



MEDIA DAYS OVER; KICKOFF MONTH AWAY

MEAC UNVEILS PRESEASON FOOTBALL PICKS; NEW HOOPS COACH AT DELSTATE, AD AT ECSU

PRELIMS FINISHED: MEAC holds Media Day. North Carolina A&T among those to kick off season on August 25.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

NEW DELSTATE MEN'S HOOPS COACH:

Dover, Del. --- A **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** alum is the new head coach at **Delaware State University**.



Skeeters

DSU Director of Athletics **Scott Gines** has announced that **Eric Skeeters**, most recently an assistant at Maryland-Baltimore County (UMBC), has been appointed as the 13th head coach of the Hornets' men's basketball program. This is his first head coach position.

Prior to joining the Hornets, Skeeters served two seasons as an assistant under head coach Ryan Odom at UMBC from 2016-to-2018.

Last March, the Retrievers shocked the college basketball world and ruined millions of brackets with an historic 74-54 win over top-ranked Virginia, the first-ever win by a No. 16 seed against a No. 1 seed in 136 all-time NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament match-ups.

UMBC's 2017-18 season was also highlighted by the second America East Tournament championship in team history and a school-record 25 wins (25-11).

"Eric Skeeters stood out among an outstanding group of candidates for head coach of the Delaware State men's basketball team," said Gines. "He's a 21-year Division I assistant who has contributed to successful programs in highly competitive conferences, including the MEAC. During his career, Skeeters has played a key role in helping to rebuild programs, while serving on staffs that engineered two of the biggest upsets in NCAA Tournament history."

"Eric will resonate with our current players, community, and alumni. They will love his energy, drive, and devotion. He is well positioned to lead our men's basketball team," said the new Delaware State AD.

From 2013 to 2016, Skeeters was an assistant coach at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., and the previous four years he was a member of the University of South Florida coaching staff. While at South Florida, he helped lead the Bulls to their first NCAA Tournament bid in 20 years. USF made the most of its 2012 Big Dance appearance, defeating California and Temple before falling to Ohio in the round of 32.

He is a graduate of **Coppin State University** and was an assistant coach on the staff of the 15-seed 1997 team that upset No. 2 South Carolina in the NCAA Tournament.

BRIGHT IN AS AD AT ELIZ. CITY STATE:

ELIZABETH CITY, N.C. - **Elizabeth City State**



Bright

University named its 12th Director of Athletics on Tuesday afternoon. **George L. Bright** will lead the Viking athletic department starting July 31.

"I look forward to the future of our athletic program with George at the helm. He is a proven leader who is forward thinking and brings with him the right tools to fortify our program," said ECSU's Interim Chancellor **Dr. Karrie Dixon**.

Bright was most recently Director of Athletics and Recreation at Moravian College, in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania from 2015 to 2017. As director he developed, implemented, and supervised the administration of National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) compliance, strategic planning, fundraising, and all aspects of the athletic program.

Prior to his role at Moravian College, Bright worked as the Associate Director of Athletics from 2001 to 2015, and Assistant Director of Athletics from 1993 to 2001, for Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania.

Bright is a member of the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics, the Collegiate Athletics Business Management Association, and Minority Opportunity and Interests Committee for the NCAA. He has served on the board of directors for a number of community organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club and the Easton Area School District.

Bright holds a Bachelor of Arts from **Claffin University**; a Master of Arts from **South Carolina State University**; and is currently working on his doctorate in Educational Leadership and Administration from East Stroudsburg University in Pennsylvania.

