

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS



Morgan State Photo

FROM THE GRIDIRON TO THE CLASSROOM

SOUTHERN OFF POSTSEASON BAN; FAMU, TSU WIN ON THE DIAMOND; ATTENDANCE MATTERS

GIVING BACK: Pro Football Hall of Famer Willie Lanier endows lectureship in business ethics at his alma mater, Morgan State.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

NEW HOWARD WOMENS HOOPS COACH:

WASHINGTON, D.C. --- **Howard University** has announced the hiring of former University of New Haven head coach **Tiesha "Ty" Grace** as the newest head coach of the Lady Bison Women's Basketball program. She succeeds **Tennille Adams**, who had been head coach for the past two years.



Grace

Grace boasts nearly 20 years of coaching experience on every level of the NCAA along with a standout career in her days as a student-athlete.

A 1999 graduate of New Haven, Grace takes over at Howard after spending two successful seasons as the head coach at her alma mater. Grace won over 73 percent of her games (44-16) and led the Chargers to a pair of NCAA Division II Tournament appearances. In 2014-15, New Haven posted the fourth-most victories in school history (26), set a school record with 16 Northeast-10 Conference wins and made its first trip to the NCAA Division II Elite Eight in nearly three decades after defeating 13th-ranked Stonehill College to win the East Region Championship.

Prior to New Haven, Grace spent seven combined seasons as a Division I assistant coach at Seton Hall and the United States Military Academy. She served as the top assistant and recruiting coordinator at Big East Conference member Seton Hall from 2009-13, helping bring a pair of McDonald's All-Americans and a 25th ranked recruiting class to South Orange, New Jersey.

She spent most of her time at SHU coaching alongside Naismith Basketball Hall of Famer, Olympic Gold Medalist and current Connecticut Sun Head Coach Anne Donovan.

LINK MOVES TO CLAYTON STATE:

MORROW, Ga. - **Jimmy Link** was named last week as the fifth head men's basketball coach in the 25-year history of Clayton State.

Link is coming off a very successful run as head coach at **Paine College** in Augusta, Ga. During his four-plus years in that role he compiled an 81-60 overall record (.574) and 59-41 (.590) mark in the **SIAC**.

BCSP Notes

Southern has postseason ban lifted

Southern University's NCAA-imposed postseason ban as a result of the unusable data probation has been lifted, Interim Athletics Director **Roman Banks** announced Friday.

During Friday's meeting in the J.S. Clark Administration building, Banks informed the SU Board of Supervisors that all athletic programs are postseason eligible for the 2015-16 academic year and revert to having their Academic Progress Rate scores determine postseason eligibility.

Furthermore, Southern's fall certification is a key and ongoing component in culminating the department's unusable data probationary period.

Beginning with 2012-13 championships, NCAA Division I institutions must earn a minimum 900 four-year APR or a 930 average over the most recent two years to be eligible to participate. For 2014-15 championships, teams must earn a 930 four-year average APR or a 940 average over the most recent two years to participate in championships. In 2015-16 and beyond, teams must earn a four-year APR of 930 to compete in championships.

Southern learned the 2013-14 student-athlete data submitted to the NCAA has been deemed accurate and serves as the department's starting point for the calculation of future multi-year APR scores.

Saint Augustine's Omar Johnson wins top track athlete award

Omar Johnson (Jr./St. Ann, Jamaica) of **Saint Augustine's University** was named Division II Atlantic Region Men's Track Athlete of the Year by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCA) on Friday, May 15, 2015.



Johnson

Johnson is the top-ranked 400-meter sprinter heading into the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field Championships, which will be held in Allendale, Mich., this week (May 21-23). His time of 45.78 seconds leads all Division II 400-meter sprinters by more than half of a second.

Johnson is also the anchor runner on the Falcons' Men's 4x400-Meter Relay Team, which is ranked first nationally in Division II with a time of 3:06.73. He ranks ninth in the 200-Meter Dash with a time of 20.89 seconds.

