

# BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS



FAMU Sports photo

## APR PENALTIES CONTINUE

**WIGGINS:** Leads FAMU women to fourth straight MEAC softball crown, 13th in her career.

## NEW HOOPS COACHES IN AT ELIZABETH CITY STATE, FLORIDA A&M AND GRAMBLING

## UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS



Jackson



Hill



Davis



McCullum

### GRAMBLING HIRES STILLMAN'S JACKSON:

According to Friday's Monroe, La. *News-Star*, Grambling State has decided to hire former Stillman head coach **Donte Jackson** as its new head men's basketball coach. The school is expected to have a press conference early this week to make the official announcement.

Jackson went 66-21 during his three years at Stillman, most recently leading the Tigers to a 22-5 record. He guided Stillman to a berth in the 2016 NCAA Division II Tournament and also spent the past year as the program's athletic director. He previously coached at **Central State University** where he compiled a 68-42 record.

Grambling Athletic Director **Paul Bryant** hired Jackson as Stillman's new basketball coach in 2014.

Hoopdirt.com first reported the news late Thursday.

Jackson is taking over for **Shawn Walker**, the former Grambling and **Elizabeth City State** head coach who was fired in March following three years with the program. The Tigers finished 16-17 in 2017 and reached the **Southwestern Athletic Conference** tournament semifinals, a significant improvement over 2-27 and 7-24 records in his first two seasons. His three-year record at Grambling was 25-68. Just last week Grambling was hit with NCAA sanctions for low APR scores in its basketball program that will bar it from postseason play (see related story).

In his first Div. I coaching job, Jackson's salary is expected to be in the ballpark of what Grambling's women's head coach **Freddy Murray**, who recently signed a two-year contract for \$120,000 a year.

### ELIZ. CITY ST. GETS NEW HOOPS COACHES:

**Elizabeth City State** has announced new head coaches for both its men's and women's basketball teams.

Former women's interim head coach, **John Hill** has moved to the men's bench as head coach while former **Shaw** assistant **Antonio Davis** takes over as head women's coach

Boasting over eleven years of Division II head-coaching experience and another 13 seasons as an assistant, Hill has an established ability to build programs into conference and national contenders. As interim coach, Hill had led the Lady Vikings to a 5-18 overall record and a 3-13 record in conference play.

Before joining ECSU, Hill led the **Lincoln** Lions men's basketball team to a 53-30 overall record.

Davis has 24 years of college experience; 14 as head coach. Last season as an assistant Shaw, Davis helped lead the Lady Bears to an 11-18 overall record. Davis has been a Division I interim head coach, associate head coach and assistant coach, with successful stints at **North Carolina Central** as well as **South Carolina State University**.

Davis developed his reputation as a master program builder as head coach at Morristown College (1987-88), **Livingstone** (1988-91) and **Kentucky State** (1993-98) and **Saint Augustine's** (2001-07). At Morristown College he took over a last place team and took them to a second place finish in his only season. At Kentucky State, Davis earned consecutive 20-win seasons, made the school's first NCAA Tournament appearance, won a season-record 26 games, won three straight division titles and a tournament championship.

### FAMU FINALIZING DEAL WITH MCCULLUM:

The *Tallahassee Democrat* reported Thursday that **Florida A&M** will hire former South Florida and Western Michigan head coach **Robert McCullum** as its new head men's basketball coach once the school finalizes paperwork on his contract offer.

A press conference was tentatively set for this past Friday but was called off.

McCullum, 62, who hasn't been a head coach since 2007, has an 84-121 record as a head coach and is currently the assistant director of basketball operations at Oregon. He was 40-76 in four years at USF and 44-45 in three years at WMU.

He was one of 122 applicants for the job and was a finalist along with Buffalo assistant **Lindsey Hunter** and former Florida State coach Pat Kennedy.

# 8 Div. I HBCUs get NCAA APR sanctions

Fourteen Division I HBCU teams at eight different schools will be ineligible for the postseason in 2017-18 due to their low Academic Progress Rates.

In 2017-18, teams are subject to penalties for not meeting the minimum academic standard set by member schools. Some of the teams ineligible for postseason play are among those subject to penalties.

