

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS



Las Vegas Summer League Photo

MILLER: Former Tenn. State guard plays on Chicago Bulls' Summer League team after breakout D-League season.

STILL BALLIN'

SWAC HOLDS PRESEASON FOOTBALL MEDIA DAY; OGUNDEKO PRESEASON POY IN THE OVC

BCSP Notes

Alcorn State, Prairie View A&M picked to take SWAC football division titles



SWAC Photo

SWAC HEAD COACHES: Head football coaches of the ten Southwestern Athletic Conference programs were on hand for interviews and presentations at the 2016 SWAC Football Media Day in Birmingham Friday. From left to right the head coaches, appearing with team helmets and behind the SWAC Championship Trophies they will compete for, are: James Spady of Alabama A&M, Brian Jenkins of Alabama State, new head coach Fred McNair of Alcorn State, Broderick Fobbs of Grambling State, new head coach Tony Hughes of Jackson State, Rick Comegy of Mississippi Valley State, Willie Simmons of Prairie View A&M, Dawson Odums of Southern, new head coach Michael Haywood of Texas Southern and Monte Coleman of Arkansas-Pine Bluff.

SWAC Football Media Day Re-cap

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. - The Southwestern Athletic Conference officially opened the 2016 football season with its annual SWAC Football Media Day in Birmingham, Alabama at the Birmingham Marriott on Friday.

The event featured several workings including the All-SWAC Pre-season Team announcement with a live video and radio broadcast stream. A series of special guests included Lt. Col. Keith Bland of the Air Force Reserve, ESPN's John Grant, Executive Director of the Air Force Reserve Celebration Bowl, Mark Wright from The Undefeated, ESPN College Football Analyst **Jay Walker** and James "Shack" Harris from the Black College Football Hall of Fame.

Head coaches from all 10 schools were accompanied by two players each from their teams. Over 130 media members were credentialed for this year's gathering.

The SWAC released a pair of public service initiatives to highlight the conference member institutions and promote the upcoming 2016 Toyota SWAC Football Championship in Houston, Texas on December 3.

The SWAC released its 2016 SWAC Preseason Teams with **Southern** running back **Lenard Tillery** and **Alabama State** linebacker **Kourtney Berry** being tabbed for individual honors.



Jay Walker



SWAC Photos

PRESEASON PLAYERS OF THE YEAR: Southern running back Lenard Tillery (l., #21) and Alabama State linebacker Courtney Berry (r., #32)

After leading the league in rushing en route to a second-straight first-team All-SWAC nod, Tillery was the voters' favorite for the SWAC Pre-season Offensive Player of the Year award. For the third-straight year, Berry was tabbed as SWAC Preseason Defensive Player of the Year.

Tillery rushed for 1,211 yards on 197 carries (6.1 average) in 2015, scoring a SWAC-best 14 touchdowns on the ground for the Jaguars. He was the only runner to average 100 yards or better a game, posting an average of 110.1 yards per contest.

The Baton Rouge, La. native is one of five Southern players on the preseason first-team offense, with quarterback **Austin Howard**, offensive linemen **Anthony Mosely** and **Terrell Lee**, tight end **Dillon Beard** and return specialist **Willie Quinn**.

Rounding out the first-team offense are running back **Martez Carter** (Grambling State), offensive linemen **Detonio Dade** (Alcorn State), **Justin Miller** (Grambling State), **Josiah Freeman** (Prairie View A&M), and wide receivers **Chad Williams** (Grambling State) and **Daniel Williams** (Jackson State).

Berry, who won the 2015 SWAC Defensive Player of the Year award, has led the SWAC in stops during each of his first three seasons. The Merrillville, Ind. product accounted for a league-best 130 tackles and two fumble recoveries. He is a three-time First Team All-SWAC performer and has earned several pre-and post-season honors.

Joining Berry on the preseason first-team defense are: defensive linemen **Stacey Garner** (Alcorn State), **Javancy Jones** (Jackson State), **Mike Brooks** (Alcorn State) and **DeVohn Reed** (Prairie View A&M), linebackers **Darien Anderson** (Alcorn State) and **Willie Duncan** (Arkansas-Pine Bluff), and defensive backs **Guy Stallworth** (Grambling State), **Marquice O'Leary** (Prairie View A&M), **Danny Johnson** (Southern) and **Marquis Green** (Mississippi Valley State).

