



Mississippi Valley State Photo

B. J. EVANS: NC A&T grad and former SID at MEAC, A&T and UMES now Director of Basketball Communications for the Cleveland Cavaliers.

PRESENT AT THE NBA FINALS

FOUR HBCU PLAYERS IN BASEBALL DRAFT; BLACK COLLEGE FB HOF MOVING TO CANTON

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

PORTER IN AT FORT VALLEY FOOTBALL:

Fort Valley State named **Kevin Porter** as its new head football coach Monday June 13 at 11 a.m. in the lobby of the FVSU Health and Physical Education Complex.



Porter

Porter brings an extensive background in coaching, including 10 seasons as both an assistant and head coach on the professional level. His coaching experience includes stints at the University of

West Georgia as an assistant coach and at Point University where he served as head coach and athletics director.

Porter has coached in the Arena Football League as well as the associated developmental league called arenafootball2 (af2). In 2000, he was head coach of the Pensacola Barracudas and followed that position as defensive coordinator for the AFL's New Orleans VooDoo. He also served as head coach of the AFL's Kansas City Brigade.

On the collegiate level, Porter has served as defensive coordinator for Mid America Nazarene University and head coach at Avila University.

Porter's collegiate career began at Auburn University where he was a four-year starter, All-American and two-time All-Southeastern Conference performer. He is a graduate of Avila University and holds a master's degree from Concordia University-Irvine.

SILVER TO LEAD LIVINGSTONE WOMEN:

SALISBURY, N.C. – A week after announcing the resignation of their head women's basketball coach, **Livingstone College** has picked **Tiffany Silver** as the ninth head coach in program history.



Silver

Silver was introduced by Athletics Director **Andre Springs** during a press conference Friday on campus.

Silver replaces **Anita Howard**, who left after two seasons to become head coach at Columbus State University.

Silver comes to Livingstone after four seasons at Wilmington University, a member of the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference. Her overall record at Wilmington was 32-76. However, she took over a team that had only won three games prior to her arrival. Last year, her Wildcats finished 14-14 overall, including a 9-10 conference mark.

Before assuming the head job at Wilmington, Silver worked as an assistant coach at NCAA Division III Johns Hopkins University.

From 2005 to 2011, Silver was the head coach at Western High School in her native Baltimore, where she helped lead the Doves to 20 or more wins in all six of her seasons, compiling a 126-30 overall record. During that time, the team went 60-0 against Baltimore City competition and enjoyed three-straight undefeated seasons. Silver led them to five Baltimore City championships, five regional championships and three state title games.

Silver is a graduate of the University of Maryland Baltimore County, where she played basketball and earned a bachelor's degree in sociology

JACKSON TAKES OVER AS STILLMAN AD:

Just a few days after **Cassandra Morreri** announced her resignation from **Stillman College** to coach women's basketball at American Christian Academy, the university has confirmed that head basketball coach, **Donte Jackson**, would replace her as the new athletics director.



Jackson

Jackson was named the head men's basketball coach before the 2014-15 season, and has led the

Tigers to a 44-16 record over the last two seasons.

In just his second season, Jackson's team won the 2016 **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference** title for the first time in 10 years. He was named SIAC coach of the year. Jackson served as the assistant athletic director as well the past two years.

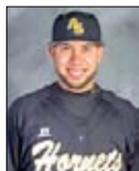
BCSP Notes



Cruz



Middleton



Alicea



Vernon

Four HBCU products selected in MLB Draft

Bethune-Cookman catcher/designated hitter **Michael Cruz** saw his name announced in the seventh round of the 2016 Major League Baseball (MLB) Draft on Friday, selected by the Chicago Cubs with the 224th overall pick.

Cruz, a 5-foot-11, 210-pound junior from Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, was the first HBCU product to go off the draft board and joins teammate **Clayton Middleton**, also a catcher, **Alabama State** right-handed pitcher **Angel Alicea** and **North Carolina Central** right-hander **Andrew Vernon** as the four HBCU players selected in this year's amateur draft.

Cruz finished the regular season in the top 16 nationally for home runs, completing the season with 16 overall. He drove in 41 runs and led the MEAC with 16 doubles while being named a conference first-teamer as a designated hitter.

Middleton, a 6-foot, 205-pound catcher from Oviedo, Florida taken by the Texas Rangers in the 22nd round, was the 669th overall selection.

