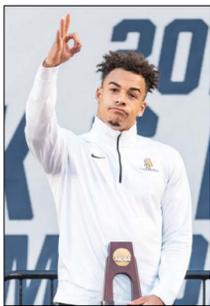


BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS



NC A&T Sports photo

AGGIES MAKE HISTORY

BELCHER: NC A&T sprinter signals third-place finish in the 100 meters among three all-American honors in Div. I nationals.

NC A&T 14th IN NCAA DIV. I TRACK; SWAC, SIAC ALL-SPORTS WINNERS; CIAA 2017-18 VENUES

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS



CoSIDA Photo by Jeff Hodges

HBCU SIDes IN ORLANDO: More than 40 Sports Information Directors (SIDes) from numerous HBCUs, the four HBCU conferences and other institutions pose for a photo following the annual meeting of Black College SIDes (BCSIDA) at the CoSIDA National Convention at the Orlando World Marriott.



CoSIDA Photo by Jeff Hodges

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT: Howard University's legendary Sports Information Director Ed Hill (r.) receives the CoSIDA Lifetime Achievement Award from President Ed Sealley (l.) of UCF. Hill is retiring this month after 33 years at Howard. 31 as the school's top SID.



NC A&T Sports Information Photo

ALL-AMERICAN SPRINTERS: N. C. A&T head coach Duane Ross (far r.) and assistant Garfield Ellenwood (l.) pose with sprinters (l. to r.) Rodney Rowe, Caleb Gabriel, Chris Belcher and Jaylen Mitchell and their trophies at the NCAA Div. I Track & Field championships in Eugene, Oregon.

THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

NCAA DIV. I TRACK AND FIELD MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM RESULTS

1) Florida (National champion)	61.50
2) Texas A&M	59.50
3) Virginia	36
4) Arkansas	33
5) Auburn	24
6) Georgia	22.50
7) Tennessee	20
7) LSU	20
9) Oregon	19.50
10) Alabama	19
11) Kansas	18.50
12) Houston	18
12) Georgetown	18
14) Tulsa	16
14) N. Carolina A&T	16
14) Ole Miss	16

Leads N.C. A&T to tie for 14th

Belcher shines at D1 nationals

Primarily from N. C. A&T Sports Information

EUGENE, ORE (June 9, 2017) – North Carolina A&T senior sprinter **Christopher Belcher** wasn't nervous. He wasn't intimidated. He even described himself as ready to go before his three event finals Friday at the NCAA Division I Track and Field Championships at Historic Hayward Field. He was just running against some of the best athletes in the world.

That may have been easy to forget after Belcher's terrific performance Wednesday when he qualified for the three national finals with a 38.48 as a part of A&T's 4x100 meter relay team, a 9.93 in the 100 meters and a 20.01 in the 200 meters. Friday wasn't Wednesday but Belcher helped the Aggies reach the award podium three times with top-5 placements.

Along with freshman **Jaylen Mitchell**, senior **Caleb Gabriel** and sophomore **Rodney Rowe**, Belcher helped the 4x100 team finish third nationally in 38.57 to garner six points.

Approximately 45 minutes later, Belcher placed third in the 100 meters final in 10.19 to claim another six points. After another approximate 45-minute layoff, Belcher finished fifth in the 200 meters final in 20.66 for four points.

Belcher walked away from NCAA nationals with three first-team All-American honors. He has four for his career after earning second-team All-American honors in 2016 with the 4x100 team. He is the first Aggie to come away with multiple All-American honors from the NCAA championships.

"Today was a struggle, but I am so blessed to be here," said a winded Belcher after his third event on Friday.

"It's not easy to get here. Being here means the world to me. To come out here and race the best in the country, it doesn't get any better than this. I wasn't even nervous today. I already know I'm going to see the best in the world. Coming into these big events I was always nervous with the bubble guts all the time. Today, I was ready to go."



NC A&T Sports Information Photo

CHRISTOPHER BELCHER: North Carolina A&T senior sprinter had a hand in all 16 points the Aggies scored in historic tie for 14th in NCAA Div. I Track and Field Championships.

As a team, the Aggies finished tied with Tulsa and Ole Miss for 14th nationally with 16 points. N.C. A&T finished tied for third among non-Power 5 conference schools (ACC, Big 10, Pac-12, Big 12, SEC). Florida took home the team national championship.