Johnson helped the Falcons win their 18th consecutive **CIAA** outdoor title in April 2015. He won the Men's 400-Meter Title and was part of the winning 4x400-Meter Relay Team at the championship meet.

SWAC, SIAC top 2014 NCAA football attendance figures

Figures just released by the NCAA indicate that the **Southwestern Athletic Conference** (SWAC) and the **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference** (SIAC) both led their respective divisions in home football attendance in 2014 (See STAT CORNER).

The SWAC led all FBS conferences with an average of 12,781 fans in attendance to the 57 home games of its ten schools. The **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** was fifth in the FBS with an average of 8,765 fans for 58 games involving its 11 teams.

The SIAC topped Div. II conferences with 6,271 fans on average to its 62 home games of its 12 institutions. The SIAC has now led all NCAA Div. II conferences in football attendance for twelve consecutive seasons and for twenty-three of the last twenty-five seasons - dating back to the 1990 season. The CIAA was seventh in 2014 averaging 2,947 to its 59 home games involving 12 teams.

Amongst FCS schools, **Southern** of the SWAC finished highest (eighth) averaging 15,416 to its six home games. **North Carolina A&T** was just outside the top ten at 11th with an average of 14,524 in five home games.

In Div. II, the SIAC placed three teams (**Tuskegee**, **Albany State** and **Miles**) in the top ten and seven in the top 30. Tuskegee was second averaging 9,960 in five games. Albany State was fifth with an average of 7,752 in three games while Miles was ninth (7,336 average).

Winston-Salem State was the lone CIAA team in the top ten at sixth drawing an average of 7,522 in five home contests. **Virginia Union** was the only other CIAA team in the top 30.

Spring Sports Round-Up

Winston-Salem State championship run ends in Div. II baseball regional

ERIE, PA - **CIAA** champion and fourth-seeded **Winston-Salem State** had its baseball season come to a stunning end falling a couple of games short of the NCAA Div. II World Series in a heartbreaking 6-5 decision to No. 2 Millersville in the Atlantic Regional at Jerry Uht Park.

WSSU (42-15), ranked 21st nationally, opened the regional with a 5-2 win over No. 3 Seton Hill and then staged a 9-4 win over defending national champion West Chester to move into the winners' bracket. The Rams lost 2-1 to top seed Mercyhurst before falling to Millersville.

In the deciding game, WSSU went up 2-0 and 3-1 before the Marauders knotted the score at 3 in the sixth inning. The Rams went back up 5-3 on a two-run single in the seventh inning by **Nathan Steger**. Millersville tied it at 5-5 in the bottom of the inning.

WSSU could not muster any offense in the ninth inning, and headed to the bottom half still tied at 5-5. Millersville would string together a couple of hits in the ninth inning, but a great play from outfielder, **Gavin Culler** to throw out a Marauder runner at the plate kept the game tied and the Rams hopes alive. But a Millersville single up the middle plated a run to give the Marauders a 6-5 walk off win, bringing the WSSU season to a dramatic end.

Connor Andrus finished 3 for 5 with a run scored and a run batted in, while Steger went 2 for 4 with two RBI. **Colby Keene** went 2 for 4 with a run scored and an RBI. **Jacob Barber** went 1 for 3 with a RBI. **Devin McLemore** went 5.2 innings for WSSU before leaving with an injury, giving up three runs on three hits with six walks and four strikeouts. **Jordan Cummings** went 1.2 innings, allowing one run on three hits with a strikeout, picking up the loss.

The 42 wins by WSSU in 2015 are the most in school history, and the Rams advancing to within two wins of the NCAA D2 College World Series is the furthest a CIAA baseball team has ever gone.

Texas Southern routs Southern for SWAC baseball title

NEW ORLEANS, La. - **Texas Southern** won its first **Southwestern Athletic Conference** baseball title since 2008 with a 10-0 win over **Southern** Sunday afternoon at Wesley Barrow Stadium.

