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SPORTS**



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O'NEAL: Former Jackson State star falls two shots short of cut at U. S. Open.

TIM O'NEAL AT U. S. OPEN; FAMU CHOOSES NEXT AD; CHINA, BAHAMAS FOR HOOPS

BCSP Notes



PGA Tour Photo

TIMOTHY O'NEAL: Finished just two shots from making the cut at his first major, the U. S. Open at Chambers Bay in Washington.

O'Neal comes up short at U. S. Open

Former **Jackson State** and SWAC standout golfer **Timothy O'Neal** came up just short of playing the weekend in his first professional major golf tournament.

O'Neal shot a 4-over par 74 in the first round Thursday and a 3-over par 73 in the second round Friday at the par 70 Chambers Bay Golf Club in University Place, Washington where the U. S. Open was staged last week. Jordan Spieth won the title at 5-under par.

The 7-over par 147 total was just two strokes off the +5 cut in the year's second major. He beat Tigers Woods' score by nine strokes.

In his two days, O'Neal had three double-bogeys, eight bogeys and nine birdies over the links-like layout at Chambers Bay. He was perhaps done in by a quadruple bogey 8 on the par-4 11th hole Friday that soared his score to +7 after he had gotten inside the cut at +3. He finished the back nine Friday at even par with two bogeys, two birdies and three pars to finish at +7. He birdied his 18th and final hole.

The circuitous route O'Neal, 42, has taken to play in his first major is quite a story and was chronicled last week in *Golfweek* Magazine and by ESPN.com. It has included stints on the Buy.com Tour, Nationwide Tour, Web.com Tour, The PGA Tour Latinoamerica, eGolf Professional Tour, the Asian Tour and the Morocco-based Atlas Pro Tour as well as several mini-circuits. And it has included two heartbreakingly close calls at PGA Q-School and two years with famous actor Will Smith as his sponsor.

The story goes that a year ago, O'Neal made it to the U.S. Open sectional at Woodmont Country Club in Rockville, Md. He stayed overnight at a hotel 10 miles from the course, and headed there an hour and a half before his tee time. But there was an accident that caused an oil spill and shut down the highway. O'Neal arrived 30 minutes late for his tee time and was disqualified.

In May, O'Neal was the medalist at his local qualifier, shooting 63. He returned to the same Rockville, Md., sectional qualifier where disaster struck a year ago, though he wisely picked a hotel closer to the course. It took a 12-foot birdie putt on the third hole of a playoff with Joshua Persons for O'Neal to qualify for the U.S. Open for the first time in his 18-year career as a pro.

He called his mother, who burst into tears. He told his two kids – a daughter, 13, and a son, 9. "My son asked, "Are you going to play golf with Tiger Woods? I told him, 'Not with him, but against him,' " O'Neal said.

O'Neal has conditional status on the Web.com Tour this season, but he has yet to get into a single event. He has failed in his attempts to Monday qualify and played most of his competitive golf this year on the Swingthought.com Tour where he had a fourth-place finish in late May.

Texas Southern men's basketball in China for exhibition series

HOUSTON- The **Texas Southern** Tigers basketball team is in Beijing, China from June 19th to June 30th to participate in a series of exhibition games set to be played abroad against Chinese basketball organizations.



"This is a great opportunity for our basketball team," said TSU head coach **Mike Davis**. "It will be without a doubt a once in a lifetime opportunity for many of our student-athletes and we're happy to be able to participate and showcase our brand of basketball on a global stage."

The Tigers scheduled trip marks yet another impressive milestone for the team this season as TSU won the conference tournament and earned an NCAA berth to conclude the 2014-15 campaign. It marked the second time in TSU history that the team won back-to-back tournament titles, as TSU also won titles in 1994 and 1995.

"Anytime you get the chance to expose student-athletes to new cultures and ways of life it's a good thing," said Davis. "We had a very hard-working group of young men on our team last year and they deserve to be able to make a trip of this magnitude and represent our university internationally."

Five NC A&T teams earn perfect APR scores

GREENSBORO – The NCAA recently released its latest Academic Progress Rate (APR) report for each Division I athletics program, which featured five women's programs at **North Carolina A&T** earning a perfect score of 1000 for the 2013-14 year.