The teams were released after ballots were completed by the league's head coaches and sports information directors. Fifty-one players were named to this year's preseason teams, with several returning players that earned all-conference at the conclusion of the 2015 season. Should a player that was named to the first team during the postseason not return, the second-team player for that position was elevated to the first team. Players were ranked in their position based on the number of votes received.

PRESEASON OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:
Lenard Tillery (RB) - Southern

PRESEASON DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:
Kourtney Berry (LB) - Alabama State

2016 PRESEASON ALL SWAC FOOTBALL TEAM
* indicates tie in voting at the position

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE

QB - Austin Howard, Southern
RB - Lenard Tillery, Southern
RB - Martez Carter, Grambling State
OL - Detonio Dade, Alcorn State
OL - Justin Miller, Grambling State
OL - Anthony Mosley, Southern
OL - Josiah Freeman, Prairie View A&M
OL - Terrell Lee, Southern
WR - Chad Williams, Grambling State
WR - Daniel Williams, Jackson State
TE - Dillon Beard, Southern

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE

DL - Stacey Garner, Alcorn State
DL - Javancy Jones, Jackson State
DL - Mike Brooks, Alcorn State
DL - DeVohn Reed, Prairie View A&M
LB - Kourtney Berry, Alabama State
LB - Darien Anderson, Alcorn State
LB - Willie Duncan, Arkansas-Pine Bluff
DB - Guy Stallworth, Grambling State
DB - Marquice O'Leary, Prairie View A&M
DB - Danny Johnson, Southern
DB - Marquis Green, Miss. Valley State

SPECIAL TEAMS

K - Marc Orozco, Grambling State P - Haiden McCraney, Alcorn State
RS - Willie Quinn, Southern

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

QB - Lennoris Footman, Alcorn State
RB - Khalid Thomas, Alabama State
RB - Arron Baker, Alcorn State
OL - David Adams, Arkansas-Pine Bluff
OL - Sam Baptiste, Alabama State
OL - Frank Carter, Jackson State
OL - Markus Cook - Jackson State
OL - Kerry Williams, Alabama State
WR - Derrick Griffin, Texas Southern
WR - Marquis Warford *, Alcorn State
WR - Willie Young *, Ark.-Pine Bluff
TE - Brandon Campbell, Alcorn State

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

DL - Cornelius Henderson, Jackson State
DL - CeaJae Bryant, Southern
DL - Robert Brown, Alabama State
DL - Roderick Henderson, Alabama State
LB - Bryan Brower, Alabama A&M
LB - Aaron Tiller, Southern
LB - Arkez Cooper, Grambling State
DB - D'Andre Smith, Alcorn State
DB - Farrean Toney, Miss. Valley State
DB - Dominique Weaver, Prairie View A&M
DB - Eric Foster, Alcorn State

SPECIAL TEAMS

K - Jaime Gillan, Arkansas-Pine Bluff P - Trevon Vincent, Alabama State
RS - Booker Chambers*, Miss. Valley State
Octayvious Miles, Alabama A&M

Two-time defending champion **Alcorn State** totaled 44 votes points to earn the preseason favorite's role out of the East Division. Alabama State followed with 35 points, **Jackson State** received 28 points, followed by **Alabama A&M** (16) and **Mississippi Valley State** (12).

Out in the West Division, **Prairie View A&M** was chosen to dethrone defending division champ **Grambling State**. Prairie View amassed 41 points in the voting. Grambling State followed with 35 points, and **Southern** received 32 points. **Texas Southern** (16) and **Arkansas Pine Bluff** (11) rounded out the order of predicted finish.

