

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS



Tennessee State Sports Photo

FEATURED: Tennessee State Tigerbelles among TSU athletes to be featured at the new museum of African-American history opening in 2016 at the Smithsonian Institute.

HISTORY MAKERS

BENEDICT TOPS SIAC; HOPKINS BACK IN THE SADDLE AT SHAW; TENNESSEE STATE LEGACY

BCSP Notes



SIAC Photo

TIGER SWEEP: Benedict Athletics Director Willie Washington (l.) accepts SIAC Commissioner's Cup representing excellence in men's and women's sports from Commissioner Greg Moore (r.).

Benedict sweeps SIAC All-Sports awards

ATLANTA, Georgia (June 5, 2015) - The Benedict College athletic department swept the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference men's and women's all-sports awards for the 2014-2015 athletic year.



In the men's standings, the Tigers captured three championships winning the basketball, tennis and golf awards. In addition, Benedict finished second in cross-country and third in outdoor track and field for a total of 41 points in the standings. **Morehouse** finished second winning the cross country and outdoor track championship while finishing third in tennis and golf. **Albany State** finished third winning the baseball title and finishing second in both football and outdoor track and field.

In the women's standings, the Benedict Lady Tigers amassed 38 points, winning the cross country and outdoor track and field titles while finishing second in basketball and tennis and third in volleyball. Albany State finished second in the standings (24 points), winning the basketball championship and finishing second in cross country and outdoor track and field. **Kentucky State** and **Stillman** both finished with 14 points: Stillman won the tennis title and finished third in softball while Kentucky State finished second in both softball and volleyball.

The coveted *SIAC Commissioner's All-Sports Trophy* is presented to the athletic department within the conference that has excelled in both men's and women's sports. A scoring system of 10 points for conference titles, seven points for runner-up championship finishes, and four points for third-place championship finishes is used to determine the all-sports standings. Football is based on the results of the championship game while men's and women's basketball does not offer a consolation game in their single-elimination tournament.

Moton named USA Basketball court coach

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. - North Carolina Central men's basketball head coach **LeVelle Moton** has been selected as a court coach for the 2015 USA Basketball Men's U19 World Championship Team training camp, USA Basketball announced last week.



LeVelle Moton

Moton is one of three to be selected as court coaches by the USA Basketball Men's Junior National Team Committee, chaired by Syracuse Hall of Fame head coach Jim Boeheim.

The three court coaches (Moton, Donnie Bostwick of Southwestern Assemblies of God University and Kerry Keating from Santa Clara University) will assist the 2015 USA Basketball Men's Junior National Team coaching staff during training camp, which will take place June 13-19 at the United States Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

"It means the world to me to be selected to USA Basketball," Moton said. "I am humbled and honored to have an opportunity to represent my country and impact young lives while doing so. As a kid, we all dream of USA Basketball opportunities, and I thank God that mine has come true."

The 2015 FIBA U19 World Championship, will be played June 27-July 5 in Heraklion, Crete, Greece, where the USA will be led by the University of Arizona's Sean Miller and assistant coaches Ed Cooley of Providence and Archie Miller of Dayton.

Moton enters his first USA Basketball coaching assignment after becoming the first men's basketball coach in NCCU history to repeat as **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** regular-season champions with a 16-0 record in 2014-15.

Inaugural Celebration Bowl to be on ABC

ESPN Events, a subsidiary of ESPN, announced this week that the inaugural *Celebration Bowl* will be televised live on ABC. The new post-season college football bowl game will kick off at noon ET Saturday, Dec. 19, at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

The *Celebration Bowl*, which showcases the legacy, values and traditions of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, will pit the conference champion from the **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** against the **Southwestern Athletic Conference** champion.

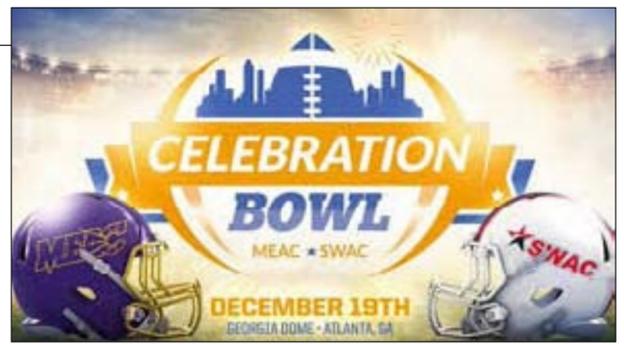
"We could not be more pleased to have the Celebration Bowl kicking off the college football bowl season on ABC," said Pete Derzis, senior vice president, ESPN Events. "Not only will the first annual Celebration Bowl deliver a first-class postseason experience to the teams, their fans and their alumni; the live telecast on ABC will bring the thrill and pageantry of the bowl to fans across the nation."