NC A&T picked to repeat in MEAC football

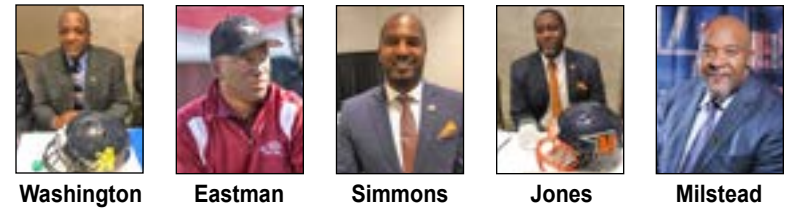
LUT WILLIAMS
BCSP Editor

Norfolk, VA - **North Carolina A&T State** was picked to defend its MEAC Football Championship as the Aggies topped the league's annual preseason poll unveiled at Friday's MEAC Football Media Day here. Voting for the poll was conducted by the MEAC's 10 head coaches and football sports information directors.

The Aggies received 19 first-place votes and were a unanimous choice to defend their MEAC Championship and represent the league in the annual Celebration Bowl on Dec. 15 in Atlanta, Ga. The Aggies will be the first MEAC team to take the field when they face Jacksonville State on Saturday, August 25 in the *FCS Kickoff Classic* in Montgomery, Alabama.

The Aggies, led by new head coach **Sam Washington**, have not won consecutive MEAC Championships since the 1991 and 1992 campaigns. Washington is one of five new coaches in the league this season including **Granville Eastman** at **North Carolina Central**, **Willie Simmons** at **Florida A&M**, **Ernest Jones** at **Morgan State** and **Rod Milstead** at **Delaware State**.

Howard was predicted to place second in head coach **Mike London's** second season followed by N.C. Central in third place and **Bethune-Cookman** in fourth.



Washington

Eastman

Simmons

Jones

Milstead

PRESEASON ALL-MEAC TEAMS

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE			
QB	Lamar Raynard	Sr.	North Carolina A&T
RB	Marquell Cartwright	Sr.	North Carolina A&T
RB	Isaiah Totten	So.	N.C. Central
WR	Elijah Bell	Jr.	North Carolina A&T
WR	Jequez Ezzard	Jr.	Howard
TE	Leroy Hill	Sr.	North Carolina A&T
C	James Holmon	Sr.	Howard
O	Marcus Pettiford	Jr.	North Carolina A&T
OL	Dwayne Brown	Sr.	Bethune-Cookman
OL	Nick Leverett	Sr.	N.C. Central
OL	Tyrone Ramsey	Jr.	Howard
FIRST TEAM DEFENSE			
DL	Darryl Johnson, Jr.	Jr.	North Carolina A&T
DL	Kawuan Cox	Jr.	N.C. Central
DL	Malachi Washington	Sr.	Morgan State
DL	Stefen Banks	Sr.	Savannah State
LB	Nigel Chavis	Jr.	Norfolk State
LB	Brian Cavicante	Jr.	Delaware State
LB	Rico Kennedy	Jr.	Morgan State
DB	Davanta Reynolds	Sr.	N.C. Central
DB	Timadre Abram	Sr.	North Carolina A&T
DB	Frank McCain	So.	North Carolina A&T
DB	Keyjuan Selby	Sr.	Delaware State
FIRST TEAM SPECIAL TEAMS			
PK	Uriel Hernandez	Sr.	Bethune-Cookman
P	Fidel Romo-Martinez	Jr.	Delaware State
RS	Marcus Taylor	Sr.	Norfolk State

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1. North Carolina A&T (19)
2. Howard
3. N.C. Central
4. Bethune-Cookman
5. Florida A&M (1)



6. Norfolk State
7. S.C. State
8. Savannah State
9. Morgan State
10. Delaware State

North Carolina A&T State quarterback **Lamar Raynard** was selected as the MEAC Preseason Offensive Player of the Year, while **N.C. Central** defensive back **Davanta Reynolds** was selected as the Preseason Defensive Player of the Year.

Raynard passed for a MEAC-best 2,932 yards and 27 touchdowns en route to an undefeated (12-0) 2017 season which included a postseason win in the Celebration Bowl.