He finished the 2016 season second on his team with a batting average of .335 with three home runs and 31 RBI. He was named first team All-MEAC and helped the Wildcats to their 18th conference title and a berth in the NCAA Gainesville (Fla.) Regional.

Cruz and Middleton join the 2014 MLB Draft class of former Wildcats **Keith Zuniga**, **Montana Durapau** and **John Sever**.

Alicea a 6-1, 200-pound junior from Santa Isabel, PR was selected by the Toronto Blue Jays. After beginning the season as the starting shortstop, he focused on pitching full time in early March, posting a 3-0 record with a 1.47 ERA with two saves in 17 appearances with three starts. 20th round, 612.

The 612th overall selection in the 20th round, Alicea becomes the sixth Hornet baseball player drafted in the past three seasons and the eighth since 2014 to sign a professional contract.

Vernon, a first team all-MEAC selection, was taken with the 831st overall pick in the 28th round by the Milwaukee Brewers.

Vernon, a 6-4, 232-pounder, nailed down four saves and led the league with 85 strikeouts, which set a new single season mark in the modern era at NCCU. With those 85 strikeouts, Vernon also finished the regular season 12th in NCAA Division I in strikeouts per nine innings with an average of 11.93 punchouts. Vernon is also high in the NCCU career leaderboards in pitching as he is second in the modern era with 181 strikeouts and holds the second lowest opposing batting average of .243.

A native of Raleigh, North Carolina, Vernon pitched four seasons for NCCU and ended his career as the modern-era leader in career saves with 15 and kept a career ERA of 3.89 which tops the list as well.

Over his four years on the mound Vernon made a career-record 83 appearances with seven starts as he had an opportunity to move from the bullpen to the mound in his senior campaign.

SWAC football and basketball championships get three-year extensions in Houston

The **Southwestern Athletic Conference** Spring Meetings have concluded with the announcement that the Council of Presidents and Chancellors has approved a three-year extension for its football and basketball championships.

The title games will remain in Houston with the football championship conducted at NRG Stadium and the basketball tournament remaining at the Toyota Center.

The conference also announced a new format for its basketball tournament. Beginning in 2017, the tournament will feature an eight-team, three-day format with quarterfinal rounds hosted on campus sites. Previously, all ten teams played over five days.

Under the new format, the higher seeded teams will host quarterfinal games (4 men; 4 women) with the winners advancing to Houston for semifinal and championship contests. The new format will leave two days for travel and practice rounds.

HBCU Div. I tracksters shut out of top spots; 12 earn all-America honors

NEW ORLEANS — Black college tracksters did not finish in the top eight places to earn first-team all-America honors at the Div. I Track & Field Championships last week but 12 did earn berths to subsequent teams (SEE LIST BELOW).

Student-athletes earned first-team U. S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) All-America honors by virtue of finishing among the top eight in their events, including as a member of a relay, at this past weekend's NCAA Division I Outdoor Track & Field Championships in Eugene, Oregon at Historic Hayward Field.

Second-Team All-America honors go to those who finish ninth thru 16th and Honorable Mention status is for those who finish 17th thru 24th.

North Carolina A&T sprinter **Chris Belcher** earned honors in two events. He earned second team status for his role in the Aggies' 4x100 meter relay team. He earned Honorable Mention for his finish in the 100 meters.

All-America honorees for the 2016 NCAA Division I Outdoor Track & Field season were announced Monday afternoon.

HBCU presence at the NBA Finals

Seated at the scorer's table each night at the current NBA Finals between the Cleveland Cavaliers and Golden State Warriors is a familiar face and name to black college sports fans.

B. J. Evans, a 1994 **North Carolina A&T** graduate and former Sports Information Director at A&T and the **University of Maryland-Eastern Shore** and former Assistant Commissioner for Media Relations at the **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference**, is currently the Director of Basketball Communications for the Cavaliers.



Evans

In his current capacity, according to his *LinkedIn* profile, Evans is directly responsible for the organization's basketball publicity efforts and is the primary liaison between the team and local, national and international media. He is also responsible for day-to-day media operations. He coordinates press conferences and interviews for the team's players, coaches and front office staff and oversees game and season statistics, media coverage management and media training for players and coaches.

Thus, his seat prominently at the scorer's tables at Cavs games including at the ongoing NBA Finals.

The best-of-seven series finals returns to Cleveland Thursday after the Cavs got 41 points each from LeBron James and Kyrie Irving in game give to down the Warriors, 112-97. Golden State leads the series, three games to two.

