

Two new coaches, key players to be available at 2026 SWAC Football Media Day on July 15

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.- The **Southwestern Athletic Conference** announced Monday the student-athletes and coaches set to participate in the league's annual SWAC Football Media Day on Wednesday, July 15 at 10:00 am CST at the Sheraton-Birmingham in Birmingham, Alabama.

All twelve SWAC head football coaches, including new head men at **Florida A&M** and **Southern** will be in attendance to address media about the upcoming football season.

Much of the attention will be focused on former Florida A&M quarterback **Quinn Gray** now leading his alma mater after winning the **SIAC** championship at **Albany State** and guiding the Golden Rams deep into the NCAA Div. II playoffs last season. Gray is bringing with him to FAMU and to the Media Day his quarterback at Albany State, **Isaiah Knowles** who has transferred to FAMU. The Rattlers were 5-7 overall, fourth in the SWAC East at 4-4 under **James Colzie** last season.

NFL Hall of Famer, former running back extraordinaire **Marshall Faulk** is now at the helm at Southern. His presence is sure to garner a lot of attention as he endeavors to lead a Jaguar resurgence. Southern finished at the bottom of the SWAC West last season at 1-7, 2-10 overall under **Terrence Graves** who was replaced late in the season by **Fred McNair**.

Last season's all-SWAC first team quarterback, **Andrew Body** of **Alabama State**, will be in attendance along with head coach **Eddie Robinson Jr.** Body is coming off a scintillating season where he led the conference in rushing and passing stats before his campaign was cut short after only eight games by injury. He is certain to be the most ballyhooed player in attendance. Body is one of seven QBs expected for Media Day but is the only first team all-SWAC offensive team member from last season to be in attendance.

Alabama State defensive back **Ta'Shaun Sims** and **Arkansas-Pine Bluff** linebacker **Danarius Hilliard** are 2025 first-team all-SWAC defenders scheduled to appear. **Jackson State** defensive back **Kam Sallis**, Alcorn State defensive lineman **Eric Thomas** and **Bethune-Cookman** offensive lineman **Christian Loving** were 2025 all-SWAC second team selections who will be in attendance.

It will also be interesting to see what **Prairie View A&M** head coach **Tremaine Jackson** has up his sleeve after winning the SWAC title and a **Celebration Bowl** berth in his first season leading the Panthers. The same can be said for fourth-year **Jackson State** head man **T. C. Taylor** who won the SWAC East title last season and met Jackson and the Panthers in the SWAC title game.

A complete listing of the head coaches and student-athletes slated to be in attendance is listed below.

Alabama A&M

Cornelius Brown IV, Quarterback
Jeremiah Hudson-Davis, Defensive Back
Sam Shade, Head Coach

Alcorn State

Jaylon Tolbert, Quarterback
Eric Thomas, Defensive Lineman
Cedric Thomas, Head Coach

Florida A&M

Isaiah Knowles, Quarterback
Antonio Camon, Defensive Lineman
Quinn Gray, Head Coach

Jackson State

Jared Lockhart, Quarterback
Kam Sallis, Defensive Back
T.C. Taylor, Head Coach

Prairie View A&M

Rodny Ojo, Wide Receiver
Molik Mason, Defensive Lineman
Tremaine Jackson, Head Coach

Texas Southern

Cam/Ron McCoy, Quarterback
M.J. Hinson, Defensive Back
Cris Dishman, Head Coach

Alabama State

Andrew Body, Quarterback
Ta'Shaun Sims, Defensive Back
Eddie Robinson Jr., Head Coach

Bethune-Cookman

Christian Loving, Offensive Lineman
Stephen Sparrow, Linebacker
Raymond Woodie, Head Coach

Grambling State

Alexander Vigil, Offensive Lineman
Marcellius Johnson, Linebacker
Mickey Joseph, Head Coach

Mississippi Valley State

Josh Brown, Quarterback
Jamari Stokes, Defensive Back
Terrell Buckley, Head Coach

Southern

Herman Brister, Defensive Back
Cameron Jefferson, Wide Receiver
Marshall Faulk, Head Coach

University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff

Jordan Jackson, Wide Receiver
Danarius Hilliard, Linebacker
Alonzo Hampton, Head Coach



Gray



Faulk



Body



Knowles

Ed Davis, son of Virginia Union and NBA hoops veteran, indicted on federal gambling charges

One of two former NBA players indicted Monday along with four co-conspirators on federal gambling charges is the son of a **Virginia Union** and NBA basketball great.

Ed Davis, son of former Virginia Union standout **Terry Davis**, was charged along with Malik Beasley and the four others by the Eastern District of New York in an alleged gambling scheme while Beasley was with the Milwaukee Bucks during the 2023-24 season.

The six are charged with wire fraud conspiracy, bribery in sporting contests, honest services wire fraud conspiracy, and money laundering conspiracy for their alleged roles in a scheme to bribe Beasley to manipulate his performance in NBA games and use inside information about Beasley's intended performance to profit via illegal betting activity.

According to the indictment, Davis was known to other co-conspirators as Beasley's "gatekeeper," telling him that "...we could make good money" in gambling via text message. Beasley alerted Davis and other co-conspirators charged in the indictment of his intent to underperform in at least three games so they could wager on his statistics.

"Bribery and insider betting schemes like this one involving former NBA players and a current NBA player agent who exploited inside NBA information for profit erode the integrity of American sports and victimize the sports-watching public," the indictment reads. "Our Office will continue in its strong tradition of holding accountable anyone who seeks to corrupt sports through illegal means."

As further alleged, in return for performance fixing, Beasley received bribes from the co-conspirators, typically by having Beasley's gambling debts to Davis reduced or paid off.

FBI Assistant Director in Charge Barnacle said in the indictment, "These defendants allegedly operated an illegal betting ring in an attempt to unlawfully earn hundreds of thousands of dollars. As alleged, Malik Beasley allowed himself to be bought and altered his gametime performance to line pockets of Ed Davis and his other co-conspirators. The FBI continues to dismantle fraudulent schemes that erode the integrity of any institution, including our nation's professional sports leagues."

Ed Davis, a 6-9 center who played collegiately at North Carolina (2008-10) and won an NCAA championship with the Tar Heels in 2009, played 11 seasons with eight different NBA teams in all after he was selected 13th overall by the Toronto Raptors in the 2010 NBA Draft. He last played in the NBA during the 2021-22 season. He earned roughly \$48 million in gross salary during his career.

Terry Davis played 10 seasons in the NBA with the Miami Heat, Dallas Mavericks, Washington Wizards and Denver Nuggets. He started at center three of his four seasons at VUU, averaging 20 points and 10 rebounds each of those seasons. He was the **CIAA's** Most Outstanding Player in 1989 as he and current Panthers coach **A.J. English** took VUU to the NCAA tournament for the third straight year.

INDICTED: Former NBA players Malik Beasley (l.) and Ed Davis (r.) have both been indicted in the latest round of charges in the government's widening gambling investigation. Beasley, who has played for six NBA teams, and Davis were teammates in Minnesota during the 2000-2001 season. Former players Damon Jones and Terry Rozier and former player and head coach Chauncey Billups were previously charged with Jones pleading guilty in 2026. Beasley last played for the Detroit Pistons in 2024-25. He has not played in the NBA since because of the investigation.

