



B-CU Sports photo

WILDCATS MAKE HISTORY

B-CU TAKES FLORIDA TO REGION FINAL; PRE-SEASON FOOTBALL EVENTS SET

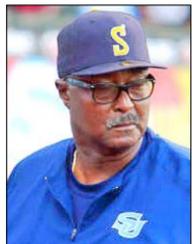
JASON BEVERLIN: Led MEAC baseball champion Bethune-Cookman to first-ever NCAA Regional final game Sunday.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

SOUTHERN'S CADOR RETIRES:

BATON ROUGE, La. – **Southern University** baseball head coach **Roger Cador** announced his retirement on Friday, after 33 seasons at the helm of the Jaguars' baseball program.



Cador

Cador compiled a 910-595-1 record in his 33 years at Southern, including leading the Jaguars to 13 SWAC conference titles, with his last conference championship coming in 2009.

Cador will end his 33-year coaching career with a dozen 30 win seasons, 11 NCAA regional appearances, 10 All-Americans, three NCAA regional wins and 62 players drafted to Major League Baseball.

Cador assumed head coaching duties at Southern when he was promoted from an assistant coach in 1984. Prior to Southern, Cador had a successful professional career with the Atlanta Braves organization. Southern was his first and only head coaching position.

The (Baton Rouge) Advocate has reported that Cador will remain with the Jaguars as director of athletics advancement, a newly created position that puts to use Cador's fundraising and people skills to help continue to grow Southern athletics.

A search for a new head coach will begin immediately.

SIAC FOOTBALL EVENT AT COLLEGE HOF:

ATLANTA (June 5, 2017) – The **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC)** will host its annual Football Media Day on Tuesday, July 11 at Atlanta's College Football Hall of Fame and Chick-fil-A Fan Experience.

Head football coaches and two student-athletes from each team will be available for interviews and will have the opportunity to share their expectations and views on the upcoming football season. The predicted order of finish along with the preseason all-SIAC teams will also be announced. Additionally, players, coaches, and invited guests will have an interactive experience after the event with a self-guided tour of the Hall.

"The College Football Hall of Fame and Chick-fil-A Fan Experience was built to serve as the home for and celebrate all things college football - players, coaches, teams, conferences and fans," said Dennis Adamovich, CEO of the Hall. "We are the perfect venue for important events like this and we are thrilled to welcome the SIAC here to host their Football Media Day."

"In light of the rich history which spans more than 100 years, I cannot think of a more appropriate place to hold this year's event," said SIAC Commissioner **Greg Moore**.

Registration is scheduled to start at 8:30 a.m. followed by opening remarks at 9 a.m. One-on-one interviews will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m. in a rotational format.

SWAC FOOTBALL MEDIA DAY SET:

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – The signal of a season anew begins with the annual **Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Football Media Day** that will once again take place at the Birmingham Marriott on 3590 Grandview Parkway on Friday, July 14.

All head coaches are returnees from the 10-member institutions and will be available for interviews. The coaches scheduled to appear are **James Spady (Alabama A&M)**, **Brian Jenkins (Alabama State)**, **Fred McNair (Alcorn State)**, **Broderick Fobbs (Grambling State)**, **Tony Hughes (Jackson State)**, **Rick Comegy (Mississippi Valley State)**, **Willie Simmons (Prairie View A&M)**, **Dawson Odums (Southern)**, **Michael Haywood (Texas Southern)**, and **Monte Coleman (Arkansas-Pine Bluff)**.

Two players per team will also appear for interview opportunities as well as the revealing of the 2017 SWAC Preseason All-Conference selections and the predicted order of finish conducted via a vote by school head football coaches and sports information directors.

The official start to the 2017 football season will feature live video coverage via SWAC Digital Network. The three-hour broadcast will display a stage session, one-on-one interviews on the set of SDN. In addition, league head coaches and student-athletes will also join SDN live audio stream as part of the continuous coverage on www.swac.org.

B-CU makes run to Region finals

GAINESVILLE, Fla. -- After losing its first game at the 2017 NCAA Gainesville Regional on Friday afternoon, **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** baseball champion **Bethune-Cookman's** wondrous run to a deciding final game ended Monday with a 6-1 loss to host and top-seed Florida.

Bethune-Cookman had beaten the Gators for the first time in 31 meetings 6-2 on Sunday evening to force Monday's 4 p.m. championship contest. The No. 3 national seed Gators (45-17) got a three-run homer and a solid pitching effort from freshman lefty Austin Langworthy to take the title and advance to next weekend's Super Regionals.

