

BLACK COLLEGE
SPORTS PAGE



SIAC FIRST UP

SIAC Media Day logo

2017 SIAC FOOTBALL PICKS; NEW COACH AT MORGAN STATE, NEW AD AT TUSKEGEE

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

ED DAVIS IN AT MORGAN STATE:

BALTIMORE, Md.-**Morgan State University** has officially removed the interim tag off of **Edward Davis Jr.** Effective immediately, Davis will assume the full-time position as Morgan State's head women's basketball coach, as announced by Director of Athletics **Edward Scott** on Friday.



Davis

"We are excited to have Coach Davis lead our women's basketball program into the future," said Scott. "I've had the opportunity to watch Coach Davis in action last season and was thoroughly impressed by his ability to teach and motivate our student-athletes. Ed is a proven winner at every level of college basketball and brings a wealth of experience to the sideline. We very much look forward to watching our women's basketball program grow on and off the court under his leadership."

"It's an honor and a privilege to be able to coach on the Division I college atmosphere," said Davis, who is 48 wins shy of reaching 400 career coaching victories. "Thank you to President **David Wilson** and our Director of Athletics, **Edward Scott** for affording me this opportunity. I thoroughly appreciate the opportunity to lead the Morgan State Lady Bears to the highest plateau that they can achieve, and that's winning a Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) championship!"

Since taking over as interim coach last June, Davis guided the 2016-17 Lady Bears to a 9-21 overall record and a 7-9 league mark. After dropping its first eight MEAC contests, Morgan State went 7-1 under Davis during the second half of the league slate, including a season-long five-game winning streak to finish ninth in the league standings.

Davis, who is entering his sixth overall season at Morgan State, originally joined the Lady Bears' staff in 2012 as an assistant coach after spending 12 seasons at the helm at **Delaware State University**.

While at Delaware State, Davis compiled a 178-182 career mark, becoming the program's all-time winningest coach. Davis recorded four 20-plus win seasons (the only ones in school history) and in 2007 he guided the Lady Hornets to their first MEAC title with a victory over Morgan State. During his time at Delaware State, Davis guided the Lady Hornets to a NCAA Tournament berth, five MEAC Championship appearances and a MEAC regular season co-championship.

Prior to taking over at Delaware State, Davis began his coaching career on the collegiate level at **Bowie State University**. In his eight years at the helm of the Lady Bulldogs, Davis had only one losing season, while building a dynasty at BSU and turning it into one of the top Division II programs in the country.

A native of Washington, D.C., Davis was a four-year letter winner on the **West Virginia State College** men's basketball team that set NCAA and National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics scoring records in the late 1960s and early 70s.

SIAC kicks off preseason football events

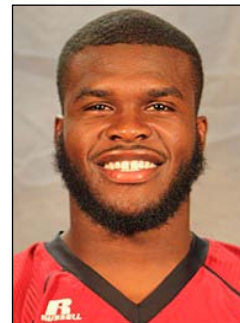
ATLANTA (July 11, 2017) – Quarterback **Johnathan McCrary** of **Clark Atlanta University** was named the **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC)** Preseason Offensive Player of the Year along with line-backer **Osband Thompson** of **Tuskegee University** who was selected as the Preseason Defensive Player of the Year, announced Tuesday during media day at the College Football Hall of Fame.

All votes were submitted by SIAC head coaches and sports information directors.

McCrary, a redshirt senior from Decatur, Ga., completed 142-of-256 passes for 1,903 yards and averaged 211.4 yards per game last season. In his first year in the SIAC, McCrary led the league with 14 touchdown passes. In the come-from-behind victory over **Morehouse**



McCrary



Thompson

(Oct. 1) he set SIAC single-game highs with 456 passing yards and five touchdowns.

Thompson recorded 137 tackles in 2016 for the Golden Tigers who advanced to the second round of the NCAA Division II Playoffs for the second consecutive year. The Miami, Fla. na-

tive totaled 67 solo tackles on the year, including 11.5 tackles for loss and 3.5 sacks. He also forced three fumbles, intercepted one pass, recorded four pass breakups and three quarterback hurries. Thompson was also the 2016 SIAC Defensive Player of the Year and Division 2 Conference Commissioners Association (D2CCA) Super Region 2 Defensive Player of the Year.