2016 EASTERN DIVISION PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

SCHOOL	POINTS
Alcorn State	44
Alabama State	35
Jackson State	28
Alabama A&M	16
Miss. Valley State	12

2016 WESTERN DIVISION PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

SCHOOL	POINTS
Prairie View A&M	41
Grambling State	35
Southern	32
Texas Southern	16
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	11

Ogundeko selected Defensive POY; Tennessee State picked sixth in OVC poll

Tennessee State junior defensive end **Ebenezer Ogundeko**, a transfer from Clemson, has been selected as Preseason Defensive Player of the Year in the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) Football Media Poll.

Media covering the OVC cast a ballot on who they thought would be 2016 football favorites and preseason players of the year.

The OVC released its preseason poll and All-OVC team, as voted on by league head coaches and sports information directors Monday during the league's annual Media Day in Nashville.

The media panel joined coaches and SIDs in picking the Jacksonville State Gamecocks as the preseason favorite, picking up all 16 first-place votes in both polls. That panel picked Jacksonville State lineman Darius Jackson as the top defender.

Tennessee State was picked sixth in both the media and coaches/SID polling.

2016 MEDIA AND COACHES/SIDS OVC PRESEASON FOOTBALL PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

- Jacksonville State (16 first-place votes)
- Eastern Kentucky
- Eastern Illinois
- UT Martin
- Southeast Missouri
- Tennessee State**
- Murray State
- Tennessee Tech
- Austin Peay

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

JCSU'S GRAHAM HEADED TO RIO:

Charlotte, N.C. - **Johnson C. Smith University** head track and field coach **Lennox Graham** has been selected to serve as an assistant coach for the Jamaican National Team at the Rio Olympic Games.

No stranger to coaching at the international level, Graham was selected to coach at the 2006 Pan American Senior Championships in 2006 in Rio while coaching at the high school level in his native Jamaica. After coming to JCSU, Graham has coached at the IAAF World Championships since 2011 with his most recent trip coming last summer in Beijing.

Under Graham, JCSU alum **Danielle Williams** won the 2015 IAAF world title in the 100 meter hurdles last year.

"It means a lot for me to be chosen by Jamaica to help coach their Olympic team," he said. "By having the opportunity to work with world-class athletes, it will help further the JCSU track and field program and will open up recruiting avenues for us to attract world-class talent to Charlotte." The track and field portion of the Rio Olympics will run from August 12 - 21

TSU'S MILLER IN SUMMER LEAGUE:

Former **Tennessee State** standout guard and prolific scorer **Patrick Miller** had a breakout rookie year playing in the NBA Development League, catching the eye of a multitude of NBA scouts.

He parleyed that into a spot this summer on the Chicago Bulls team that won the championship Monday in the Samsung Las Vegas NBA Summer League played from July 10-18.

Miller, a 6-1, 190-pound guard, played in all seven games during the Bulls' championship run averaging 10.7 minutes and scoring 3.4 points per game. He played 92 seconds but did not take a shot or score in the title game.

He played in the D-League this past season as a super sub for the Texas Legends a team affiliated with the NBA's Dallas Mavericks. Miller played in 47 games starting nine and averaged 11.5 points, 3.4 rebounds and 4.3 assists per game. He shot 47.8% from the floor and 42.4% from 3-point range logging an average of 26.6 minutes per game.

The Chicago, Ill. native starred for Tennessee State, earning first team All-Ohio Valley Conference for the 2012-13 and 2013-14 seasons. Miller graduated as TSU's sixth all-time leading scorer with 1,900 career points. He led the OVC and finished fifth in the NCAA with 23.7 points per game as a senior in 2013-14 but went undrafted. He later signed a contract to play professional basketball in Turkey during the 2014-15 season.

He was drafted with the ninth pick in the second round of the 2015 D-League Draft by Oklahoma City.

THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

UPCOMING PRESEASON FOOTBALL EVENTS



SIAC
Football Media Day
Wednesday, July 20 - 10 a.m.
DoubleTree by Hilton
Montgomery, AL



CIAA
Football Media Day
Thursday, July 21 - 9 a.m.
Marriott Resarch Triangle Park
Durham, NC



MEAC
Football Press Luncheon
Friday, July 29 - 10 a.m.
Norfolk Waterside Marriott Hotel
Norfolk, VA