

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS



Xavier Sports Photo

THE OTHER SIDE OF TRANSFERRING

NEW HOOPS COACHES FOR ALABAMA A&M MEN, TENN. ST. WOMEN; NEW AD AT SC STATE

RASHID GASTON: From 15 points and 9 boards at Norfolk State, to half that - 7 points and 6 boards at Xavier. Is it worth it?

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

SAV. STATE RETREATING TO DIV. II:

SAVANNAH - Savannah State University (SSU) President Cheryl D. Dozier announced Monday the intent to reclassify all athletics programs from NCAA Division I to NCAA Division II, pending approval by the NCAA.

The announcement also signals the end of SSU's membership in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) after the reclassification.

The decision was made after months of discussion and deliberation in an effort to put SSU's athletics programs in the best position fiscally, academically and athletically. This move allows SSU athletics to remain in competition and carry on their traditions.

The administration has maintained that fiscal responsibility for the betterment of students and the institution is priority. Senior administrators are in ongoing communication with the NCAA and the MEAC to create and coordinate a plan to have the most efficient transition.

"While I am extremely proud of the progress our athletes and coaches have made at the Division I Level, it is not financially feasible for us to continue," said Dozier. Additional details about the reclassification plan will be released in the coming months.

Savannah State made the decision to move from Division II to Division I in 1998, while opting to leave the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) and become independent of conference affiliation. SSU played its first season as a Division I institution in 2002 when the NCAA granted full membership. The Tigers became members of the MEAC in the fall of 2010.

KERN MOVES FROM MVSU TO TENN STATE:

NASHVILLE --- Tennessee State University Director of Athletics Teresa Phillips has announced that Jessica Kern has been hired as the head women's basketball coach. She becomes the 11th head coach in the program's history.

Kern most recently served as the head women's basketball coach at Mississippi Valley State University. Prior to taking over the program at MVSU, Kern was an assistant coach at Furman following a four-year stretch as head coach at NCAA Division II Lincoln (Pa.).

In 2014-15, she was named Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Coach of the Year after leading her squad to a 22-9 mark and a share of the CIAA Northern Division title.

Taking over a Lincoln program in 2011 that had won just three games the previous season, Kern coached the Lady Lions to seven wins in her first season, 10 victories the following year, and to a 12-16 mark in 2013-14 before posting a 22-9 record in her final season.

The 22 wins was a school record and carried Lincoln to a CIAA Tournament championship game appearance. She also guided Lincoln to the program's first win over a Division I opponent, a 94-86 triumph over Morgan State. A standout student-athlete as an undergrad, Kern was a four-year letterwinner at Penn State University, where she was a three-time All-Big Ten selection and team captain for the Track and Field team. After completing a stellar career at Penn State, she returned to the game of basketball and played professionally for the next seven years in Australia, Germany, Switzerland, Romania and Poland.

MARSH TAKES OVER AT ALABAMA A&M:

Former Texas Southern assistant Donnie Marsh was introduced as the new head men's basketball coach at Alabama A&M during a press conference last week in Huntsville.

Marsh spent the last two seasons at Texas Southern working under Mike Davis, his boss at UAB from 2006-12.

Marsh has head coaching experience, having gone 31-84 at Florida International from 2000-04. He also led small-school programs College of New Jersey (1989-93) and Elizabethtown, Pa. (1988-89).

Marsh had assistant stints at South Florida (2013-14), Texas Southern (2012-13), Indiana (2004-06 under Davis), Virginia Tech (1997-2000) and Florida State (1995-97).

Alabama A&M went 2-27 last season under Willie Hayes, who stepped down in early March after going 54-121 in six seasons.

2017 BLACK COLLEGE BASEBALL (Results, Standings and Weekly Honors)

CIAA	CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION				MEAC	MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE				SIAC	SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE				SWAC	SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE			
	CONF		ALL			CONF		ALL			CONF		ALL			DIV		ALL	
	W	L	W	L		W	L	W	L		W	L	W	L		W	L	W	L
Winston-Salem State	10	0	27	13	Norfolk State	12	3	18	14	Albany State	12	3	14	22	Eastern	15	3	29	11
Chowan	10	3	20	19	Delaware State	7	8	11	19	Paine	10	5	18	16	Alcorn State	13	5	17	19
St. Augustine's	5	6	18	27	Coppin State	6	9	8	22	Benedict	10	5	20	11	Alabama A&M	5	10	9	22
Virginia State	3	9	14	19	Maryland-E. Shore	5	10	7	27	Claffin	6	9	12	26	Alabama A&M	5	12	8	31
Lincoln	1	11	5	28	SOUTHERN					Clark Atlanta	6	9	12	21	Miss. Valley State	4	14	5	24
					NC A&T	10	5	20	14	Morehouse	2	10	5	26	WESTERN				
					Bethune-Cookman	9	6	22	17	WEST					Texas Southern	11	6	13	23
					Florida A&M	9	6	19	16	Miles	11	4	19	16	Grambling State	10	8	14	21
					NC Central	7	8	16	21	Spring Hill	11	4	23	19	Arkansas Pine Bluff	9	8	12	23
					Savannah State	1	11	10	24	Kentucky State	5	4	12	25	Southern	7	10	11	20
										Tuskegee	6	7	23	18	Prairie View	6	9	13	26
										LeMoyné-Owen	3	5	5	20					
										Lane	0	13	3	26					

PART TWO

Grass not always greener for transfers



TRAVELLING MEN

Part Two of a 3-part BCSP series on talented basketball players walking away from the HBCU hoops programs that have nurtured them.