Schools may request a waiver from some or all penalty elements. Waivers are overseen by the Committee on Academics. The Academic Performance Program penalty structure includes three levels, with penalties increasing in severity at each level. Schools move through the penalty structure each year, progressing to the next level of severity if their multi-year APR remains below the benchmarks.

The specific penalties for each team are listed on the school's report in the APR searchable database.

Level One penalties focus on practice restrictions, which provide additional time for teams to focus on academics. Teams facing this penalty lose four hours and one day of practice time per week in season, which is intended to be replaced with academic activities. In 2017-18, 16 teams face this level of penalty.

Level Two penalties include the Level One penalty and a reduction of four hours of practice time out of season, which is intended to be replaced with academic activities. At Level Two, the team's non-championship sea-

son, or spring football, is eliminated. Teams without non championship seasons face a reduced number of contests. In 2017-18, 10 teams fall into this category.

**PENALTY CHART - POSTSEASON INELIGIBILITY**  
**Alabama A&M:** Baseball, M basketball, M golf, W cross country  
**Grambling:** M basketball, M cross country, M track  
**Howard:** M swimming and diving  
**Morgan State:** M cross country  
**Savannah State:** M basketball, football  
**Southern:** M baseball, M cross country, M track, W cross country

**LEVEL ONE PENALTIES**  
**Alabama A&M:** M basketball, football, W basketball, W cross country, W soccer  
**Florida A&M:** W bowling  
**Grambling:** Men's basketball, M cross country, M track, softball  
**Morgan State:** W basketball, W track  
**Prairie View A&M:** M basketball  
**Savannah State:** Baseball

**LEVEL TWO PENALTIES**  
**Alabama A&M:** Baseball, M golf  
**Howard:** M swimming and diving  
**Morgan State:** M cross country  
**Savannah State:** M basketball, football  
**Southern:** baseball, M cross country, M track, W cross country

## Bethune-Cookman sweeps Minority Golf titles

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. – For an extraordinary 14th time, the women of **Bethune-Cookman University** left Port St. Lucie as victors of the PGA Minority Collegiate Golf Championship presented by CastleOak Securities. The 31st edition of the 54-hole, stroke-play event was contested on PGA Golf Club's Wanamaker and Ryder Courses and featured six divisions.

The Bethune-Cookman women enjoyed their sixth consecutive Women's Division victory with a three-day total of 889. The Wildcats were led by **Mackenzie Butzer** (215), whose final round, 1-under-par 71 solidified her position as the division's medalist, finishing 1-under-par for the Championship and nine strokes ahead of teammate **Alejandra Sanchez**.

"Today, I had the mentality of playing easy golf," said Butzer, who finished runner-up in the Women's Division medalist race last year. "I worked extremely hard all year and my game



has come together, finally." Not to be outdone by their fellow Wildcats, the men of Bethune-Cookman (875) claimed their fourth Men's Division I victory in five years with a 16-stroke margin over Incarnate Word (891). **Sam Sloman's** steady play and three-day total of 217 earned him the Division I medalist.

New year, same result for the Women's Individual Invitational. The **University of Maryland Eastern Shore's Tiana Jones** (232) cruised to a five-stroke victory, her fourth consecutive victory at this Championship. Jones will return to UMES in the fall for her final year in the PGA Golf Management University Program.

A pair of playoffs determined the team champion and medalist honors for Men's Division II. After finishing 54 holes knotted up at 927, **Lincoln** and the University of West Alabama played two more to determine the champion. West Alabama sealed the victory with a team-combined 2-under-par on the second playoff hole, beating Lincoln by one stroke. West Alabama's Brannon O'Pry defeated **Virginia State's Samuel Reid** in a separate playoff to earn the Men's Division II medalist.

The PGA Minority Collegiate Golf Championship presented by CastleOak Securities has elevated golf in minority colleges and universities by providing opportunities for players to compete in a national championship. In 2006, the PGA of America was granted complete ownership and management by the National Minority Collegiate Golf Scholarship Fund.

Alabama State (21-33, 10-8 SWAC) will face Western Kentucky (29-29, 10-13 C-USA) in the opening game of the regional hosted by Georgia State (34-23, 18-9 Sun Belt) at the Robert E. Heck Softball Complex. The tournament features six double-elimination regional tournaments beginning May 14, with the winner of each region advancing to the double-elimination tournament to be held May 21-24 at a host site to be determined.