Tuskegee was picked to win the West Division with 75 points and 11 first-place votes in the preseason poll. **Miles** (60) was voted second, ahead of **Kentucky State** (48), **Lane** (37), and **Central State** (21).

Albany State was the preseason favorite in the East Division with 65 points and six first-place votes. **Fort Valley State** earned 55 points followed by **Benedict** (52), **Clark Atlanta** (42), and **Morehouse** (26).

PRESEASON ALL-SIAC FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

QB - Johnathan McCrary, R-Sr., Clark Atlanta, Decatur, GA
TE - Ryan Edwards, Sr., Morehouse, Atlanta, GA
WR - Okechi Ntiasagwe, Jr., Benedict, Columbia, SC
WR - Dre Martin, So., Clark Atlanta, LaGrange, GA
RB - Marcus Holliday, Jr., Lane, Memphis, Tenn.
RB - Ger'Kerry Jackson, Jr., Miles, Montgomery, Ala.
OL - Tedrick Cofield, Sr., Albany State, Atlanta, Ga.
OL - Leeward Brown, Sr., Tuskegee, Miami, Fla.
OL - Marcus Campbell, Jr., Jr., Kentucky State, Radcliff, Ky.
OL - Justin Brown, Jr., Benedict, Marietta, Ga.
OL - Howard Bush, Sr., Lane, Mobile, Ala.

DEFENSE

DL - Charles Williams, Sr., Benedict, Barnwell, S.C.
DL - Rodriguez Jones, Sr., Kentucky State, Newport News, Va.
DL - Aaryn Guy, Jr., Benedict, Grand Rapids, Mich.
DL - Kaelan Bonds, Sr., Miles, Florence, Ala.
LB - David Smith, Sr. Morehouse, Newport News, Va.
LB - Osband Thompson, Sr., Tuskegee, Miami, Fla.
LB - Kendrick Frazier, Sr., Benedict, Charleston, S.C.
DB - Edward Kirkland, Sr., Benedict, Columbia, S.C.
DB - Jonah McCutcheon, Sr., Tuskegee, Mobile, Ala.
DB - Travonte Brown, So., Benedict, Albany, Ga.
DB - Kendrick Morgan, So., Clark Atlanta, Milledgeville, Ga.
PK - Nick Christiansen, Sr., Miles, Clayton, N.C.
P - Juan Serna, Sr., Fort Valley State, Douglasville, Ga.
KR - Ricci Nuckles, So., Morehouse, Suwanee, Ga.
PR - Deandre Jackson, Sr., Clark Atlanta, Atlanta, Ga.

PRESEASON OFFENSIVE

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Johnathan McCrary
Sr., QB, Clark Atlanta

PRESEASON DEFENSIVE

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Osband Thompson
Sr., LB, Tuskegee

PREDICTED ORDER

OF FINISH

EAST DIVISION
Albany State
Fort Valley State
Benedict
Clark Atlanta
Morehouse

PREDICTED ORDER

OF FINISH

WEST DIVISION
Tuskegee
Miles
Kentucky State
Lane
Central State

2017 PRESEASON ALL-SIAC SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

QB - Marcus Reynolds, Jr., Lane, Calhoun, Ga.
TE - Darius Nelson, Jr., Benedict, Milledgeville, Ga.
WR - Jules St. Ge, So., Kentucky State, Lakeland, Fla.
WR - Javarius Cheatham, Jr., Tuskegee, Greenville, Ala.
RB - Jamari Clark, Jr., Fort Valley State, Stockbridge, Ga.
RB - Lavelle Cloyd, Sr., Kentucky State, Lexington, Ky.
OL - Darius Thomas, So., Central State, Cincinnati, Ohio
OL - Craig Hinson, Jr., Benedict, Hephzibah, Ga.
OL - Christopher Ruffin, Sr., Miles, Bessemer, Ala.
OL - Darius Preyer, Jr., Clark Atlanta, Montgomery, Ala.
OL - Lowell Richardson, Jr., Tuskegee, Miami, Fla.