The Aggies may have gone higher, but sophomore triple jumper **Lasheon Strozier** fouled on all four of his jumps Friday. They were also the only HBCU program to produce points in the championship.

"We made history this week and I'm proud of that," said A&T Director of Track and Field programs **Duane Ross**. "There are more than 250 Division I track and field teams in America. To finish where we finished is a true achievement. I'm proud of these guys."

The 4x100 team ran their second-fastest time of the season, finishing behind NCAA champion Houston and second-place finisher Auburn. The Aggies had a good first exchange between Mitchell and Belcher as the Aggies came out of the first split in sixth place. Belcher

helped the Aggies make up some ground, but the exchange between him and Gabriel wasn't as smooth. When Gabriel gave the baton to Rowe to run the anchor the Aggies were a part of the pack. But Rowe ran past runners from Texas A&M and Texas to make one last effort to win the national title. But Rowe, who completed his split in 9.5 seconds, ran out of track as Houston crossed in 38.34 and Auburn crossed in 38.48.

"We've come a long way when you think about it," said Gabriel, who ran the third leg. "We didn't even make the final last year and this year we're No. 3 team in the country. It still hurts because we wanted to win it. We came in really feeling like we had a chance to win it."

N.C. A&T's third-place finish in an NCAA 4x100 final is the best in school history, surpassing the 2001 team of **Timothy Walls**, **Theo Wilds**, **Gerald Wright** and **Titus Haywood** who finished fifth in 39.48.

"We could have run a better race. I'm sure there are a lot of the things to critique. But at the end of the day we have to be happy with the progress we've made," said Gabriel. "The good news is, the program is good enough to get back here and do better."

Belcher's chief competition in the 100 meters was Tennessee's Christian Coleman who ran an NCAA record 9.82 on Wednesday. Coleman jumped out to an early start on Belcher and won the national championship in 10.04. Houston's Cameron Burrell came in second in 10.12. Coleman won the 200 meters as well in 20.25.

"He is the best starter in the world, so I definitely didn't get out the way I wanted to," said Belcher about Coleman in the 100 meters race. "He is a talented guy. I know what I did wrong. We're going to go out there and fix whatever needs to be fixed and get ready for U.S. championships."

The next step for Belcher, who solidified himself as an Aggie legend this week, is the USATF Outdoor Championships at Sacramento State in California June 22-25.

Alabama State sweeps SWAC all-sports awards

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – For the second-straight year, the **Southwestern Athletic Conference** has recognized **Alabama State University** as the winners of the **Sadie Magee/Barbara Jacket Award**, **C.D. Henry Award**, as well as the **James Frank Commissioner's Cup** for the 2016-17 academic year.

ASU, which swept the three awards last year as well, took 10 SWAC championships back to Montgomery this past year to garner the honors, including first-time championships in bowling and women's soccer.

This is the fifth-straight year that Alabama State has won the **Magee/Jacket Award**, the third **Henry** award in the past four years and the school's fourth consecutive Commissioner's Cup. The honors were presented last Thursday afternoon during the SWAC's annual spring meetings in Houston, Texas.

Magee/Jacket Award

This year, the Lady Hornets totaled 100 points to beat out second-place finisher **Texas Southern** (90.5 points) The Lady Hornets captured six team titles, including cross country, soccer, volleyball, indoor track and field, bowling, outdoor track and field and tennis. Alabama State's softball team finished second in the 2017 tournament as well.

Prairie View A&M was third overall with 79 total points. Rounding out the standings are **Southern** (64), **Jackson State** (62), **Grambling State** (53), **Mississippi Valley State** (47), **Alcorn State** (46), **Arkansas-Pine Bluff** (42), **Alabama A&M** (40).

C.D. Henry Award

The **C. D. Henry Award** is presented to the top men's athletic pro-

gram in the SWAC. The award is named for the former Grambling State chairman of the College of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Department from 1958-74, as well as serving as the executive officer and secretary-statistician for the SWAC in 1968-73.

Henry became the first African-American assistant commissioner of any conference office when he joined the Big Ten Conference in June of 1974.

