



Washington (NFL) photo

MOVIN' ON UP

DOUG WILLIAMS BECOMES KEY NFL EXEC; 8 GO IN MLB DRAFT; SWAC TITLE GAME TO END

WILLIAMS: Promoted to oversee personnel staff on team he led to win in Super Bowl XXII.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

SWAC TO CANCEL TITLE GAME AFTER 2017:

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – The **Southwestern Athletic Conference** (SWAC) announced last week that it will forgo its football championship game following the 2017 *Toyota SWAC Football Championship*.

"With the creation of the *Air Force Reserve Celebration Bowl* as a national showcase for HBCU football, the Council of Presidents and Chancellors decided to suspend the championship game format after the 2017 season," said Commissioner **Duer Sharp**.

"By focusing on the *Celebration Bowl*, we can continue to grow the AFRCB as an HBCU classic for the teams and fans of both conferences and for HBCU football nationally."

The championship game will be played this year on December 2, 2017 at NRG Stadium in Houston, Texas. The SWAC champion will earn an invitation to play in the *Air Force Reserve Celebration Bowl* at the new Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta on December 16, 2017.

Established in 2015 and recognized as one of the premier events in HBCU college football, the *Celebration Bowl* features the champion of the SWAC versus the **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** (MEAC) champion.

Beginning in 2018, the SWAC football championship title will go to the team with the best regular season conference record. The conference office along with SWAC administrators and coaches will work to solidify a tie-breaker procedure, scheduling and other factors that contribute to dissolving the championship format.

Originally introduced in 1999, the SWAC championship game was originally played at Legion Field in Birmingham, Ala., for 14 years before moving to Houston in 2013.

CIAA FOOTBALL MEDIA DAY SET:

Roanoke, VA (June 14, 2017) – The **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association** (CIAA) will kick off the 2017 football season with its annual Football Media Day on Thursday, July 20th at 9:00 a.m. at the Sheraton Hotel in Roanoke, Virginia.

Each of the CIAA's twelve head football coaches, accompanied by select student-athletes, will take the stage for discussion regarding their football program, athletes, and season schedule as teams anticipate the conference championship. This season's circuit will feature extended sessions for Q&A dialog between head coaches, student-athletes, and media.

CIAA Football Media Day will open at 9:00 a.m. and close with remarks from Commissioner **Jacqie McWilliams** at 11:10 a.m.

Eight HBCU players go in MLB Draft

Eight black college baseball players, five from the **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** (MEAC) and three from the **Southwestern Athletic Conference** (SWAC) were taken in last Wednesday's 2017 Major League Baseball (MLB) Draft (See STAT CORNER).

The draftees including the reigning MEAC player and pitcher of the year, **Norfolk State**, out of the MEAC, had two selections.

Demetrius Sims of MEAC champion **Bethune-Cookman** was the first to go off the boards going to the Miami Marlins in the 14th round. Sims was a first team all-MEAC selection at shortstop, helping the Wildcats win their 19th MEAC championship and advance to the first NCAA regional final in school and conference history. He was also a MEAC all-Tournament selection. Sims hit .323, was third in the league in hits with 72 and led the league with 7 triples.

Jackson State junior outfielder **Bryce Brown** was the next selection, going to the Tampa Bay Rays in the 15th round. The Walker, La. native, a first team all-SWAC pick, helped lead the Tigers' to a conference best 38-17-1 (20-4 SWAC) record in 2017 in route to an East Division title. Brown led the Tigers in batting average (.374) on base percentage (.514). Brown led all SWAC hitters in on base percentage and ranked second overall in the conference in batting average.

Noah "Cutter" Dyals went in the 17th



Bethune-Cookman Sports Photo



Jackson State Sports Photo

THE FIRST TWO: Bethune-Cookman junior shortstop Demetrius Sims (l.) and Jackson State junior center fielder Bryce Brown (r.) were the first two of eight HBCU players taken in last week's Major League Baseball Draft.

round to the Atlanta Braves. Dyals was named first team all-MEAC, coming out of the bullpen to help **North Carolina A&T** finish second in the MEAC Southern Division this past season. He was 6-0 this season with seven saves and an 0.50 ERA.

Aubrey McCarty of **Florida A&M** was named second team all-MEAC as a utility player this past season. He was selected by the Colorado Rockies in the 26th round. McCarty was second in the MEAC with 51 RBIs and had a .485 slugging percentage.

