

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS



PGA Sports Photo

CATS' SWEEP: Samyra Lewis and the Bethune-Cookman ladies rolled to their 7th straight PGA Minority Golf title.

SPRING SWEEPS

OPENINGS AT ALABAMA A&M, ALBANY STATE HOOPS; SOFTBALL, GOLF TITLES CLAIMED

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

MARSH RESIGNS AT ALABAMA A&M:

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — **Alabama A&M University** has accepted the resignation of head men's basketball coach **Donnie Marsh**.



Marsh

A search for a new head men's basketball coach will begin immediately.

Marsh had served for one season with the Bulldogs, who finished 3-28 overall and 3-15 in conference play during the 2017-18 campaign.

Previously, Marsh was the associate head coach at **Texas Southern** from 2015-2017 and, in all, had been an assistant coach for the 13 previous seasons with stops at Indiana, Alabama-Birmingham and South Florida.

MOORE OUT AT ALBANY STATE:

Albany State University Director of Athletics **Sherie Cornish Gordon** announced Tuesday that **Michael Moore** would not return as the men's basketball head coach for the 2018-19 season.

"We thank Coach Moore for his four years of service to our student-athletes, the community and the University," Gordon said. "We look ahead to moving the program forward with a group of dedicated returning players."

During his four seasons, Moore compiled a 32-80 overall record and 21-52 record in the **SIAC** play. A national search will begin immediately for the ninth head coach of ASU's men's basketball program. Assistant Coach **Lamar Karim** will assume day-to-day operations of the program.

REED NEW HOOPS COACH AT J-STATE:

Jackson State has selected one of the top junior college coaches in Mississippi as its next head women's basketball coach. **Tomekia Reed** was introduced at a press conference in mid-April.



Reed

Reed has just completed a successful three years at Hinds Community College where her teams compiled a 47-29 record over three years. She led the Lady Bulldogs to back to back winning seasons in 2016-17 and 2017-18 including a trip to the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region 23 championship game in 2017.

Reed is familiar with JSU having served as assistant coach and recruiting coordinator from 2006-2009.

"Today is a very special day in my life," Reed said. "JSU means so much to me. I can't wait to get to work and showcase our great university and fantastic student-athletes on and off the court."

JSU president **Dr. William Bynum** reflected on a big pool of candidates interested in the opening.

"We had current head coaches, we had assistants at SEC and other major conference teams. The pool was truly deep."

"We thought going in that we should have someone who's already been a head coach. That was extremely important. The search committee felt that Coach Reed was head and shoulders above the rest."

Bethune-Cookman sweeps Minority Golf, again

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. — For **Bethune Cookman University**, it was yet another impressive example of a dynasty in cruise control at the **32nd PGA Minority Collegiate Championship** at PGA Golf Club.

The Wildcats captured a record seventh-straight—and 15th overall—women's crown in collegiate golf's most culturally significant championship. Meanwhile, the men's team notched their third-consecutive PGA Minority Collegiate Championship and 10th title overall.

The Wildcat teams from Daytona Beach rocketed right out of the gate and never let off the throttle throughout the 54 holes of competition. Paced by medalist **Mackenzie Butzer** who had a final round 1-under par 71 (70-75-71 216), the B-CU women (297-307-299 903) defeated runner-up University of the Incarnate Word by 27 strokes on the Ryder Course. **North Carolina A&T** finished third, another seven strokes back.

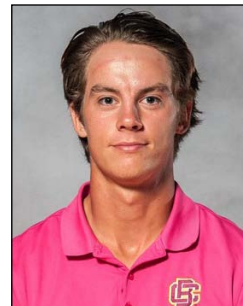
"This is overwhelming," said Butzer, from Chatham, Ontario. "This is my last year, and I gave it all I had. I had fun and played easy. Everything seemed to be clicking."

Meanwhile, the B-CU men (286-282-286 854) shot 10-under par for the Championship, winning by an amazing 57 strokes over **Savannah State** on the Wanamaker Course. The University of Incarnate Word placed third.

For B-CU, it was a three-day showcase of utmost command. After closing out the Championship on No. 18, the women's team sprayed the men's team with a water bottle shower that would have rivaled a dramatic victory celebration.



Butzer



Sundlof

"It was so fun to see our student athletes end the season like this," said Bethune Cookman Head Coach **Danny Forshey**.

The B-CU men were led by medalist **Marcus Sundlof**, of Sweden (65-70-71 206), who bested his teammate **Christian Hovstadius** for the honor by seven strokes.

