

# BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



Alcorn State Athletics Photo  
**STEVE MCNAIR:** He and others on ballot to join 19 HBCU players and 12 coaches in College Football Hall of Fame.

## JUNE SWOONS AND BOONS

WSSU LOSES WALKER, C-I LOSING CHOWAN BUT TOURNEY SCORES; B-CU, NC A&T BEST IN MEAC

## UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

### TONIA WALKER RESIGNS AT WSSU:

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. – **Winston-Salem State** Chancellor **Elwood L. Robinson** announced last week the resignation of **Tonia Walker** as Director of Athletics. Her resignation was effective May 31, 2018.



Walker

Walker has served as the Director of Athletics since April 30, 2014, and has been part of the WSSU athletics program since 2000.

As athletic director, Walker guided the Rams to six NCAA Division II tournament appearances, 15 CIAA Championship titles, nine CIAA Divisional titles, and eight CIAA Coach of the Year honors. In 2015-16, she was named the CIAA Athletic Director of the Year and the National Association for Collegiate Athletics Administrators 2016 Administrator of the Year. She was also responsible for launching the "She's Got It Covered" fundraiser and the Winston-Salem Classic football game. Her commitment to academic excellence has resulted in the highest departmental cumulative grade point average over the past two decades. Additionally, student-athletes amassed more than 3,000 hours of community service each year.

"While this is a bittersweet moment for me, I have to do what is best for my personal and professional lives," Walker said.

The university will launch a national search to find a successor as soon as possible. Until then, **George Knox**, assistant athletic director for compliance, has been appointed as interim athletic director.

### ROBINSON NEW JACKSON STATE AD:

Former **Prairie View A&M** Athletics Director **Ashley Robinson** was introduced as the new AD at **Jackson State** Tuesday morning.



Robinson

Robinson, a Jackson native, recently completed his fifth year at PV. He replaces **Wheeler Brown** who was relieved of his duties in December. University President **William Bynum** has been running the department in the interim.

Robinson was a four-year letterman in basketball at **Mississippi Valley State** and is the single-season and career record-holder in assists after playing point guard. He also was named MVSU Athlete of the Year in 2002 receiving the President's Scholar Award in that same year. Robinson was inducted into the MVSU Hall of Fame in 2011.

He had previously served as compliance director at JSU and also spent one year as the SWAC's assistant commissioner for compliance.

# CIAA tourney impact increases

CHARLOTTE, NC - The **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA)** made a significant impact during the 13th hosting of its annual men's and women's basketball tournament in Charlotte, North Carolina.

This year's tournament delivered record attendances at many of the conference's annual community service events, crowned **Virginia Union University** men's and women's basketball teams as tournament champions while boosting the local economy.

### CIAA Tournament By The Numbers

Approximately, \$1.6 million was raised in scholarship funds for current and future students to receive an education across the CIAA's 12-member institutions. These dollars are generated from support provided by sponsors, alumni and fans who purchase tickets, and tax dollars generated from visitors traveling to town to be a part of the CIAA tournament experience.

According to the 2018 CIAA Post-Tournament survey and economic impact report conducted by the Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority:

- \$28.8 million in direct spending was made by visitors on hotel accommodations, local transportation, food, shopping and entertainment during their tournament week stay
- \$9.7 million in indirect spending was



made by local businesses who increased their advertising and communications efforts, and purchases of miscellaneous supplies and services to meet the incremental demand of CIAA tournament visitors

• \$12 million in labor wages were earned by the high volume of workers needed to support activities during tournament week and re-spent by those employees within the local economy.

### Total Impact

These figures combine for a total economic impact of \$50.5 million, which is a 6.5 percent increase from 2017, and supportive of 436 jobs.

"This year's tournament was truly a homecoming celebration for CIAA students, alumni and fans," said Commissioner **Jacqie McWilliams**. "We are grateful for the continuous

support of our alumni and fans who attend from near and far, member institutions, and local and national partnerships.