The tennis, basketball, swimming, volleyball and bowling all received the top score.

"More college athletes than ever are succeeding in the classroom, and I applaud their commitment to academic achievement," said NCAA president Mark Emmert. "We are pleased and proud of their accomplishments. Our goal always has been to encourage students to achieve academically and earn their degrees. Every year, Division I students prove that both academic and athletic success are achievable."

Implemented in 2003 as part of an ambitious academic reform effort in Division I, the APR holds institutions accountable for the academic progress of their student-athletes through a team-based metric that accounts for the eligibility and retention of each student-athlete for each academic term.

Similar to a report card, every Division I sports team calculates its APR each academic year. Scholarship student-athletes each semester earn

one point for remaining eligible and one point for staying in school or graduating. In order to compete in the 2015-16 postseason, teams must achieve a 930 multi-year APR.

The APR system includes rewards for superior academic performance and penalties for teams that do not achieve certain academic benchmarks.

Bethune-Cookman receives APR award

ORLANDO, Fla. – The **Bethune-Cookman** football Wildcats received the most improved APR award for the **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** (MEAC) at a special awards luncheon in Orlando, Florida.



Sandra Booker, senior associate athletics director and senior woman administrator at B-CU, accepted the award for Bethune-Cookman from NACDA's Brandon McCladdie during the FCS (Football Championship Subdivision) Athletic Director's Association Luncheon at the year's national convention.

"I am so proud to stand on behalf of the student-athletes, coaches and academic staff who continuously strive for academic excellence", said Booker.

This is the third such award in the last four years.

B-CU Football has earned at least a share of the MEAC football crown in four of the past five seasons and earned three NCAA playoff appearances during the same time span. Additionally, B-CU has won at least a share of the last three consecutive MEAC crowns.

McDougal promoted to head baseball coach at Stillman

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. - **Stillman College** has promoted assistant coach **Julius McDougal** to head coach of the baseball program. The Tigers baseball team has compiled a 272-236 (.535) record since moving to NCAA Division II beginning with the 2004-2005 season and has claimed seven **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference** Titles with three runner-up finishes in the last 10 seasons.

McDougal has served as an assistant to the recently resigned **Donny Crawford** for the last two seasons.

Prior to coming to Stillman, McDougal spent one season at SIAC foe **Kentucky State** as an assistant coach in the 2014 season. McDougal graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing from **Clafin University** in May 2012 where he was an All-SIAC centerfielder in 2010. McDougal finished his four-year career at Clafin batting .325 including .400 in 2010 and .321 in 2011 to rank in the top-80 each season in Division II. He totaled 117 hits and scored 102 runs with eight home runs and 87 career RBI.

The Tigers concluded the 2015 season with a loss in the SIAC Championship game to **Albany State** on April 28 to end the season 15-21 overall and 10-5 in SIAC action.

Sahlmann named new volleyball coach at Arkansas-Pine Bluff

PINE BLUFF, Ark. – The **University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff** has named **Dustin Sahlmann** its new head volleyball coach, according to Athletics Director **Lonza Hardy Jr.**

Sahlmann, a former interim head coach at the University of New Orleans, brings a wealth of knowledge to UAPB with his 20-plus years of experience in the field.

Sahlmann began his coaching career at the University of Arkansas as a student-assistant coach for two seasons (1994, 1995).

After his stint at the UA, Sahlmann moved to the high school ranks and was named the head volleyball coach at Pulaski Academy High School in Little Rock, Ark., a position he served in from August 2007 to March 2009.

In July 2011, Sahlmann became the head volleyball coach at **Philander Smith College** (2011 -2013) in Little Rock, Ark. His 2012 team finished fifth in the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference volleyball tournament.

Sahlmann then became the assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at the University of New Orleans in New Orleans, La. in August 2013.

In January 2014, Sahlmann was named interim head coach at UNO, a position he held until he was named assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, La.

Bethune-Cookman men's basketball set for summer tour in the Bahamas

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. – A week in the Caribbean and additional valuable preseason court time await the **Bethune-Cookman** men's basketball team this August.