Devin Hemmerich of Norfolk State is the reigning MEAC Pitcher of the Year and a first

team all-MEAC selection taken later in the 26th round by the Los Angeles Dodgers. Hemmerich, also named to the MEAC all-Tournament team, became Norfolk State's first Div. I All-American, as named by Collegiate Baseball News, after breaking the school record in both career and single-season strikeouts. He led the MEAC with 118 strikeouts, in ERA (1.97), innings pitched (118) and wins (10).

Norfolk State's **Alex Mauricio** is the reigning MEAC Player of the Year and a semifinalist for the John Olerud Two-Way Player of the Year award. The pitcher and utility player helped the Spartans win their third straight MEAC Northern Division regular-season title and advance to the title round of the MEAC Championship. Mauricio was plucked by the New York Yankees in the 27th round. Mauricio hit .345 (9th), had a .539 slugging percentage (2nd) with 17 doubles (3rd). He was 4-4 on the mound.

Grambling State left-handed pitcher **Tanner Raiburn** was selected by the Boston Red Sox in the 33rd round. Raiburn earned second-team all-SWAC honors after starting a team-high 13 games and going 4-2 with a 3.76 ERA.

Alabama State pitcher **Austin Bizzle** was selected by the Minnesota Twins in the 40th round (1,186 overall). The Panama City, Fla. native was third in the SWAC in ERA (1.27), fourth in strikeouts (78), tied for fifth in saves with three and ranked sixth in the league with seven wins.

BCSP Notes

SIAC Commish in Minor League diversity project

ATLANTA (June 19, 2017) – **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference** (SIAC) Commissioner **Greg Moore** will participate in a new project with Minor League Baseball scheduled for this week (June 19-22) in Vero Beach, Fla.

The MiLB Diversity Think Tank Project is designed to foster discussion around advancing diversity within the baseball industry. The four-day event will feature top administrators from several universities, conference commissioners, and executives from minor league teams. The project will look to ensure the maximization of relationships along with meeting the needs and expectations of respective organizations and institutions.

Minor League Baseball President & CEO Pat O'Conner recently participated in the 2017 SIAC Baseball Championship last month in Augusta, Ga. where he caught the ceremonial first pitch from Vince Pierson, MiLB Manager of Diversity & Inclusion.

In 2009, MiLB laid the foundation for a comprehensive, five-category initiative designed to diversify the industry by addressing racial and gender diversity within ownership groups, executive management teams, employment, fan bases and business-to-business relationships. As the focus on diversity and inclusion in sports continues to grow, MiLB has taken progressive steps to increase awareness of where it stands as an industry with regards to its efforts to diversify business practices, identify areas with room for improvement and strategically advance its diversity initiative.



PR VET: Bowie State Sports Information Director Greg Goings (r.) is presented the CoSIDA 25-year Service Award at the organization's national convention in Orlando by UCF's Andy Seeley, outgoing CoSIDA president.

Doug Williams promoted in Washington

From Washington (NFL) Public Relations and published reports

LOUDOUN COUNTY, Va. – The NFL's Washington franchise announced last week that they have promoted former standout **Grambling** and Washington NFL quarterback and former Tigers' head coach **Doug Williams** to Senior Vice President of Player Personnel.

Williams assumes his new position after the team fired General Manager Scott McCloughan in March after two years. According to a story published last Wednesday online at the *Monday Morning Quarterback* (mmqb.si.com) podcast by the *Sports Illustrated's* Peter King, the noted journalist said Williams will oversee a reshuffled personnel staff and will work under team president Bruce Allen.

Washington did not hire a GM to replace McCloughan. GMs usually have ultimate authority over players, coaches, scouts, trainers and anyone that has an impact on the product the team puts on the field.

"When I interviewed for the job, I didn't put 'GM' on my proposal," King reported Williams as saying. "A GM oversees everything. But I looked at our team—I don't want to be in charge of the coaches. That's [head coach] Jay Gruden's job."

Allen said in last Tuesday's press conference that the realignment was "Doug's plan." "My job is to control the front office," Williams said at the press conference. There are currently only four black general managers in the NFL; Ozzie Newsome of the Baltimore Ravens, Jerry Resse of the New York Giants, Reggie McKenzie of the Oakland Raiders and Rick Smith of the Houston Texans.

Williams is a veteran of 20 NFL seasons, including nine as a player and 11 in scouting/personnel roles. Prior to joining Washington's personnel department in 2014 as a Senior Personnel Executive, Williams spent five seasons as Personnel Executive with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers from 2004-08 before being named the team's Director of Pro Personnel for the 2009 season.