"It feels great," said Sundlof, a sophomore from Stockholm, Sweden who overcame a wrist injury at the beginning of the year. "We had a lot of team wins, but I wasn't playing well personally. It's great to finish off the year this way."

Division II was won by California State University-Dominguez Hills with a 15-shot victory over **Lincoln University**. **Virginia Union's Sergio Escalante** took Division II Medalist honors with a 54-hole total of 220.

The PGA Minority Collegiate Championship is the most culturally significant championship in collegiate golf. In 2006, the PGA of America was granted complete ownership and management by the National Minority Collegiate Golf Scholarship Fund.

TEAM	
DIV. I (MEN)	
1 Bethune Cookman	-10 286 282 286 854
2 Savannah State	+47 310 300 301 911
4 Florida A&M	+55 307 309 303 919
5 Alabama A&M	+81 327 308 310 945
6 Hampton	+92 317 313 326 956
7 Chicago State	+95 322 321 316 959
8 North Carolina A&T	+103 325 315 327 967
9 NC Central	+116 322 312 346 980
DIV. I (WOMEN)	
1 Bethune Cookman	+39 297 307 299 903
3 North Carolina A&T	+77 310 323 308 941
4 Delaware State	+129 330 337 326 993
6 Chicago State	+144 345 342 321 1008
DIV. II	
2 Lincoln	+65 305 302 322 929
3 Virginia Union	+69 321 311 301 933
4 Livingstone	+74 312 320 306 938
5 Miles	+114 331 326 321 978
6 Benedict	+143 326 348 333 1007
7 Saint Augustine's	+153 343 337 337 1017
INDIVIDUAL	
DIV. I MEDALIST (MEN)	
1 Marcus Sundlof, B-CU	-10 65 70 71 206
2 Chr. Hovstadius, B-CU	-3 73 69 71 213
3 Jake Lane, B-CU	+1 74 71 72 217
4 Connor O'Brien, B-CU	+3 74 73 72 219
5 Trey Odom, SSU	+6 75 74 73 222
6 Dante Davis, B-CU	+7 79 72 72 223
T7 Jord. Bohannon, NCCU	+8 75 72 77 224
T9 Luis Acevedo, NCA&T	+9 76 72 77 225
T9 Mulbe Dillard, FAMU	+9 76 75 74 225
T9 Prince Cham, FAMU	+9 71 81 73 225
DIV. I MEDALIST (WOMEN)	
1 Mackenzie Butzer, B-CU	E 70 75 71 216
2 Yudika Rodriguez, B-CU	+4 72 73 75 220
4 Ana C. Ferreyra-Heit, DSU	+10 74 79 73 226
5 Sofia Alvarez, NCA&T	+11 75 78 74 227
6 Isabela Miravite, B-CU	+14 73 80 77 230
T8 Felicia Davenport, CSU	+16 79 82 71 232
10 Jocelyn Andrews, NCAT	+20 77 82 77 236
DIV. II (MEDALIST)	
1 Sergio Escalante, VUU	+4 76 73 71 220
2 Philip Harrison, LIV	+8 79 72 73 224
3 Jordan Barnett, LINC	+11 75 76 76 227
T4 Allan Day VUU	+12 79 75 74 228
T4 R. Woldagabriel, VUU	+12 77 76 75 228
T7 Samuel Cudjoe, SAU	+13 81 74 74 229
T9 Logan Taylor, LINC	+14 77 70 83 230

BCSP Spring Notes and News

Bethune-Cookman takes MEAC softball title

ORMOND BEACH, Fla. — **Iesha Waters**' three-run homer in the sixth inning allowed **Bethune-Cookman** to win the 2018 **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC)** Softball Tournament Championship on Saturday afternoon, as the Wildcats took down **Florida A&M**, 8-5 at the Ormond Beach Sports Complex.

For Bethune-Cookman, the MEAC Tournament title is the first of its kind since 2012, erasing a string of four consecutive runner-up finishes.

With Bethune-Cookman (31-24) clinging to a 5-4 lead with two outs in the bottom of the sixth inning, Waters, an all-MEAC senior first baseman, lifted a pitch deep over the left field wall for her first home run of the year, driving in teammates **Jacki Smith** and **Cheyenne Smith** to stretch the Wildcats' lead at 8-4.

A rally by Florida A&M (23-29) — the four-time defending MEAC champs — came up short.