"The combined efforts play a key role in the annual successes of the CIAA Basketball Tournament, and we look forward to forging stronger partnerships with the hospitality community to ensure that the support of our alumni and fans can benefit our CIAA institutions."

For the second year, the conference held early round games sessions at **Bojangles' Coliseum** on Tuesday and Wednesday and continued with the quarterfinals, semifinals, and championship finals at **Spectrum Center** on Thursday through Saturday.

The collective game attendance for both venues was 73,343 — a 5.8 percent increase from 2017.

"We are pleased with the continued growth we've been able to achieve by moving our early-round games to **Bojangles' Coliseum**," stated **Dr. James Anderson**, Chairman of the CIAA Board of Directors.

"Not only have we created an exciting atmosphere for our student-athletes, alumni, and fans; but we've been able to deepen our relationships and persistently expand our engagement within the communities outside of Uptown Charlotte."

## BCSP Notes

### Bethune-Cookmen men, NC A&T women win 2017-18 MEAC All-Sports awards

WASHINGTON, D.C.--The **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** announced last week that **Bethune-Cookman** captured the *Talmadge Layman Hill Men's All-Sports Award* while **North Carolina A&T State** captured the *Mary McLeod Bethune Women's All-Sports Award*.

The All-Sports Awards are indicators of the overall strength 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 **MGM National Harbor** in Washington D.C. Wednesday evening

**Delaware State** was recognized during the reception as the 2018 recipient of the MEAC Highest Graduation Success Rate (GSR). In addition to the recognition, DSU was presented a check for \$25,000 from the conference.

DSU's 83-percent GSR is the highest among MEAC institutions spanning the 2007-10 cohorts.

Bethune-Cookman was also honored academically, as the institution posted the MEAC's highest academic program rate (APR) (974) over the past four academic years. The Department of Athletics received a \$10,000 check for its efforts.

The Aggies totaled 93 points in the all-sports tally, highlighted by three MEAC Championships in indoor track & field, women's basketball and bowling. **North Carolina A&T State** has made history, as this marks the first **Mary McLeod Bethune Women's All-Sports Award** in school history.

Bethune-Cookman and **Florida A&M** tied for second with 91 points, followed by **Morgan State** (80) and **Norfolk State** (77).

Totalling 91.8 points, Bethune-Cookman claimed its third *Talmadge Layman Hill Men's All-Sports Award* overall and its first since winning back-to-back trophies in 2015 and 2016. B-CU had a successful season across the board, as the Wildcats finished no lower than third place in all eight of the MEAC's men's sports. The Wildcats captured a share of the MEAC basketball regular-season championship and notched second-place finishes in football, golf and outdoor track & field.

**North Carolina A&T State** finished second with 90.5 points as **Florida A&M** placed third with 76 points.

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.

### 12 HBCU products on 2019 College Football Hall of Fame ballot

IRVING, Texas - Seven players and five coaches from the Historically Black College and University (HBCU) ranks are among over 200 players and coaches on the 2019 ballot for induction into the College Football Hall of Fame.

The National Football Foundation (NFF) & College Hall of Fame made the announcement this week.

The HBCU players nominated include former **Alcorn State** quarterback, the late **Steve McNair**, who set and still holds a bevy of NCAA passing and total offense records while leading the **Braves** from 1991-1994. McNair finished an unprecedented third in the Heisman Trophy voting following his senior season. McNair was a four-time first team all-SWAC selection and the league's only four-time league player of the year.

Joining McNair on the player's list is former **Fort Valley State** defensive back **Tyrone Poole** and former **Mississippi Valley State** linebacker **Vincent "The Undertaker" Brown**. Brown is one of four former Delta Devils players – defensive back **Ashley Ambrose**, quarterback **Parnell Dickerson** and wide receiver **Bob Gaddis** – on the ballot.

Former **Florida A&M** head coach **Rudy Hubbard**, who led the Rattlers to the first NCAA Div. I-AA championship in 1978, **Morgan State's Eddie Hurt** and former **Howard, Virginia Union, Hampton** and **Florida A&M** head coach **Joe Taylor** lead the former HBCU coaches on the ballot.