The Tigers (31-17) have now won three titles in the program's history.

O'Neal posts top ten finish

Former **Jackson State** golfer **Timothy O'Neal** finished tied for tenth last week at the Milton Martin Honda Classic on the SwingThought.com Tour.



O'Neal

O'Neal shot rounds of 71-69-67-69 to finish at -12 276 over the par-72 Chatahoochie Golf Club in Gainesville, Ga. O'Neal took home \$2,956 for his efforts. The winner was Adam Swenson who shot -22 266 and took home the \$20,000 first prize.

The Milton Martin Classic is part of the Pro Series on the SwingThought.com Tour and is the second event that O'Neal has taken part in this season, one year after playing on the Web.com Tour. He earlier tied for 43rd and won \$1,000 at the Kinderlou Forest in Valdosta, Ga. in late February.

O'Neal has played in one tournament this year on the PGA Tour Latinoamerica Series, the 68 Avianca Colombia Open in late March. He finished tied for 31st there with a +3 287 (68-77-73-69) score and took home \$1,137.50.

Hall of Famer Willie Lanier sets up endowed lectureship at Morgan State in business ethics

Morgan State University has announced a major financial commitment from one of the University's favorite sons, a \$500,000 gift to establish the **Willie E. Lanier, Sr. Endowed Lectureship in Business Ethics** in the Earl G. Graves School of Business and Management (SBM).

Lanier is a 1967 graduate of Morgan and a standout football player in both his collegiate and professional careers. He also has made his mark in business as the president and CEO of Virginia-based Lanier Group LLC.

"Life provides you with opportunities to reflect upon the values and principles that have come to define who you are, and allows you the space to determine what is important," said Lanier, senior advisor, Cary Street Partners, and president of Lanier Group LLC. "I attended Morgan for the education and to cultivate a relationship with the university. Athletics provided the means for my education. Committing to this lectureship allows me to build upon the things I learned as a student in the business school and make a positive contribution to an area that touches all aspects of what we do in life - ethics."

"This endowment is a testament to Mr. Lanier's commitment to academic excellence in the area of business and we are very fortunate to be the recipients of his generosity," said **Dr. Fikru Boghossian**, dean of the School of Business and Management. "Faculty members will be able to use this endowment to support the study of business ethics, further demonstrating Morgan's dedication to ethical practices and strengthening its reputation for ethics scholarship."

Lanier earned a degree in business and administration from MSU in 1967. He had an outstanding college football career at Morgan playing for legendary head coach **Earl Banks**.

Following a stellar professional athletic career in the National Football League with the Kansas City Chiefs, Lanier was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1986 and in the College Football Hall of Fame in 2000. He was twice selected to the Small College Football All-American team and was the second-round selection by the Chiefs in the 1967 draft. Considered the first African American player to star in the position of middle linebacker, Lanier is recognized as one of the NFL's "100 Greatest Football Players."

"Willie Lanier provides an exceptional example of how Morgan State University graduates continue to make great contributions in their post-collegiate careers while also recognizing and supporting the foundation of their success," said Morgan President **David Wilson**.

Lanier, who resides in his native Virginia where he manages the successful Lanier Group LLC investment firm, serves as chair of the Morgan State University Foundation, which will administer the new endowed lectureship. Beginning in 2016, the lectureships will provide a two-year award to provide supplemental financial assistance to a selected member of the SBM faculty who conducts research in business ethics.

MSU, founded in 1867, is a Carnegie classified doctoral research institution offering more than 60 academic programs leading to bachelor's degrees as well as programs at the master's and doctoral levels. As Maryland's public urban university, Morgan serves a multi-ethnic and multi-racial student body and seeks to ensure that the doors of higher education are opened as wide as possible to as many as possible.

THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

2014 NCAA FOOTBALL ATTENDANCE LEADERS

NCAA DIV. I FCS CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE LEADERS

RANK/CONFERENCE	TEAMS	GAMES	2014 TOTAL	AVERAGE
1. Southwestern Athletic	10	57	728,523	12,781
5. Mid-Eastern	11	58	508,366	8,765

NCAA DIV. II CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE LEADERS

RANK/CONFERENCE	TEAMS	GAMES	2014 TOTAL	AVERAGE
1. Southern Intercollegiate	12	62	388,787	6,271
7. Central Intercollegiate	12	59	173,882	2,947

NCAA DIV. I FCS HOME ATTENDANCE TEAM LEADERS

RANK/CONFERENCE	GAMES	2014 TOTAL	AVERAGE
8. Southern	6	92,493	15,416
11. NC A&T	5	72,618	14,524
12. Jackson State	7	99,933	14,276
13. Alabama State	6	76,182	12,697
15. Alcorn State	7	85,873	12,268
19. Florida A&M	5	55,863	11,173
20. Tennessee St.	6	66,622	11,104
22. S. C. State	5	53,489	10,698
27. Grambling	3	29,073	9,691

NCAA DIV. II HOME ATTENDANCE TEAM LEADERS

RANK/CONFERENCE	GAMES	2014 TOTAL	AVERAGE
2. Tuskegee	5	49,799	9,960
5. Albany State	3	23,256	7,752
6. Winston-Salem	5	37,609	7,522
9. Miles	6	44,017	7,336
12. Fort Valley St.	5	33,439	6,688
24. Clark Atlanta	6	33,694	5,616
25. Morehouse	3	16,576	5,525
26. Benedict	5	27,613	5,523
27. Virginia Union	6	32,536	5,423

Southern concluded its season at 20-23 overall.

Frank Cruz IV pitched a complete nine-inning, four-hit shutout in the victory. He also struck out a game-high four batters. Leading TSU offensively was senior left fielder **Zach Howell** who went 3-for-4 with three runs and three RBI. **Horace Leblanc** was the only other batter to collect multiple hits. He went 2-for-4 with a run and an RBI.

Texas Southern advances to the NCAA Tournament. The Tigers now wait to see their matchup during the NCAA Division I Baseball selection show May 25 at noon on ESPNU.

Florida A&M takes first MEAC baseball title since 1994

SALISBURY, Md. - After scoring two runs in the opening frame, **Florida A&M** (23-23, 15-9 MEAC) broke the game open with six runs in the fifth inning on its way to an 8-2 win over **Bethune-Cookman** (19-40, 14-10 MEAC) for the **MEAC** Baseball Championship on Sunday at Perdue Stadium.

The Rattlers outscored their opponents 26-8 over the three games in the tournament and pounded out 38 hits en route to the title. The pitching staff combined for a 1.67 ERA and was 23/8 on strikeouts to walks.

The win gives the Rattlers an NCAA Regional berth for the first time in program history and their first MEAC Baseball Title since 1994. It also marks the seventh MEAC Baseball Championship for FAMU (1987, 88, 90-92, 94, 2015). Florida A&M now waits to hear where they will be sent for its' first-ever NCAA Regional appearance. The NCAA Tournament Selection Show will be on Monday, May 25, at 12:00 PM and televised on ESPNU.

FAMU's **Brandon Fleming**, **Ricky Page**, **Chase Jarrell** and **Brian Davis** were each named to the All-Tournament team, while Fleming was named the MEAC Tournament's Most Outstanding Player.

Rattler starter **Chase Jarrell** (2-4) earned the win after a stellar outing as he worked 6 1/3 innings, tying for his second longest appearance of the season. Jarrell allowed just two runs on seven hits with five strikeouts and two walks. Florida A&M reliever **Alex Carrasco** came in to pitch the final 2 2/3 scoreless innings and allowed just one hit with three strikeouts. Carrasco struck out the final two batters he faced in the ninth inning to complete the win.



Fleming