The win went to MEAC Pitcher of the Year **Alexis Bermudez**, moving her record for the year out to 13-9. In the process, she won all four games for the Maroon and Gold during this year's MEAC Tournament. In Saturday's winning performance, she threw 6.1 innings, allowing three runs (two earned) on five hits, three walks and registering two strikeouts. The save was earned by freshman **Victoria Guzman**, picking up her team-high fifth save of the campaign, as she worked two-thirds of an inning and never surrendered a hit.

Bermudez was named as the MEAC Tournament Most Outstanding Performer. **Laura Watten** was named the Most Outstanding Coach of the tournament.

With the MEAC's automatic berth in the NCAA playoffs, Bethune-Cookman will play Friday, May 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Gainesville, Florida Regional at Florida (50-8) in a first round game. The game will be streamed on ESPN3.

Ohio State (34-14) and South Florida (38-21) are the other teams in the regional.

2018 MEAC ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

Courtney Mirabella, NCCU; Dasha Hill, HAM; Alana Vandenburg, HAM; Ryan Jackson, B-CU; Iesha Waters, B-CU; Alexis Bermudez, B-CU (MOP); Jacki Smith, B-CU; Kayla Traylor, B-CU; Hera Varmah, FAMU; Kyaira Brown, FAMU; Toni Anderson, FAMU; Laura Watten, Most Outstanding Coach / B-CU

Prairie View gets first SWAC softball title in 20 years

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — **Prairie View A&M** ended a 20-year title drought, besting **Alabama State** twice (5-3 and 4-3) to win the 2018 **Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC)** Softball Tournament championship.

In the second and deciding game, Prairie View (20-21) trailed 3-0 before rallying in the bottom of the fifth. SWAC Softball Tournament Most Valuable Player **Laurisa Hernandez** drove in the tying run while the go-ahead run scored on a throwing error.

In the first championship contest, Prairie View fended off a late rally attempt by Alabama State. The Lady Panthers had a three-run first inning

to surge ahead -- during which Hernandez belted a two-run double near the warning track. Alabama State got one back in the second but Prairie View pushed ahead 4-1 with a RBI double by Hernandez, and later went ahead 5-1.

With the SWAC's automatic berth in the NCAA playoffs, Prairie View will travel to the Texas A&M Regional in College Station, Texas and will face host Texas A&M (40-16) in a first round game Friday, May 18. The game will be streamed live on ESPN3.

The other teams in the regional are McNeese State (40-19) and Baylor (36-16).



2018 SWAC ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM:

Tiana Sanders, ALA&M; Julia Bilbao, TSU; Ta'Lyn Moody, UAPB Jazmine Dukes, SU; Tevanae Tate, TSU; Justine Jean, ALST; Laurisa Hernandez, PVA&M (MVP); Crystal Castillo, PVA&M; Casey Durham, ALST; Charlene Castro, ALST; Destinee Williams, PVA&M; Kylar Ward-Flowers, PVA&M

SWAC announces 2018 baseball award winners

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — **Kamren Dukes of Texas Southern** was voted the **Southwestern Athletic Conference** Player and Hitter of the Year, as the league announced its 2018 baseball postseason honors on Monday. The honors were voted on by the league's head coaches and sports information directors.

Dukes, a Pearland, Texas native, led the SWAC in batting average this season at .394, runs scored (57), and hits (84). The senior also racked up 40 RBIs, which ranked eighth. His 84 hits ranks third nationally.

In conference play, Dukes was fourth in batting average (.448), scored 26 runs, totaled 46 hits and 32 RBIs to help lead the Tigers to a West Division Title. Dukes also has an active streak of 34 straight games with a hit.

Aaron Solis of Texas Southern was voted the Pitcher of the Year. The senior and League City, Texas native had a 1.99 ERA, and a 7-1 record in SWAC play this season. Solis had an 8-3 record overall, which included three complete games.

Jose Tirado of Jackson State was voted the Relief Pitcher of the Year. Tirado finished the regular season with a 2.78 ERA, which ranked first on the Tigers. The senior from San Juan, Puerto Rico also led Jackson State in opposing batting average (.170), saves (13) and was second on the team in strikeouts (67). The 13 saves also ranked first in the SWAC.

Raul Hernandez from Jackson State was voted the Newcomer of the Year. The junior from Cidra, Puerto Rico was third in the league in batting average (.384) fifth in slugging percentage (.579), third in hits (.73) and fifth in RBIs (46). In SWAC play, Hernandez ranked tied for third in RBIs (32) and fifth in hits (40).