DEFENSE

DL - Antonio Johnson, Jr., Morehouse, Birmingham, Ala.
DL - Voris Bryant, Sr., Morehouse, Gray, Ga.
DL - Devonte West, Sr., Fort Valley State, Largo, Fla.
DL - Mekiye Kingston, Jr., Clark Atlanta, Jonesboro, Ga.
LB - Zavondric Shingleton, Sr., Albany State, Millen, Ga.
LB - Anthony Hardy, Sr., Miles, Demopolis, Ala.
LB - Keonte Reynolds, Jr., Kentucky State, Louisville, Ky.
DB - Nick Scott, Sr., Albany State, Ellabell, Ga.
DB - Ryan Luckett, Sr., Kentucky State, Orlando, Fla.
DB - Robert Cummings, So., Benedict, Macon, Ga.
DB - Kentron James, Jr., Fort Valley State, Tallahassee, Fla.
PK - Carlos Saldana, So., Clark Atlanta, Austell, Ga.
P - Nick Christiansen, Sr., Miles, Clayton, N.C.
KR - Deandre Jackson, Sr., Clark Atlanta, Atlanta, Ga.
PR - Ladarrell Pettway, R-So., Tuskegee, Spanish Fort, Ala.

BCSP Notes

SWAC players named for NBPA Top 50 camp

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — The list of **Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC)** players from each institution has been finalized in anticipation of the National Basketball Players Association (NBPA) and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Top 50 Basketball Camp, will take place, July 20-22 at the **Clark Atlanta University** Center in Atlanta, Ga.

The NBPA, in conjunction with the SWAC and **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC)**, will hold the inaugural camp, which will feature 25 of the best players from each conference. Modeled after the NBPA's Top 100 Camp, players will receive skill development sessions on the court from current and retired NBA players and participate in leadership and life skills development sessions off the court.

The list of potential coaches for the event with a NBA playing career background includes New York Knicks forward **Kyle O'Quinn** (**Norfolk State** alum), Philadelphia 76ers forward **Robert Covington** (**Tennessee State** alum), Utah Jazz forward **Derrick Favors** (Atlanta native), former Atlanta Hawk guard Gary Neal, Chicago Bulls guard Anthony Morrow, Utah Jazz guard Shelvin Mack and retired 12-year NBA veteran George Lynch.

The SWAC players selected from each school include: (Note: If no school year is given, player was a senior this past academic season.)

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M

G **Ja'Donta Blakely** (6-0, 180, Lake Charles, La. / Southwest Christian College)
G **Tevin Bellinger** (6-0, 180, Hutto, Texas, Jacksonville College)

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE

G **Isaac Williams** (6-4, 181, Powder Springs, Ga. / Barton CC)
G **Marcus Romain** (6-2, 174, Brooklyn, N.Y. / East Los Angeles CC)

ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF

G/F **Charles Jackson** (6-5, 210, Jr., Cleveland, Miss. / Cleveland Eastside HS)
G **Marcus Wallace** (6-3, 180, Jr., Jackson, Miss. / Provine HS)

ALCORN STATE

G **A.J. Mosby** (6-3, 160, Sr., Cartersville, Ga. / Cartersville HS)
F **Reginal Johnson** (6-5, 250, Sr., Monroe, La. / Richwood HS)

GRAMBLING STATE

G **Shirmaine Thomas** (6-2, 180, Homer, La. / Tennessee Tech)
C **Jason Perry-Murray** (6-9, 220, Harlem, N.Y. / Fisk University)

ALABAMA A&M

G **DeEderick Petty** (5-10, 160, So., Bessemer, Ala. / Bessemer HS)
F **Evan Wiley** (6-6, 190, So., Huntsville, Ala. / Lee HS)

JACKSON STATE

G **Paris Collins** (6-4, 186, R-Sr., San Antonio, Texas / Warren HS)
F **Darius Austin** (6-6, 220, Sr., Centerville, Il. / UMKC)

ALABAMA STATE

G/F **Rodney Simeon** 6-5, 215, Sr. / Miami, Fla. / Lawson State CC)
F **Ed Jones** (6-8, 200, Jr., Lairburn, Ga. / South Georgia Technical College)