Alabama State (73 points) was just 3.5 points ahead of second-place finisher **Prairie View A&M**. The Hornets finished with 73 points after winning team titles in indoor track and field, tennis and golf, as well as a second place finish in baseball.

Coming in third through tenth, respectively, were **Texas Southern** (64), **Jackson State** (59), **Grambling State** (58), **Alcorn State** (53), **Southern** (34), **Arkansas-Pine Bluff** (32.5) and **Alabama A&M** (29).

James Frank Commissioner's Cup

The **Commissioner's Cup**, named for former league commissioner **James Frank** who led the SWAC from 1983 through 1998, is awarded to the university compiling the highest combined total of men's and women's all-sport points.

ASU took first place with 173 total points. Texas Southern finished second with 154.5 total points as **Prairie View A&M** came in third with 148.5 total points. **Jackson State** (121), **Grambling State** (111), **Alcorn State** (99), **Southern** (98), **Arkansas-Pine Bluff** (74.5), **Mississippi Valley State** (72) and **Alabama A&M** (69) round out the final standings.



Benedict, Albany State best in SIAC sports

ATLANTA—For the third consecutive year, **Benedict College** won the 2016-17 **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) Commissioner's Cup** for women's sports, alongside **Albany State University** who claimed the title for men's sports.

The **SIAC Commissioner's Cup** is presented to the athletic department within the conference that has excelled in both men's and women's sports. The scoring system is as follows: 10 points for conference titles, seven points for runner-up championship titles, and four points for third place championship titles.

In the men's standings, Albany State finished with a total of 27 points. The Golden Rams won two championships during the 2016-17 season including its first-ever golf title along with track and field. Albany State was also the 2016 runner-up for cross country.

Morehouse and Benedict tied for second with 21 points ahead of **Miles** who finished with 17 points. Morehouse earned the championship

title in cross country, marking its 21st conference title in 23 years. The Maroon Tigers were second in tennis and third in track and field.

Benedict repeated as the conference champion in tennis. The Tigers were also the runner-up in track and field, and finished third in cross country. Miles won the championship title in baseball and finished second in golf.

In the women's standings, Benedict led with a total of 41 points. The Tigers picked up three championship titles this year in basketball, tennis, and track and field. Benedict also finished second in cross country and was third in volleyball.

Albany State and **Claffin** tied for second with 21 points. The Golden Rams finished the season with a cross country championship title, while finishing second in track and field, and third in softball. The Panthers finished with a championship title in softball and runner-up title in volleyball.



CIAA announces 2017-18 championship venues

Charlotte, NC (June 7, 2017) – The **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA)** has announced 2017-18 locations and dates for its 14 championships, including the signing of a three-year contract with Salem, Virginia to host the conference's football championship through 2019.

For the 13th consecutive year, the annual men's and women's basketball tournament will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina. Known as the largest basketball championship in NCAA Division II, the event will once again be held in two Queen City venues: **Bojangles' Coliseum** and **The Spectrum Center** (formerly **Time Warner Cable Arena**).

The CIAA's championship season begins in October with cross country and concludes in May with outdoor track & field.

The 2017 CIAA Football Championship will be held at the Salem (Va.) Football Stadium on Saturday, November 11th. The championship game was held there for the first time last year.

Salem will host three additional CIAA events, Football Media Day on July 20th at the Sheraton Hotel, the 2017 Men's and Women's Cross Country Championships at Green Hill Park on October 26th and the Softball Tournament on April 30 – May 2, 2018 at Moyer Park.

The 2017 football season marks the 125th anniversary of black college football, which began on December 27, 1892. **Livingstone** hosted **Johnson C. Smith**, then named **Biddle Memorial Institute**, for the first-ever black college football contest. The CIAA will use a celebratory football championship logo leading up to the annual *Com-*

memorative Classic between Livingstone and J. C. Smith on Nov. 4th and the CIAA Football Championship on November 11th.

The conference's Men's and Women's Indoor Track & Field Championship will return to **JDL FastTrack** in Winston-Salem, N.C. after a one year hiatus.

With the close of the 2016-17 season, the CIAA has discontinued sponsorship of its baseball program. With only five teams competing, 2017 marked the end of the CIAA's grace period. The NCAA requires six teams.