The redshirt senior from High Point, N.C. has compiled a 27-0 record as a starter and led the MEAC in six (6) statistical categories while shattering the Aggie record books as he broke the North Carolina A&T single-season school records for touchdowns responsible, passing, total offense, touchdown passes and completions in a season.

He ranked in the top ten in three national FCS passing categories. Reynolds ranked second nationally in interceptions per game (.06) while finishing the 2017 campaign ranked fifth amongst FCS defenders with six interceptions.

The Tucker, Ga. native broke up a pass, returned an interception for a touchdown, recovered a fumble, defended seven passes and forced a fumble which led to an 85-yard fumble recovery for a touchdown. In addition to his success in the secondary, the FCS All-American also finished fourth on the team in tackles with 54 stops and 2.5 tackles for loss.

North Carolina A&T State led the way on the 2018 preseason team with a total of eight first team members and nine players overall. A total of 11 players from **Howard** were represented on all three teams while N.C. Central had nine student-athletes selected.



Raynard



Reynolds

Ten MEAC games to air on ESPN networks in 2018

The **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** (MEAC) announced its ESPN television package for the 2018 season which features 10 regular season match-ups on ESPN, ESPN2, ESPNU, ESPN Classic, ESPN3 and one postseason appearance on ABC. The nationally televised games are a part of the MEAC's on-going partnership with ESPN.

The 2018 *Guardian Credit Union FCS Kickoff* featuring defending MEAC Champion **North Carolina A&T State** and Jacksonville State, four-time champion of the Ohio Valley Conference will air live on ESPN on Saturday, Aug. 25 at 7 p.m. from the Cramton Bowl in Montgomery, Ala.

The 14th annual *MEAC/SWAC Football Challenge* kicks off the first full week of the 2018 season featuring **North Carolina Central** versus **Prairie View A&M** of the **SWAC** live on ESPN2 at 12 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 2. N.C. Central will play in the classic for the first time in university history while PVAMU makes its second appearance. The contest moves to a neutral site for the first time since 2015 as it will be played in Atlanta, Ga. at "Pete Petit Field" at Georgia State University.

The ESPN3/ESPNU Saturday slate kicks off on Sept. 15 as N.C. Central makes its second ESPN appearance of the season two weeks later as it travels to Orangeburg, S.C. to face **South Carolina State** at 6 p.m.

One week later, the annual *Circle City Classic* will feature an all-MEAC affair as **Howard** and **Bethune-Cookman** will square off in Indianapolis, Ind. at 4:30 p.m. Both games will air live on ESPN3 and broadcast that evening on ESPNU.

The first Thursday night contest of the year will air on Sept. 27 as South Carolina State travels to North Carolina A&T State for an anticipated showdown which will air live on ESPNU at 7:30 p.m.

The MEAC returns to the airwaves in the month of November with four contests headlined by **North Carolina Central** at Bethune-Cookman on Thursday, Nov. 8 at 7:30 p.m. live on ESPNU and the annual *Florida Classic* featuring Bethune-Cookman and **Florida A&M** in Orlando, Fla.

on Nov. 17. The Florida Classic will air live at 2 p.m. on ESPN Classic.

Two wildcard contests have been secured by the MEAC in November featuring teams in contention for the conference title. The first wildcard contest will take place on Nov. 3 followed by the final weekend of the regular season on Nov. 17. Both games will air live on ESPN3 and broadcast that evening on ESPNU.

The fourth annual *Celebration Bowl* wraps up the season as the MEAC Champion will square off against the SWAC Champion on Saturday, Dec. 15 in Atlanta, Ga. inside Mercedes Benz Stadium. The contest will air live on ABC at noon.