"We are excited about today's announcement that the Celebration Bowl will be telecast on ABC," said MEAC Commissioner **Dennis Thomas**. "We are eagerly looking forward to participating in this wonderful opportunity to showcase our student-athletes, coaches, institutions and our conference on this national stage. We are appreciative to ESPN for their continued partnership and commitment to this postseason experience."

"The SWAC is excited about the announcement of the inaugural Celebration Bowl being televised on ABC," SWAC Commissioner **Duer Sharp** said. "This stage will provide the nation with a front-row seat into the passion, pride and heritage of the SWAC and HBCU football. Our coaches, student-athletes and SWAC fans across the nation look forward to meeting in ATL on December 19."

"We are excited to collaborate with ESPN to launch the Celebration Bowl and continue our longstanding tradition of delivering an annual HBCU college football showdown to fans in Atlanta," said John Grant, Chief Executive Officer, 100 Black Men of Atlanta, Inc. "Having the game televised on ABC will showcase the best in HBCU football on a national stage."

ESPN Events also manages the college football season-opening



Celebration Bowl logo

LIVE ON ABC: First game pitting SWAC and MEAC football champs to be on network TV.

MEAC/SWAC Challenge presented by Disney, another game that features these two conferences and highlights the traditions of HBCUs, which kicks off at 3:30 p.m. ET Sunday, Sept. 6, at the Orlando Citrus Bowl, live on ESPN.

Tennessee State athletics to be featured in new Smithsonian African-American museum

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - Olympic Gold Medalist **Wilma Rudolph**, legendary track and field Coach **Ed Temple**, the famed Tigerbelles track team, and the first-ever African-American basketball team to win a national college basketball championship - and three consecutive titles - all make up the rich sports history of **Tennessee State University**.

The impressive accomplishments of the TSU athletics program will be part of exhibits in the Smithsonian Institution's new National Museum of African-American History and Culture opening in 2016 on the National Mall in Washington.



Tennessee State Photo

TRACKING TENNESSEE STATE ATHLETIC GREATNESS: Legendary former Tennessee State Head Track & Field Coach Ed Temple, left, explains photo collection of his legendary coaching career to Dr. Damion Thomas (2nd from left), curator for the sports exhibits of the new National Museum of African-American History and Culture. Grant Winrow (3rd from left), TSU coordinator for the museum project, and Dr. Murle E. Kenerson (right), interim dean of Libraries and Media Centers, provide guidance during the display.

Dr. Damion Thomas, curator for the museum's sports exhibits, visited TSU last week to get a first-hand look at sports memorabilia on display in several buildings on the main campus. Accompanied by University officials, including **Grant Winrow**, TSU coordinator for the Smithsonian project, the curator toured the Brown-Daniel Memorial Library, the Wilma Rudolph Hall, the Gentry Complex that houses many of the University's sports mementos and souvenirs, as well as the Olympic statue.

Some of the treasured items that the curator saw included gold medals, championship trophies and track cleats, as well as photographs and portraits of TSU trailblazers like NFL quarterback **Joe Gilliam**, golf coach **Catana Starks**, and legendary coaches **John Merritt** and **John McClendon**.

Highlighting Thomas' visit and tour was a meeting with Coach Temple, the man who took 40 athletes from TSU (**Tennessee Agricultural & Industrial State University** until 1968) to the Olympic Games and helped them win 23 medals - more than 157 countries in the world have ever won.

"I am glad that what they are doing will finally give these young ladies their due recognition," Temple said. "They worked hard to earn all that they achieved."

The curator also met with Starks, the first African-American woman to coach a men's NCAA Division I golf team when she took the job at TSU. Her trailblazing efforts was made into a motion picture titled "From The Rough" starring Oscar nominee Taraji P. Henson. In the Gentry Complex, Thomas also briefly met with current Ohio Valley Conference Women's Coach of the Year, **Chandra Cheeseborough-Guice**, a former Olympian, who made history by snagging two gold medals at the Los Angeles Olympics in 1984.

Before ending his tour, Thomas gave a brief presentation on the new museum, a 400,000-square-foot building of bronze metal and glass structure. It will feature a collection of artifacts of slavery and freedom, mementos of military service, symbols of the civil rights movement, the Harlem Renaissance, as well as a comprehensive collection of fine art including paintings, sculptures, works on paper, installations, photography, and digital media by and about African-Americans.