They and the others are looking to join 19 HBCU players and 12 HBCU coaches (see list at THE STAT CORNER) in the Hall.

The announcement of the 2019 Class will be made Monday, Jan. 7, 2019, in Santa Clara, Calif. The city is serving as the host for the CFP National Championship, which will be played later that day at Levi's Stadium.

The 2019 class will officially be inducted during the 62nd NFF Annual Awards Dinner on Dec. 10, 2019, at the New York Hilton Midtown. The inductees will be permanently enshrined at the College Football Hall of Fame in Atlanta later that December and honored on the field during the 15th Annual National Hall of Fame Salute during the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl. The 2019 voting deadline is June 22.

### HBCU PLAYER CANDIDATE CAPSULE BIOS

**Ashley Ambrose, Mississippi Valley State**-Defensive Back-1991 First Team All-American and First Team All-SWAC selection...Named SWAC Defensive Back and Return Specialist of the Year in 1991...Led nation in punt returns during senior campaign.

**Vincent Brown, Mississippi Valley State**-Linebacker-1987 First Team All-

American, leading the NCAA in tackles in 1986 and 1987...Set NCAA All-Divisions record with 570 career tackles...Two-time All-SWAC selection who led MVSU in tackles his last three seasons.

**Parnell Dickinson, Mississippi Valley State**-Quarterback-1975 First Team All-American and Pittsburgh Courier National Player of the Year...Four-time All-SWAC selection and conference Player of the Year as a senior...Finished career as SWAC's all-time leader in total offense (7,442 yards).

**William Dillon, Virginia Union**-Free Safety-Three-time First Team All-America selection (1980-82)...Tallied 16 interceptions in 1983...1983 Black College Player of the Year...Two-time First Team All-Conference selection and Player of the Year (1981-82).

**Bob Gaddis, Mississippi Valley State**-Wide Receiver-1974 First Team All-American and Pittsburgh Courier National Receiver of the Year. Named 1970 NAIA Freshman of the Year en route to twice leading the NAIA in yards per catch (1971-72)...Three-time All-SWAC selection led conference in yards per catch all four years.

**Steve McNair, Alcorn State**-Quarterback-1994 First Team All-American and the all-time passing leader (14,496) in the FCS...Finished third in 1994 Heisman Trophy voting and the only four-time SWAC Offensive Player of the Year in league history...1994 Walter Payton Award winner who led Braves to two SWAC titles and two NCAA playoff appearances.

**Tyrone Poole, Fort Valley State** (Ga.)-Defensive Back-First Team All-America selection in 1994...Two-time Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) Defensive Player of the Year (1993-94) who led FVSU to two conference titles...Recorded 44 pass breakups and 17 interceptions, returning four for TDs.

### HBCU COACH CANDIDATE CAPSULE BIOS

**Rudy Hubbard, Florida A&M** (1974-85)-Captured back-to-back national championships, 1977 and 1978, including the inaugural NCAA Division I-AA National Title in 1978...Led A&M to back-to-back SIAC championships.

**Eddie Hurt, Virginia Lynchburg** (1925-28), **Morgan State** (1930-59)-Led Morgan State to six Black College National Championship and 14 CIAA titles...Posted 11 undefeated seasons, including the 1943 team that did not allow a score from a single opponent...From 1932-39, led Bears to 54-game streak without a loss.

**Dwight Reed, Lincoln (Mo.)** (1949-71)-Teams won three conference titles...Coached 93 All-Americans in four sports...The football stadium at Lincoln University was named for him.

**Gideon Smith, Hampton** (1921-40)-Led Pirates to 1922 Black College National Championship... Recorded four CIAA titles and two unbeaten seasons in career... Longest tenured coach in Hampton history, boasting the second-most wins all-time at the school.

**Joe Taylor, Howard** (1983), **Virginia Union** (1984-91), **Hampton** (1992-07), **Florida A&M** (2008-12)-Winningest coach in Hampton history (74%), leading Pirates to four Black College National Championships...Led teams to 10 conference titles and 10 playoff appearances throughout career...Four-time MEAC Coach of the Year.