Nikelle Galatas of Jackson State was voted the league's Freshman of the Year. Galatas was fourth on the Tigers with a 4.27 ERA. The Ladera Heights, Calif. native was second on the team with nine wins, and pitched the second-most innings (86.1). He also struck out 53 batters this season.

Alabama State head coach **Jose Vazquez** was voted the Coach of the Year. In just his second season at the helm of the Hornets baseball program, Vazquez led Alabama State to an 18-6 record in SWAC play (27-20 overall) and an East Division title.

Jackson State earned the most All-SWAC selections with seven players. **Grambling State** had the second-most players with six players voted All-SWAC, and Texas Southern earned five all-conference selections.

Alabama State had four players receive All-SWAC recognition and **Arkansas Pine Bluff** and **Alcorn State** each had one player earn All-SWAC honors.

FIRST TEAM ALL-SWAC

C — Stephan Vidal (JSU); 1B — Christian Sanchez (TSU); 2B — Gaudencio Lucca (TSU); 3B — Ray Hernandez (ALST); SS — Marshawn Taylor (GSU); DH — Richard Ortiz (GSU); OF — Kamren Dukes (TSU); OF — Sergio Estrada (ALST); OF — Isiah Torres (GSU); SP — Aaron Solis (TSU); SP — Darius Wright (ALST); RP — Jose Tirado (JSU)

SECOND TEAM ALL-SWAC

C — Hunter Allen (ALST); 1B — Rafael Ramirez (GSU); 2B — Wesley Reyes (JSU); 3B — Jesus Santana (JSU); SS — Horance LeBlanc (TSU); DH — Robert Pertee (JSU); OF — Lamar Briggs (JSU); OF — Sergio Esparza (UAPB); OF — Desmond Chumley (JSU); SP — Raul Baduel (GSU); SP — Carlos Lopez (ALC); RP — Daniel Beizer (GSU)

NCAA DIV II SOFTBALL PLAYOFFS

SOUTH REGION - West Palm Beach, FL
Palm Beach Atlantic 4, Albany St. 0
Valdosta St. 7, Albany St. 0 (Albany St. eliminated)

ATLANTIC REGION - Lock Haven, PA
West Chester 8, Chowan 0
Shepherd 4, Chowan 1 (Chowan eliminated)

THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

FINAL SPRING SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULES

MEAC BASEBALL
May 16-19,
Ormond Beach, FL

SWAC BASEBALL
May 16-20
Wesley Barrow Stadium
New Orleans, LA

MEAC

	CONF		ALL		
	W	L	W	L	T
NORTHERN					
Coppin State	18	4	20	21	1
Norfolk State	13	10	18	28	0
Maryland E. Shore	8	16	12	39	0
Delaware State	7	16	9	35	0
SOUTHERN					
North Carolina A&T	16	8	29	23	0
Florida A&M	15	9	24	28	0
Bethune-Cookman	14	10	20	32	0
North Carolina Central	11	13	28	24	0
Savannah State	4	20	7	34	0

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

PLAYER
Dawnoven Smith, Jr., NC A&T - Hit .438 (7-for-16) as Aggies took 3 of 4 games from FAMU. Had 12 RBI, 8 runs scored with 3 HRs, 2 doubles and hit safely in all 4 games.
PITCHER
Josh Bottenfield, So., NCA&T - Had 4 relief appearances with 2 wins, tossing 6 shutout innings while giving up just 4 hits with 3 Ks.
Chase Anderson, Jr., NSU - Scattered 7 hits with 6 Ks in 2-1 win over Jackson State.
ROOKIE
NA

SWAC

	DIV		ALL	
	W	L	W	L
EAST				
Alabama State	18	6	27	20
Jackson State	17	7	32	16
Miss. Valley State	9	15	11	33
Alabama A&M	9	15	12	37
Alcorn State	7	17	12	37
WEST				
Texas Southern	17	6	23	26
Grambling State	14	10	23	24
Arkansas Pine Bluff	12	10	20	23
Prairie View A&M	8	16	13	36
Southern	6	15	9	33

PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

PLAYER & HITTER
Kamren Dukes, Sr., OF/1B, TSU
PITCHER
Aaron Solis, Jr., P, TSU
RELIEF PITCHER
Jose Tirado, JSU
NEWCOMER
Raul Hernandez, JSU
FRESHMAN
Nikelle Galatas, JSU
COACH
Jose Vazquez, ALST