TEXAS SOUTHERN

G **Damontrae Jefferson** (5-7, 150, So. / Milwaukee, Wisc. / Believe Prep)
C **Trayvon Reed** (7-2, 230, R-Jr., Mobile, Ala. / Life Center Academy)

SOUTHERN

F **Jared Sam** (6-9, 210, Sr. / Baton Rouge, La. / Scotlandville HS)
G **Eddie Reese** (6-1, Jr. / Beverly Hills, MI / Northwest Kansas Technical College)

Slater adds Athletics Director to Tuskegee coaching duties

Tuskegee University has appointed **Willie Slater** as the institution's athletics director, effective July 1. Slater, who has nearly 40 years athletics and coaching experience, will remain the university's head football coach.

"Coach Slater has demonstrated his leadership skills on the field, and I look forward to him bringing that same level of success and excellence to the duties of Tuskegee University's athletics director," said **Dr. Charlotte Morris**, the university's interim president.

As athletics director, Slater will advance the university's NCAA Divi-

sion II athletic program by overseeing budgeting, compliance, operations, student-athlete recruitment, and professional staffing and development. He also will report to the Office of the President and serve as a member of the president's Executive Cabinet.

"I am excited to lead the athletics programs of one of the nation's most historic institutions in the country, and I am extremely grateful to Dr. Morris and the Board of Trustees for this opportunity," Slater said. "I am quite familiar with Tuskegee athletics, so I understand the expectation of excellence this position demands and I look forward to working with our coaches, students and administrators so that we can do something great here."

This fall, Slater begins his 12th season as Tuskegee's head football coach — his 39th season coaching. His coaching record at Tuskegee is 101-27, which ranks him second all-time in wins at the university. He is known widely for being the first head coach in school history to earn a bid in the NCAA Division II Playoffs, which occurred following the 2013 season. One season later, in 2014, the Golden Tigers made a historical run that reached the quarterfinals (the Super 2 Region championship game) against West Georgia. The team finished with a 10-3 record overall and second in the SIAC West Division. Under Slater's guidance, the team has made a total of four playoff appearances.

Nation's Classic cancelled

Events DC, the official convention and sports authority for the District of Columbia, has announced the cancellation of the *Nation's Football Classic* game.

For the past six years, the game was played in "historic" RFK Memorial Stadium with title sponsorship by AT&T, however "a shift in corporate priorities" resulted in the "discontinuation" of the game.

"Events DC enjoyed the exciting matchups and great relationships with our local partner, **Howard University**, and visiting schools **Hampton University** and **Morehouse College** for the Nation's Football Classic over the past six years," said Gregory A. O'Dell, Events DC president and CEO.

CIAA to kickoff 125 years of HBCU football

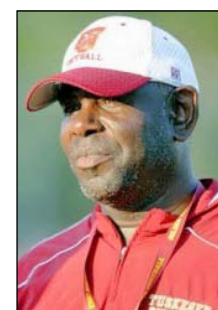
Charlotte, NC - With two **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA)** member institutions in the conversation, the 2017 football season marks the 125th anniversary of the first recorded black college football game.

In a snowstorm on December 27, 1892, **Johnson C. Smith University**, then named **Biddle University**, traveled for two days by horse and buggy to Salisbury, North Carolina to play against **Livingstone College** for the first-ever black college football contest. The Golden Bulls defeated the Blue Bears 5-0 after a disputed Livingstone touchdown was called back by the official. Every year, the two schools come together to celebrate this Commemorative Classic and this year they celebrate 125 years!

The CIAA will kick off the 2017 football season with its annual Football Media Day on Thursday, July 20th in Salem, Virginia. Each of the CIAA's twelve head football coaches, accompanied by two student-athletes, will take the stage for discussion regarding their football program, athletes, and the season schedule as teams anticipate the conference championship.

The historic Commemorative Classic between the Golden Bulls and Blue Bears will take place on November 4th at Livingstone's Alumni Memorial Football Stadium.

The CIAA will host its annual Football Championship on November 11th at Salem Football Stadium and feature the CIAA Northern and Southern Division Champions.



Slater



THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

THIS WEEK'S 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