### Chowan leaving as full CIAA member

MURFREESBORO, N.C. – **Chowan University's** nineteen-sport athletic department will realign with the Conference Carolinas as a full-member while maintaining an associate relationship with the CIAA for both football and women's bowling, the school's president announced last week.

The Hawks currently compete as an associate member of Conference Carolinas in eight sports (men's and women's soccer, women's swimming, men's and women's lacrosse, men's and women's tennis, and women's golf).

Chowan introduced a men's swimming program in the fall of 2018 that will compete immediately in Conference Carolinas alongside the women's program. The Hawks baseball program will also enter Conference Carolinas in 2018-19 academic year after playing as an independent for the 2018 season.

Chowan has been a full-member of the CIAA since 2007. At the time of its acceptance, Chowan made CIAA history as the only full-time member institution that was not an HBCU.

"It is a bittersweet moment for Chowan Athletics," stated Chowan Athletic Director **Patrick Mashuda**. "We are grateful to the CIAA for welcoming Chowan with open arms as the first non-HBCU into the conference. We look forward to continuing our relationship with the CIAA and their members, as well as, continuing our established rivalries within the CIAA. The CIAA has brought and will continue to bring rich and rewarding experiences for our student-athletes and coaches at Chowan."

"It has been a pleasure to have Chowan as a member of the CIAA," commented CIAA Commissioner **Jacqie McWilliams**. "Due to the growth of their athletic programs we understand their decision to transition to Conference Carolinas for all sports except football and bowling. We look forward to having them as associate members and working with their administration in the upcoming year."

**TIMETABLE:** Chowan will continue to compete in the CIAA in the nine sports (men's and women's basketball, bowling, men's and women's cross country, football, men's golf, softball, and volleyball) until the end of the 2018-19 academic year. Baseball and men's swimming will compete in Conference Carolinas starting in the fall of 2018. Football and bowling will remain as associate members in the CIAA starting in the fall of 2019. Chowan will begin play as a full-time member in Conference Carolinas in 17 sports during the 2019-2020 academic year.

## THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

### HBCU PLAYERS AND COACHES IN COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

PLAYERS	YEAR INDUCTED
Buck Buchanan, DT, Grambling	1996
Tyrone McGriff, OL, Florida A&M	1996
Gary Johnson, DT, Grambling	1997
Donnie Shell, DB, South Carolina State	1998
Walter Payton, RB, Jackson State	1999
Willie Galimore, RB, Florida A&M	1999
Willie Lanier, LB, Morgan State	2000
Paul "Tank" Younger, RB, Grambling	2000
Doug Williams, QB, Grambling	2001
Harry Carson, DE, South Carolina State	2002
Ben Stevenson, RB, Tuskegee	2003
Willie Richardson, WR, Jackson State	2003
Leo Lewis, RB, Lincoln (MO)	2005
Willie Totten, QB, Mississippi Valley State	2005
Kevin Dent, S, Jackson State	2006
Jerry Rice, WR, Mississippi Valley State	2006
Joe Kendall, QB, Kentucky State	2007
Roger Brown, DT, Maryland Eastern Shore	2009
Emerson Boozer, RB, Maryland Eastern Shore	2010
Art Shell, OT, Maryland Eastern Shore	2013
COACHES	YEAR INDUCTED
Jake Gaither, Florida A&M	1975
Earl Banks, Morgan State	1992
John Merritt, Jackson State, Tennessee State	1994
Eddie Robinson, Grambling	1997
William J. Nicks, Morris Brown, Prairie View A&M	1999
Ace Mumford, Jarvis Christian, Bishop, Texas College, Southern	2001
Marino Casem, Alabama State, Alcorn State, Southern	2003
Vernon McCain, Maryland State	2006
Billy Joe, Cheyney State, Central State (OH), Florida A&M	2007
Doug Porter, Mississippi Valley State, Howard, Fort Valley State	2008
W. C. Gorden, Jackson State	2008
Willie Jeffries, S. C. State, Howard, Wichita State	2010