## Spring Sports Results

### FAMU wins fourth straight MEAC softball crown

ORMOND BEACH, Fla. – **Florida A&M** claimed its fourth consecutive **MEAC** Softball Championship after rallying back to defeat MEAC rival **Bethune-Cookman** in an emotional 4-2 decision on Sunday afternoon.

FAMU becomes only the second team in MEAC history to win four consecutive championships as the last time it happened was during B-CU's string of five straight titles from 2000-2004. FAMU now has 13 MEAC Softball Championships to its ledger with all under head coach **Veronica Wiggins**.

**Kenya Pereira** was named the Tournament's Most Outstanding Player for the third time in her career as she struck out three. Pereira finished the tourney with 13 strikeouts and a .072 ERA in four games.

Florida A&M will head to Gainesville, Fla. for the start of the 2017 NCAA Division I Softball Regionals Thursday afternoon against a familiar foe in top-seeded University of Florida. This marks the fourth time in FAMU postseason history that the Lady Rattlers will head to Pressly Stadium in Gainesville. FAMU has lost two game to Florida this season. FAMU is joined in the regional by Florida International of Conference USA and Oklahoma State of the Big 12.

### 2017 MEAC ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM & SUPERLATIVES

Most Outstanding Coach: Veronica Wiggins, Florida A&M  
 Most Outstanding Player: Kenya Pereira, Florida A&M  
 Ryan Jackson, Sabrina Anguiano, Mariah Davis - BCU; Hannah Shields, DSU; Amber Fullwood, Jamesia Stoudemire, Veronica Burse, Kenya Pereira - FAMU; Zadaisha Waddell - NC A&T; Dornique Wilson - NCCU

### Texas Southern wins SWAC softball title

MONTGOMERY, Ala. – **Texas Southern** claimed its third **SWAC** championship in four seasons with a 6-4 victory over defending champion **Alabama State** in the finals of the 2017 SWAC Softball Tournament.

Texas Southern (25-19, 12-6 SWAC) is slated to face No. 9 seed Texas A&M in the College Station Regional. Joining the Lady Tigers in the regional will be Texas State and the University of Texas, who will square off in the other half of the bracket.

Texas Southern will face Texas A&M on Friday at 6:30 PM. The bracket was announced Sunday night on ESPNU.

### ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM:

Paige Garcia, UAPB; Taylor Hughes, ALC; Ashley Higgins, PV; Caitlyn Hayden, AA&M; Justine Jean, ALST; Jasmine Fulmore, TSU; Valerie Centeno, Perry Hindi, Amira James, ALST; Lauren Rodriguez, Jocilynn Ellis, Sierra Valdez, TSU; Tournament MVP: Lauren Rodriguez, TSU

### Alabama State gets bid to Softball Invitational

MONTGOMERY, Ala. – Just over 24 hours after falling in the championship game of the **Southwestern Athletic Conference** softball tournament to champion **Texas Southern**, the **Alabama State** Lady Hornets softball team earned a bid into the National Invitational Softball Championships (NISC) as announced Sunday night.

## 2017 BLACK COLLEGE BASEBALL

### MEAC

FINAL	MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE			
	CONF	ALL	W	L
NORTHERN	16	7	24	20
Norfolk State	14	10	20	23
Delaware State	9	15	12	38
Maryland-E. Shore	8	15	11	31
Coppin State	15	8	30	23
SOUTHERN	15	9	26	23
Bethune-Cookman	14	10	26	24
NC A&T	12	11	22	28
Florida A&M	3	21	12	39
NC Central				
Savannah State				

### SWAC

FINAL	SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE			
	DIV	ALL	W	L
EASTERN	20	4	36	15
Jackson State	18	6	28	24
Alabama State	9	15	12	43
Alabama A&M	7	17	11	31
Alcorn State	6	18	7	34
Miss. Valley State	15	9	22	28
WESTERN	14	10	16	31
Grambling State	11	13	18	35
Texas Southern	10	14	16	25
Prairie View	10	14	15	31
Southern				
Arkansas Pine Bluff				

## THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

### THIS WEEK'S SPRING SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULES

**MEAC BASEBALL**  
 May 17-20  
 Perdue Stadium  
 Salisbury, MD

**SWAC BASEBALL**  
 May 17-21  
 Wesley Barrow Stadium  
 New Orleans, LA