"Well, really a heck of a game," said B-CU head coach **Jason Beverlin** of the deciding contest. "It's funny how when both teams think they don't have any pitching, yet the first five innings are shutouts. That's the way it usually goes. It was a great game and they had some guys step up."

"I am just proud of our guys and the way they never quit" Beverlin said. "All I really ask of them every day when we come to the field, is that they play hard from first pitch to last pitch and they did that all year. I'm really proud of them."

"First of all, I'd like to compliment Bethune-Cookman, because they gave us everything we could handle these last two days," said Florida head coach Kevin O'Sullivan. "To get to Monday after losing the first game says a lot about their team and character."

B-CU, which defeated two nationally ranked teams in USF (South Florida) and Florida on Sunday and posted more regional victories (three) in 36 hours than the two they had in the previous 36 years, concludes the season at 36-25 with its 19th MEAC championship.

The 36 victories are the most in the sixth season for Beverlin and the third-most in program history.

Langworthy's blast broke open a scoreless tie. Before his big hit, Florida put men on second and third on a questionable no-call where Florida batter Mike Rivera appeared to interfere with B-CU first baseman **Danny Rodriguez**. It was ruled an error on Rodriguez.

"I don't think he meant to [interfere]," said Beverlin. "I felt like they were both kind of going down the line in the same plane. The argument was the ball took him into the infield, so I can understand both ways. That being said, it's a play we need to make."

Bethune-Cookman broke the shutout in the seventh when **Kyle Corbin** scored from second when **Josten Heron** beat out a two-out infield single, cutting the deficit to 4-1.

Two teams supposedly all but depleted of pitching, both playing in their fifth game in four days, put on a defensive display the first five innings.

Bethune-Cookman forced Florida to leave eight runners in scoring position before the sixth, while the Gators limited the Wildcats to three hits during that time and seven overall.

Tyler Krull started for B-CU, working three scoreless



Sterijevski



Lao



Corbin



Norris

innings before yielding to **Joseph Calamita**. **Isaak Gutierrez** and **Nate Sterijevski** also worked relief. **Adonis Lao** and **Heron** each had two hits for the Wildcats

For the tournament, Sterijevski finished with a .500 average (10-20) with one home run and eight RBI. Lao hit .352 (6-17) while **Austin Garcia** batted .333 (5-15).

"They've got three really good outfielders (Lao, Heron and Corbin) that can run balls down and they can all throw," said O'Sullivan. "The shortstop's (Sims) a really good player and the second baseman (Sterijevski), I don't think anybody figured out how to get him out all weekend. And they're pitching did a nice job. They just ran out of arms there at the end."

B-CU earned its way to the final game despite losing 9-1 to USF in Friday's first game.

They came back Saturday to knock off and eliminate Marist as pitcher **Tyler Norris** pitched a complete game in a 4-2 victory. Norris, an all-MEAC performer, improved to 9-1 on the year and became the first nine-inning complete-game performer for B-CU since **Alex Seibold** went the distance against **North Carolina A&T** on March 26, 2016. He allowed just two runs on six hits, picking up seven strikeouts and walking a pair.

In the bottom of the fifth, junior third baseman **Jameel Edney** connected for his fifth home run of the year, lifting a two-out solo shot to clear the wall in left that staked the Wildcats to a 3-1 lead after five innings. Sterijevski had a two-run scoring single in the game.

B-CU made history later Saturday, beating and eliminating South Florida 6-4 to earn their first trip to a region final in program history.

Sterijevski, Garcia and Sims each had two hits, while **Alex Herrera**, **Ivan Countinho** and Calamita combined to throw six consecutive shutout innings to help the Wildcats (35-24) pull away from a 3-3 tie.

The Wildcats blew the game open in the eighth when Sterijevski singled home Rodriguez and Garcia. Pinch hitter **Michael Deeb's** double off the left field wall brought in Sterijevski to conclude the scoring. Sterijevski smacked a two-run homer to left in the third.

The weekend went from historic to legendary as the Wildcats defeated Florida 6-2 Sunday on its home field. Sterijevski drove in four runs, while **T. J. Densmore** and **Anthony Maldonado** combined for 7 2/3 innings of shutout relief as the Wildcats (36-24) ended a 31-game losing streak to the top-seeded Gators (44-17).

Rodriguez, Corbin and Adonis Lao each had two hits for the Wildcats, who outthrew the Gators 12-5. On the mound, Densmore relieved starter **Donté Lindsay** in the second and limited Florida to two hits in his stint while Maldonado, who started Friday's opening loss to USF, finished the game with four no-hit innings with just one walk.