Head Coach **Gravelle Craig** announced Wednesday, June 17, that the Wildcats will travel to the Bahamas for a trip August 18-23, where they will play three games at the Kendal Isaacs National Gymnasium in Nassau. It will be Bethune-Cookman's first summer tour since a 2009 trip to Costa Rica.

While excited about visiting the islands, Craig is also looking forward to the extra on-court time the trip is providing a team that will feature a lot of new faces in the upcoming 2015-16 season.

"This is a great opportunity for us in all phases," Craig said. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience for some of our players to play outside the country and it's a chance for us to come together as a team. We have a strong alumni base in the Bahamas, and I'm looking forward to them coming out to see us play."

"Any time you have a chance to get extra court time, you capitalize," Craig added. "This team has a lot of potential, and I'm eager to see what we can do."

Senior point guard **Ricky Johnson**, the team's leading returning scorer after averaging 13.3 points per game last season, is looking forward to his first international trip.

"Sometimes you have to go outside your comfort zone or do something different to get a different result," Johnson said. "The result we want is to get to the NCAA tournament."

The trip will give the Wildcats their first look at three players – **Jordan Potts**, **Mario Moody** and **LeRon Smith**, who sat out last season per NCAA transfer rules.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS



Florida A&M Photo

OVERTON: Former Alabama and Texas A&M administrator tasked with restoring Florida A&M's athletic greatness.

FAMU GETS ALABAMA'S OVERTON AS AD:

Tallahassee, Fla. — **Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University** (FAMU) President **Elmira Mangum**, Ph.D., has named **Milton Overton** as the new director of intercollegiate athletics.

Overton comes to FAMU after six years at the University of Alabama, where he served on the athletics executive team as the senior associate athletics director, and seven years at Texas A&M University, where he also served on the athletics executive team, and as an associate athletics director overseeing six sports teams and information technology. As a member of the athletics executive teams, he was a part of both institutions' strategic planning efforts.

Mangum launched a national search to fill the position after the resignation of **Kellen Winslow** and death of **Nelson Townsend**. The director of the intercollegiate athletics oversees 16 intercollegiate programs, and the University's corrective action plan to improve academic progress for five teams that are currently on academic probation.

"Milton Overton demonstrates the level of excellence, academic leadership, and sound administrative experience needed to lead FAMU's Department of Athletics," said President Mangum. "He comes to us with a wealth of knowledge, best practices, and a business acumen that will forge a new tomorrow for FAMU. I am impressed with his professional narrative and the type of role model that he can be to student-athletes and the FAMU community."

"Florida A&M University's passion for excellence in academics and athletics clearly align with my personal mission to inspire young leaders to make a difference in our nation and around the globe," said Overton. "I believe that a first-class education combined with a great student-athlete experience helps mold champions in the classroom, in life, and on the field."

"FAMU has a great group of student-athletes, coaches, and staff in place, and I am eager to get to work. Also, I look forward to meeting the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, alumni, Rattler fans, and the Tallahassee community to see how we can collaborate to advance the mission of FAMU through athletics. I want to thank President Mangum for the opportunity to join the FAMU family. I can promise—confidently—to deliver the kind of results necessary to live up to the rich legacy of this premier University. Go Rattlers!"

Overton's career spans 20 years in intercollegiate athletics administration. At the University of Alabama, Milton provided oversight for \$25 million in budgets and equipment, seven business units—including the No. 1 trademark licensing program for intercollegiate athletics, Crimson Tide Productions—including the ESPN SEC Network, marketing and branding, outbound ticket sales, photography, coaches film video group, athletics information and event technology, track and field, and cross country.

A four-year starter as an offensive lineman at the University of Oklahoma (OU), Overton earned a bachelor's degree in sociology in 1995. He then went on to earn two master's degrees in 1998, one in higher education and administration, and the other in human relations.

Overton joined Texas A&M University (TAMU) as assistant athletics director for Academic Services in 2002 before being promoted to associate athletics director for Sports Administration and Technology Advancement in 2003. Milton raised \$250,000 for men's tennis facility upgrades and led the technology renovations and construction for several other facilities, including Kyle Field. He also provided oversight of seven TAMU sports programs.

Overton was the founder and CEO of Enki System Inc. from 2000-2011, which provided software solutions for athletic, academic support programs across the country generating over \$1 million in gross sales.