LOST: Gaston (l.) and Bernard (r.) at Xavier.

LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

At least 12 all-MEAC basketball players or all-MEAC caliber talents have transferred out of the conference in the last four years.

Former Norfolk State 6-8 forward Rashid Gaston and former Florida A&M 6-6 left-handed guard Malcom Bernard left the Spartans and Rattlers respectively over the last two years to play their final seasons at Xavier of the Big East.

"I wanted to have the chance to go to the NCAA tournament," Bernard said on Cincinnati.com of his move last year, similar to what Gaston expressed while leaving NSU two seasons ago. "I wanted to win a lot of games and be successful," Bernard said. "I thought if I transferred, I would be able to do something bigger somewhere else."

That's not necessarily been the case.

At NSU in the 2014-15 season, Gaston averaged a near double-double of 15.5 points and 9.6 boards per game on a 20-14 team. Bernard left an 8-21 Florida A&M team after averaging 14.1 points and 7.1 rebounds a year ago. At Xavier, playing on much more talented squads, neither has approached those numbers.

Gaston averaged 7.4 points and team-bests of 5.9 rebounds and 0.5 blocks for the 24-14 Musketeers this season, just above Bernard's 6.6 points and 4.1 rebounds. Bernard started 35 of 38 games. Gaston started 18. Bernard averaged over 28 minutes per game, Gaston 20.

Both had their moments.

Gaston led Xavier in rebounding in 11 games and had his best outing in a 23-point, 10-rebound effort in a loss to Villanova on Feb. 11. He followed that up with a 19-point, 14-rebound performance in a loss to Providence four days later.

Bernard had perhaps his best game in a battle against Arizona in the NCAA Tourna-

ment's Sweet 16. He scored 15 points and pulled down six rebounds in a 73-71 Musketeers win over the second-seeded Wildcats that advanced Xavier to the Elite Eight. Both Gaston and Bernard had five points in a 83-59 loss to eventual national runner-up Gonzaga that ended their season.

As for exposure, reaching the Elite Eight at Xavier is certainly bigger than 17-17 Norfolk State's run to the MEAC Tournament finals and a first round appearance in the CollegeInsider.com postseason tournament or FAMU's 8-21 finish.

Sterling Smith, an all-MEAC guard at Coppin State, wound up as a starter at Pittsburgh in the ACC in the 2015-16 season. Richaud Pack, a 17-point scorer and another all-MEAC player at North Carolina A&T in 2014, ended up as an occasional starter on Maryland's Big 10 squad a year ago.

Smith, after averaging 13.1 points and 30 minutes a game at Coppin, averaged 4.3 points and 17 minutes for the Panthers last season. Pack's 17 points and 34 minutes per game at A&T turned into 5.8 points and 25 minutes a night for the 2015-16 Terps.

"I was stunned and disappointed," said Cy Alexander, then Pack's coach at A&T. "He was projected to be our leading scorer coming back. When he decided to leave at the late date that he did, it was impossible to recruit someone of his skill and athletic ability to replace him. It was an obstacle we could not overcome."

Alexander said Pack wanted to play in the NCAA Tournament and figured that Maryland, in a multiple-bid league like the Big 10, had a better chance than A&T in the one-bid MEAC. Alexander said Pack indicated that it didn't matter if he didn't play.

Perhaps it's the old adage of, 'I'd rather be a

little fish in a big pond than a big fish in a little pond.' Okay, but does that make sense?

Deron Powers of Hampton bolted the Pirates after they won the 2015 MEAC Tournament title and he was named the tourney's Most Valuable Player. He led the Pirates into a first round NCAA Tournament matchup with top-seed Kentucky. Powers, a 5-11 former MEAC rookie of the year who had scored 1,080 points and handed 385 assists in his three years at Hampton, would have been the top returning point guard in the MEAC. He scored 10 points and handed out 3.7 assists per game and was among the league leaders playing over 32 minutes per game in his final season with the Pirates.

He took up residence at Hofstra University of the Colonial Athletic Association, another one-bid league, and after sitting out last season played his final year of eligibility for the Pride. Powers is one of the few whose numbers have gone up since transferring. He scored 13.0 points and dished out 5.2 assists per game for the 15-17 Pride in just about the same number of minutes.

Powers told a newspaper at the time of his transferring that one of his reasons for the move was "the vibe I got up there when I went to visit, how seriously they take basketball." He was also quoted saying he wanted to go to a "better program" in a "better setting."