Evans joined the Cavs in 2013, a year before NBA superstar LeBron James rejoined the team in 2014 after a four-year stay with the Miami Heat. This is Evans' second straight trip to the NBA Finals with Cleveland.

Prior to joining the Cavs, Evans spent nine years as Vice President of Communications for the NBA's Charlotte Bobcats. Prior to his Charlotte assignment, he spent just over two years as Assistant Director of Sports Media Relations with the Heat.

He began his stint in the professional leagues with the NBA Development League's Asheville, N. C. franchise in 2001 just after serving in the MEAC office for three years.

B. J. also served as a Tribune Manager for beach volleyball at the Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta in 1996 sandwiched around two-year stints as SID at UMES and his alma mater, N. C. A&T.

He received his Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations at A&T in 1994.

Black College Football Hall of Fame gets permanent home at Pro Football HOF

The Pro Football Hall of Fame announced in May that it will create a permanent home on its campus for the Black College Football Hall of Fame (see logo banner below).

The Black College Football Hall of Fame, which honors those who played and coached at historically black colleges and universities, will be part of the Hall of Fame Village in Canton, Ohio, a \$500 million development that is scheduled to be completed in 2019.

Hall of Fame Village will become the site for the Black College Football Hall of Fame's annual induction ceremony, and a game between historically black colleges will be played at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium, potentially as soon as 2017.

The organizations have partnered to create a Black College Football Hall of Fame exhibit that will be on display at Canton this year, said Pro Football Hall of Fame president and executive director David Baker.

There are also plans for a traveling exhibit displayed at historically black colleges and universities around the country.

"We feel that it is a very critical part of the history of the NFL," Baker said Thursday. "There was a time when great African-American players could not play at some institutions. They were coming up in the NFL, which in some respects was ahead of the civil rights curve."

Hall of Fame Village will become the site for the Black College Football Hall of Fame's annual induction ceremony, and a game between historically black colleges will be played at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium, potentially as soon as 2017.

The halls of fame also will create a paid post-graduate internship for a student at a historically black college or university.

The Black College Football Hall of Fame was founded in 2009 by former NFL quarterbacks **Doug Williams** and **James Harris**, who both played at historically black colleges. It's held induction dinners and golf tournaments in the Atlanta area and inducted 64 players, coaches and contributors since 2010.

"All of us associated with the Black College Football Hall of Fame look forward to working with the team at the Pro Football Hall of Fame to elevate the story of great African-American players and coaches who persevered and overcame great obstacles to achieve their dreams," Harris said in a statement.

The first class of inductees included **Jerry Rice**, who played at **Mississippi Valley State**, **Walter Payton**, who played at **Jackson State**, and late **Grambling** coach **Eddie Robinson**.

Twenty-nine of the 266 players enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame played at historically black colleges and universities, including Black College Football Hall of Fame board of trustees members **Mel Blount**, **Willie Lanier** and **Art Shell**.

Atlanta Falcons Owner and Chairman Arthur Blank, a key supporter of the Black College Football Hall of Fame, spoke with NFL Media's Steve Wyche about the importance of his team's sponsorship at the link below:

<http://www.atlantafalcons.com/media-lounge/videos/Blank-Supports-Black-College-Football-HOF/68ef0f01-d18a-4a79-bd79-010eb7ca9254>



HBCU TRACK & FIELD ALL-AMERICANS

SECOND TEAM - NCAA DI MEN

NAME	SCHOOL	YEAR	EVENT
Shane Green	Coppin State	SR	Triple Jump
Trey Holloway	Hampton	SR	110 Meter Hurdles
Christopher Belcher	North Carolina A&T	JR	4x100 Relay
Maurice Eaddy	North Carolina A&T	JR	4x100 Relay
Caleb Gabriel	North Carolina A&T	JR	4x100 Relay
Rodney Rowe	North Carolina A&T	FR	4x100 Relay

SECOND TEAM - NCAA DI WOMEN

Jailah Mason	Morgan State	SO	High Jump
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HONORABLE MENTION - NCAA DI MEN

Christopher Belcher	North Carolina A&T	JR	100 Meters
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HONORABLE MENTION - NCAA DI WOMEN

Tristie Johnson	Bethune-Cookman	SR	100 Meters
Ce'aira Brown	Hampton	SR	800 Meters
India Brown	North Carolina A&T	SO	100 Meters
Clairwin Dameus	Tenn. State	SR	Heptathlon
Amber Hughes	Tenn. State	JR	Triple Jump