2018 MEAC TV SCHEDULE

- SATURDAY, AUG. 25 @ 7 P.M. - Guardian Credit Union FCS Kickoff NC A&T vs. Jacksonville State Live on ESPN	- SATURDAY, NOV. 3 @ TBA - MEAC Wildcard #1 Live on ESPN3 / rebroadcast on ESPNU
- SUNDAY, SEPT. 2 @ 12 P.M. - MEAC/SWAC Challenge NC Central vs. Prairie View A&M Live on ESPN2	- THURSDAY, NOV. 8 @ 7 P.M. - NC Central at Bethune-Cookman Live on ESPNU
- SATURDAY, SEPT. 15 @ 6 P.M. - NC Central at South Carolina State Live on ESPN3 / rebroadcast on ESPNU	- SATURDAY, NOV. 17 @ 2 P.M. - Florida Classic Bethune-Cookman vs. Florida A&M Live on ESPN Classic
- SATURDAY, SEPT. 22 @ 4:30 P.M. - Circle City Classic Howard vs. Bethune-Cookman Live on ESPN3 / rebroadcast on ESPNU	- SATURDAY, NOV. 17 @ TBA - MEAC Wildcard #2 Live on ESPN3 / rebroadcast on ESPNU
- THURSDAY, SEPT. 27 @ 7 P.M. - SC State at North Carolina A&T Live on ESPNU	- SATURDAY, DEC. 15, 12 P.M. - Celebration Bowl MEAC Champ vs. SWAC Champ Live on ABC

Alcorn State's Gibbs, others in Champions Indoor Football league

It turns out that former **Livingstone** quarterback **Drew Powell** is not the only HBCU quarterback making waves in indoor football.

Powell, a left-hander, was named the MVP of the Indoor Football League and led the Iowa Barnstormers to the championship of that league in June.

At around the same time, former **Alcorn State** quarterback **John Gibbs Jr.** was making his mark in the Champions Indoor Football (CIF) league playing for the Omaha Beef.

Gibbs, a former **SWAC** offensive player of the year while playing for the Braves, started five of the eight games that he played in for the Beef who finished at 4-8 on the season. Gibbs was 2-3 as a starter and completed 89 of 169 passes (52.7%) on the season for 886 yards with 16 TDs and just 7 interceptions. He also ran for 213 yards (59 carries) and 12 TDs.

In his best game, a 79-78 win over the

Bismarck Bucks, Gibbs threw for 213 yards (16 of 30) and 7 TDs without a pick and ran for one score.

Gibbs was one of 24 HBCU products in the CIF. The Sioux City Bandits won the title with a 31-27 win over the Duke City Gladiators on June 30.



Gibbs

HBCU PLAYERS IN CHAMPIONS INDOOR FOOTBALL (CIF) LEAGUE

AMARILLO VENOM	DL	Elizabeth City State
Avery Wright	DL	NC Central
Richard Mitchell	DL	Lane
Steven Fluker	OL/DL	
BISMARCK BUCKS		
Jamar Mitchell	DB	Southern
Marquis Smith	DE	Savannah State

DUKE CITY GLADIATORS		
Dexter Manley	WR	ECSU
Jestin Kelly	FB	Grambling State
Sherman Carter	OL	Tennessee State
KANSAS CITY PHANTOMS		
Donovan Jackson	DB	Morgan State
OMAHA BEEF		
John Gibbs	QB	Alcorn State
Paul Dodson	DB	Lincoln
Raymond "Juvii" Berry	DB	Miss. Valley State
Reggie Patrick	OL	Miles
Walter Walker	DL	Florida A&M
SALINA LIBERTY		
Donovan Rasberry	WR	Winston Salem State
Julian Staford	WR	Miss. Valley State
Kelvin McCoy	OL	Chowan
SIoux CITY BANDITS		
Antonio Brown	DB	Va. Univ. of Lynchburg
Daryl Virgies	RB	Va. Univ. of Lynchburg
WICHITA FORCE		
Darius Moore	OL	Tuskegee
Maurice Young	WR	Tennessee State
QC STEAMWHEELERS		
Darius Hicks	WR	Lincoln
Dominique McDuffie	DB	Albany State
Jordan Stargell	DB	Grambling