Seriously? Let's see. Hofstra drew 2,819 to its largest attended home game this season on Feb. 4 vs. Drexel. By contrast, Hampton drew 3,214 to its Jan. 25 home date vs. South Carolina State and 4,545 that showed up for a showdown vs. North Carolina Central on Jan. 16.

Hofstra finished 7-11 in CAA play, good for seventh in the 10-team CAA. Hampton was 14-17 overall, fourth in the MEAC at 11-5 and played in the College Basketball Invitational postseason tournament.

Powers went from a little pond to a smaller pond.

PART THREE: Next week, the final part of the series explores, "Missed Opportunities."

BCSP Notes

Danley new S. C. State athletics director

ORANGEBURG, S.C. - Stacy Danley, a veteran administrator, has been named athletics director at South Carolina State University. President James E. Clark announced Monday. Danley, who joins SC State after spending the last two years with the SLD Sports Marketing Group, will assume his duties immediately.

The Auburn University alum succeeds Paul Bryant, who resigned as Bulldog athletics director in December to accept a similar position at Grambling State University. Doug Robertson, head women's basketball coach at SC State, has been serving as acting AD for the Bulldogs.

Danley, who has 21 years of experience in athletics administration, formerly served as Athletics Director at Alabama State and Tuskegee universities. He also worked for the J.F. Smith Group, the Southeastern Conference and Auburn University, his alma mater.

Jordan named Claffin volleyball coach

Orangeburg, S.C. - Ashley Jordan has announced the appointment of Ashley Jordan as women's volleyball coach.

A native of Miami, Florida, Jordan joins the Claffin athletic staff after serving as head volleyball coach on several levels in the Columbia, S.C. area. She also served as a recruiter and head coach at the S.C. Midlands Volleyball Club. Prior to that, she spent five seasons as the head coach of the 17U & 18U National Elite Team with the Northern Valley Power Volleyball Club in California.

Jordan is a 2007 graduate of California State University, where she received her bachelor of arts in mass communication. While at Cal State, she played both volleyball and basketball.



Danley



Jordan



Carty

Carty named Grambling marketing and communications assistant

In a move designed to improve an athletic program built on the school's rich sports legacy, Grambling State University Athletic Director Paul Bryant has hired Karen M. Carty as the assistant athletics director for marketing and communications, effective Monday (April 10).

"This is an important hire for Grambling State and athletics," said Bryant. "This school and this program deserve a first-class marketing professional, and I assure you that Karen is a first-class marketing professional. Our students, alumni and others will see the difference she makes in short order."

Carty joins GSU from her position as director of marketing in the South Carolina State University (SCSU) athletics department, where she worked with Bryant from 2014-2017 when he was athletics director at the Orangeburg, South Carolina, institution. At SCSU, she handled all aspects of athletics marketing as well as media relations for volleyball, women's soccer, women's basketball and softball.

2017 BLACK COLLEGE SOFTBALL (Results, Standings and Weekly Honors)

CIAA	CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION					MEAC	MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE					SIAC	SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE					SWAC	SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE				
	DIV		CONFALL				CONF		ALL				CONF		ALL				DIV		ALL		
	W	L	W	L	L		W	L	W	L		W	L	W	L		W	L	W	L			
Chowan	6	0	11	1	29	17	Norfolk State	8	1	19	12	Albany State	17	2	23	18	Eastern	12	3	15	24		
Bowie State	4	0	9	1	13	15	Hampton	8	1	13	18	Claffin	16	2	27	13	Alcorn State	6	6	12	27		
Virginia Union	4	4	6	8	9	11	Delaware State	9	5	12	24	Clark Atlanta	12	8	16	22	Alabama A&M	6	8	13	24		
Virginia State	2	2	4	6	10	18	Maryland-E. Shore	4	7	10	19	Benedict	10	10	23	21	Alabama A&M	6	8	13	24		
Elizabeth City State	0	4	0	7	1	22	Norfolk State	4	8	11	19	Fort Valley State	3	16	4	27	Miss. Valley State	5	7	10	27		
Lincoln	0	6	1	10	4	18	Coppin State	3	6	5	32	Paine	0	20	2	22	Jackson State	4	8	11	29		
							Howard	2	10	2	29	WESTERN											
							SOUTHERN					EAST											
							Florida A&M	11	1	16	25	Spring Hill	17	2	33	16	Prairie View	10	5	18	22		
							Bethune-Cookman	10	2	20	27	Miles	8	4	9	23	Texas Southern	8	4	17	13		
							NC A&T	3	6	10	26	Kentucky State	9	7	11	18	Arkansas Pine Bluff	8	7	13	22		
							NC Central	3	6	8	26	Lane	10	9	18	13	Southern	4	7	12	16		
							S. C. State	2	7	2	31	Tuskegee	3	11	6	21	Grambling State	2	10	12	25		
							Savannah State	1	8	1	29	LeMoyné-Owen	2	15	6	21							