Norfolk State, FAMU earn MEAC all-Sports awards

Norfolk State University captured the *Talmadge Layman Hill Men's Award*, while **Florida A&M University** captured the *Mary McLeod Bethune Women's All-Sports Award*, the MEAC announced on Wednesday.

The All-Sports Awards are indicators of the overall strengths of the conference's men's and women's athletic programs.

Each institution was presented with a \$20,000 check during a reception at the Vinoy Hotel in St. Petersburg, Fla. on Wednesday evening.

The **University of Maryland Eastern Shore** was recognized during the reception as the 2017 recipient of the MEAC Highest Graduation Success Rate (GSR) for the eighth straight year. In addition to the recognition, MDES was presented a check for \$25,000 from the conference. MDES' 81-percent GSR is the highest among MEAC institutions spanning the 2006-09 cohorts.

Florida A&M, which shared the Mary



MEN



WOMEN

McLeod Bethune Women's All-Sports Award last academic year, won the award outright for the first time since 2001. The Lady Rattlers have won the award a total of 10 times since its inception in 1987 and has won it in consecutive years for the first time since a nine-year streak from 1993-2001.

The Lady Rattlers totaled 95.5 points in the all-sports tally, highlighted by their fifth consecutive conference championship in cross country and fourth straight softball championship. Florida A&M also captured divisional titles in

volleyball and softball while finishing second in indoor track & field.

North Carolina A&T State placed second with 90 points, followed by **Bethune-Cookman** (83.5), **Hampton** (82.5) and **Norfolk State** (76.5).

Norfolk State won the Talmadge Layman Hill Men's All-Sports Award for the 11th time in school history and its first title since winning nine straight from 2005-13. The Spartans won a divisional title in baseball and finished second in cross country, indoor track & field, basketball and tennis.

Bethune-Cookman finished second with 78 points, with North Carolina A&T State third with 75 points. **North Carolina Central** and **Hampton** tied for fourth with 72 points apiece.

Points are awarded in a descending order beginning with 14 points for champions or first place regular season finishes. The second-place team receives 12 points. Tied teams split the point total.

Spring Sports Round-Up

SWAC champion Texas Southern eliminated by Rice in NCAA Baseball Regional

BATON ROUGE, La. -- With the squad's season on the line, the Rice baseball team battled back from an early 5-0 deficit, as well as an 82-minute rain delay, to claim an eventual 13-6 victory over crosstown foe **Texas Southern** in an elimination game at the NCAA Tournament Saturday afternoon in Baton Rouge, La.

Both the Owls' and Tigers' respective seasons were on the line heading into the game. Texas Southern, the champion of the **Southwestern Athletic Conference**, quickly struck for runs in both of the first two innings. Playing as the visiting team in the neutral setting of LSU's Alex Box Stadium, TSU scored three runs in the top of the first inning. Each of the first five Tigers in the batting order reached base with four singles and a hit batsman.

The Tigers were back on the offensive for two more runs in the second. **Charles Guillory** was hit by a pitch to leadoff the frame and moved to second on **Horace LeBlanc's** sacrifice bunt. Guillory scored on **Karmen Dukes'** double down the left field line. Dukes came home on a RBI single by **Gerrick Jimenez** to stretch the margin to 5-0.

Rice rallied to tie the score in the bottom of the second. The Owls mixed a pair of hits around four walks and two hit batsmen to tie the game at 5.

Both teams registered single runs in the fifth.

After a one-hour, 22-minute rain delay, TSU was held scoreless by Willy Amador while Rice added six runs on six hits in the seventh inning.

In its first game Friday, TSU fell to LSU 15-7 in a back-and-forth contest. The Tigers led 3-0 thru the second inning only to see LSU score four runs in the bottom of the frame and add another in the third to go up 5-3. TSU added four runs in the fifth to get back on top at 7-5. LSU came right back to score four more runs in the bottom of the frame to lead 9-7. TSU did not score again.

The Tigers finished the year 20-34 and as champions of the SWAC Tournament.

THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

HBCU PRESEASON FOOTBALL EVENTS

SIAC FOOTBALL MEDIA DAY

Tuesday, July 11
College Hall of Fame / Chick-Fil-A Fan Experience
250 Marietta Street NW
Atlanta, GA

SWAC FOOTBALL MEDIA DAY

Friday, July 14
Birmingham Marriott
3590 Grandview Parkway
Birmingham, AL

CIAA FOOTBALL MEDIA DAY

Thursday, July 20
Sheraton Roanoke Hotel & Conference Center
2801 Hershberger Road
Roanoke, Va

MEAC PRESS LUNCHEON

Friday, July 28
Norfolk Waterside Marriott
235 East Main Street
Norfolk, VA