A member of the 80 Greatest players for Washington and a Ring of Famer for the franchise, Williams played with the team from 1986-89 and led Washington to a Super Bowl XXII title, a 42-10 rout of the Denver Broncos. Williams, the first African-American quarterback to play in a Super Bowl, completed 18-of-29 passes for 340 yards with four touchdown passes to earn Super Bowl XXII MVP honors.

Williams, a first-round pick by Tampa Bay in the 1978 NFL Draft (No. 17 overall) out of Grambling, led the Buccaneers to the first three playoff appearances in team history. In 1986, the Washington traded for Williams' rights following two seasons with the USFL's Oklahoma Outlaws. In Williams' Super Bowl XXII MVP performance following the 1987 season, he set or tied several Super Bowl passing records, including most TD passes (four), most yards passing (340), longest pass completion (80 yards) and longest TD pass (80 yards).

Williams joined the Buccaneers' front office in 2004 following a successful tenure as head coach at Grambling, and one of the most storied playing careers in league and team history. His responsibilities in Tampa

included coordinating the scouting and recruiting of all NFL players, while also monitoring NFL transactions and overseeing player tryouts. In addition, he was in charge of Tampa Bay's evaluating efforts of all other professional football leagues, including the Canadian Football League.

In six seasons during his first tenure (1998-2003) at Grambling, Williams brought one of the most storied programs in college football history back to prominence, compiling a 52-18 record as head coach after succeeding his former coach, the legendary **Eddie Robinson**, who was at the helm for 57 years from 1941-97 and re-wrote the record books as the winningest coach in the history of college football with 408 career wins.

Williams led Grambling to three consecutive **Southwestern Athletic Conference** titles from 2000-02 as they were named National Black College Champions during the same three-year span. He was also named SWAC Coach of the Year in each of those three seasons. Williams was a two-time finalist for *The Sports Network Eddie Robinson* (Division I-AA) National Coach of the

Year. He rejoined the program for three seasons from 2011-13, including earning the SWAC title in his first season back in 2011.

Williams started his college head coaching career at **Morehouse College** in 1997. He also has previous NFL experience as a scout for the Jacksonville Jaguars in 1995 and as offensive coordinator for the Scottish Claymores of the World League in 1995 and tutoring running backs for Navy in 1994. Williams also excelled on the high school level as head coach and athletic director at Point Coupee H.S. in New Roads, La., in 1991. In 1993, he was head coach at Northeast H.S. in his hometown of Zachary, La., where he guided the team to a 13-1 record and the state semifinals, including a win over Peyton Manning's Isidore Newman squad in the 1993 state quarterfinals.

As Grambling's quarterback from 1974-77, Williams had a spectacular college career, passing for more than 8,000 yards and 93 touchdowns, leading the Tigers to three Black College National Championships and two SWAC titles. He posted a 35-5 record as a starter and finished fourth in voting for the 1977 Heisman Trophy.

In 2005, Williams and **James "Shack" Harris** established The Shack Harris & Doug Williams Foundation with the function of providing grants for after-school initiatives, leadership development, mentoring programs and minority higher education assistance for economically disadvantaged youth. In March of 2009, the foundation put on its first annual Washington Football Legends for Charity in Washington, D.C. In 2010, the foundation established the Black College Football Hall of Fame, which will move to its new home in Canton, Ohio in 2018.

After Super Bowl XLII, the NFL honored the 20th anniversary of Williams' Super Bowl XXII victory, as Williams was chosen to present the Lombardi Trophy to the New York Giants following their victory over the New England Patriots.

Williams and his wife, Raunda, have eight children: Ashley, Adrian, Carmeleta, Doug, Jr., Jasmine, Laura, Lee and Temessia.

THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

HBCU PLAYERS TAKEN IN 2017 MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL (MLB) DRAFT

14th Round - Miami Marlins
DEMETRIUS SIMS
SS, **Bethune-Cookman**

15th Round - Tampa Bay Rays
BRYCE BROWN
OF, **Jackson State**

17th Round - Atlanta Braves
NOAH "CUTTER" DYALS
RHP, **North Carolina A&T State**

26th Round - Colorado Rockies
AUBREY MCCARTY
UTIL, **Florida A&M**

26th Round - Los Angeles Dodgers
DEVIN HEMMERICH
LHP, **Norfolk State**

27th Round - New York Yankees
ALEX MAURICIO
RHP/IF, **Norfolk State**

33rd Round - Boston Red Sox
TAYLOR RAIBURN
LHP, **Grambling State**

40th Round - Minnesota Twins
AUSTIN BIZZLE
RHP, **Alabama State**