According to Thomas, the sports exhibit section of the museum will include a room, called "The Game Changer," dedicated to individuals like Wilma Rudolph, whose contribution went beyond the track or playing field to changing the course of history.

The museum has built a collection of 40,000 artifacts, and a staff of 160 is developing the 11 major exhibits that visitors will find at the opening next year. Smithsonian officials estimate annual visits to the African-American Museum of History and Culture will average between four to five million people in its first few years.

SIAC announces 2014-15 all-Academic honors

ATLANTA, Georgia (June 5, 2015) - One hundred and five (105) student athletes across 13 intercollegiate sports were honored as the **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference** announced its all-academic honors for the 2014-2015 academic calendar. The list included eleven (11) multi-sport athletes and 16 student athletes with a 4.0 grade-point-average.

Claffin led all SIAC institutions by capturing six team academic awards: softball, men's track, men's basketball, women's cross country, men's cross country and volleyball. **Stillman** was awarded three team academic awards in baseball, women's tennis and football while **Clark Atlanta** took home the awards for women's track and women's basketball. Both **Miles** (men's golf) and **Benedict** (men's tennis) each captured one award.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

HOPKINS RETURNS TO SHAW:

RALEIGH, N. C. - The Athletics Department at **Shaw University** introduced **Joel Hopkins** as its new head men's basketball coach during a press conference Tuesday morning. Hopkins began his second stint as head coach on June 1.



HOPKINS

"It's not often in athletics that in order to move forward we take a look back, but this was an opportunity to bring back a coach that established the way we think today about Shaw men's basketball," said **Marcus Clarke**, Shaw University's director of athletics. "Coach Hopkins is still eager to win and we look forward to his vision for this program."

Hopkins, a native of Bunn, North Carolina, previously served as Shaw's men's basketball head coach from 2000-2002. Hopkins returns to lead a program that he guided to the top of the conference with a two year record of 43-15. In 2002, he led the team to their first-ever **CIAA** tournament championship, and a berth in the 2002 NCAA Basketball Regionals. That team would eventually compete in the Division II Elite Eight Tournament and concluded that season with a loss in the national semifinals.

A graduate of **North Carolina Central University** (NCCU), Hopkins was a member of that school's 1989 NCAA Division II Men's Basketball national championship team. He would eventually become the head coach at Mount Zion Christian Academy in Durham, NC (1992-2000), where he would lead the prep basketball program to an astounding 200-39 record.

His ability to identify talent and player development led to the rise of Shaw basketball in 2000. Under his leadership, numerous players led the nation in various statistical categories, including the selection of Shaw's **Ronald Murray** as NCAA Division II Player of the Year (2001-02). Murray went on to a eight-year NBA career after being drafted by the Milwaukee Bucks in the second round of the NBA Draft. That 2002 Shaw team was ranked in the top 20 for the first time in history and garnered Hopkins honors as NCAA Division II Coach of the Year (2001-02) among other coaching accolades.

Hopkins has coached several players that were later drafted to the NBA and has mentored countless others.

"I'm very excited to have the opportunity to return to Shaw and defend my CIAA championship," said Hopkins at the press conference. "I'm also excited to come back to help young people achieve their dreams and goals both on and off the court."

Hopkins is married to Gia Hopkins, and is the father of five children and two grandchildren.

VORHEES WITHDRAWS FROM GCAC:

The Gulf Coast Athletic Conference has announced that **Voorhees College** has withdrawn as a member of the conference.

"We have been proud to have them as a member of the GCAC and we are sorry to see them leave at this time," said GCAC Commissioner **Steve Martin**. "We wish everyone at Voorhees College the very best moving forward."

The Tigers joined the conference two years ago competing in men's and women's basketball, volleyball, baseball, softball, cross country and track & field.

Voorhees is a private HBCU located in Denmark, South Carolina. It is affiliated with the Episcopal Church and will remain a member of the NAIA.

NEW NCCU WOMEN'S ASSISTANT:

DURHAM, N.C. - **North Carolina Central University** head coach **Vanessa Taylor** has announced the hiring of **L'Tona Lamonte** as assistant head coach for the women's basketball program on Tuesday.

Lamonte joins the Lady Eagles coaching staff after serving as an assistant coach at Belmont University for the two past seasons.

Lamonte is returning to the Triangle area after spending the past two years in Tennessee as she was the Director of Basketball Operations at North Carolina State University in Raleigh for four seasons from 2009 to 2013. Lamonte was also an assistant coach at Western Carolina (2004-09) and Georgia Southern (1999-2001).