

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



Alabama State Photo

THE LIMELIGHT BECKONS

LINDSEY HUNTER BACK IN HBCU FOLD AT MVSU; EARL THE PEARL TO BE FETED

HIGHLY DRAFTABLE: Alabama State lineman Tyrus Howard looks to go Thursday or Friday in early rounds of NFL Draft.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

MVSU HIRES LINDSEY HUNTER:

ITTA BENA, Miss. -- Mississippi Valley State has hired former NBA player and coach **Lindsey Hunter** as basketball coach.



Hunter

The school announced Hunter's hiring on its athletic department website Saturday.

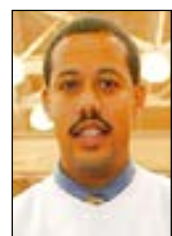
Hunter is a Mississippi native and was a star at **Jackson State** before a 17-year NBA career with the Detroit Pistons, Milwaukee Bucks, Los Angeles Lakers, Toronto Raptors and Chicago Bulls.

Hunter takes over for **Andre Payne**, whose contract wasn't renewed after five seasons. The Delta Devils had a 6-26 record last season, including a 4-14 mark in the **Southwestern Athletic Conference**.

Hunter has been an assistant coach in both the NBA and at the college level. He also was interim head coach for the Phoenix Suns for part of the 2012-13 season.

HAMPTON'S PIERCE ON IAAF STAFF:

HAMPTON, Va. -- **Hampton University** Director of Track and Field **Maurice Pierce** has been named as a U.S. Track and Field Men's Assistant Coach for the sprints and hurdles at the 2019 International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Championships to be held Sept. 27 - Oct. 9 in Doha, Qatar.



Pierce

This will be the second trip to the world championships for Pierce after serving as an assistant coach in the 2015 championships in China. This event is the pinnacle of the outdoor track and field season with will have the top athletes from around the globe. Pierce has had six participants over the last four Summer Olympics with two gold medal winners and a silver.

He is a 1996 graduate of **Norfolk State University**. He was a member of the Spartans track team in 1992-93, and 1995. Pierce is a native of Newport News, Va.

EARL MONROE TO BE HONORED:

The National Sports Media Association will honor **Earl "The Pearl" Monroe** this weekend as the second recipient of the *Ann Lewallen Spencer Sports Connector Award*. The award recognizes a person who has helped to connect the local community through sports. Monroe will be honored at a dinner in Winston-Salem, NC on April 26.

The star basketball player from **Winston-Salem State University** was the centerpiece of the 1967 NCAA College Division national championship team, the first HBCU to win an NCAA title. Monroe, the College Division player of the year, averaged 41.5 points per game that season.

HBCU PLAYERS IN RECENT NFL DRAFTS

2018 - 3

Darius Leonard, OLB, SC State
INDIANAPOLIS - 2nd Round, 4th pick, 36th overall
Brandon Parker, OT, NC A&T
OAKLAND - 3rd Round, 1st pick, 65th overall
Trenton Cannon, RB, Virginia State

NEW YORK JETS - 6th Round - 30th pick, 204th overall

2017 - 4

Chad Williams, WR, Grambling State
ARIZONA - 3rd Round, 34th pick, 98th overall
Tarik Cohen, RB, North Carolina A&T
CHICAGO - 4th Round, 12th pick, 119th overall
Grover Stewart, DT, Albany State

INDIANAPOLIS - 4th Round, 36th pick, 144th overall

Jylan Ware, OT, Alabama State
OAKLAND - 7th Round, 12th pick, 231st overall

2016 - 3

Javon Hargrave, DT, South Carolina State
PITTSBURGH - 3rd Round, 25th pick, 89th overall
Ryan Smith, DB, North Carolina Central
TAMPA BAY - 4th Round, 10th pick, 108th overall
Temarrick Hemingway, TE, South Carolina State

LOS ANGELES RAMS - 6th Round, 2nd pick, 177th overall

2015 - 4

Rodney Gunter, DT, Delaware State
ARIZONA - 4th Round, 17th pick, 116th overall
Tray Walker, DB, Texas Southern
BALTIMORE - 4th Round, 37th pick, 136th overall
Robert Myers, OG, Tennessee State

BALTIMORE - 5th Round, 40th pick, 176th overall

Anthony Morris, OT, Tennessee State
OAKLAND - 7th Round, 1st pick, 218th overall

2014 - 2

Kadeem Edwards, OT, Tennessee State
TAMPA Bay - 5th Round, 3rd pick, 143rd overall
Demetrius Rhaney, C, Tennessee State
ST. LOUIS - 7th Round, 5th pick, 250th overall

2019 BLACK COLLEGE BASEBALL (Results, Standings and Weekly Honors)

SCORES

MEAC	(4/21)
Coppin State 5, Norfolk State 9	4/20
Florida A&M 11, Savannah State 7	Florida A&M 7, Savannah State 5
North Carolina A&T 8, Liberty 2	Liberty 3, North Carolina A&T 0
Norfolk State 4, Coppin State 3	Norfolk State 6, Coppin State 0
Bethune-Cookman 8, North Carolina Central 5	North Carolina Central 7, Bethune-Cookman 2

SIAC

4/20
Miles 14, Tuskegee 10
Miles 11, Tuskegee 4
Albany State 12, Paine 0
Albany State 15, Paine 1
Spring Hill 3, Lane 2
Spring Hill 11, Lane 6

SWAC

4/21
Grambling State 14, UAPB 11
Southern 16, Texas Southern 6
4/20
Alabama State 12, Alabama A&M 8
Grambling State 10, UAPB 8
Grambling State 19, UAPB 2
Southern 7, Texas Southern 6
Texas Southern 6, Southern 5
Jackson State 19, Miss. Valley State 3

MEAC

NORTHERN	MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE					
	CONF	ALL	W	L	T	L
Coppin State	12	6	0	21	16	0
Norfolk State	12	6	0	16	19	0
Delaware State	8	10	0	13	20	0
Maryland-E. Shore	4	14	0	10	33	0
SOUTHERN						
North Carolina A&T	9	5	0	20	18	0
Florida A&M	10	9	0	18	23	0
North Carolina Central	9	8	0	18	20	0
Bethune-Cookman	8	11	0	15	27	0
Savannah State	5	10	0	7	20	0

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

PLAYER

Justin Hayes, R-Sr., IF, NSU - Hit .667 (8-for-12) with 4 RBIs, 3 runs scored, 3 SBs vs. CSU. Had a 3-run HR and RBI single. Had multiple hits in all three games.

PITCHER

Devin Rivera Ozuna, Sr., P, CSU - Struck out career-high 11 in 6.1 shutout innings and scattered four hits in a 5-0 win over NSU.

ROOKIE

Jeremy Carrow, Fr., DSU - In 11-5 win over UMES tossed 7 scoreless innings with 9 Ks scattering six hits.

SIAC

EAST	SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE					
	CONF	ALL	W	L	W	L
Albany State	17	1	25	17		
Spring Hill	17	3	25	15		
Miles	15	5	23	18		
Kentucky State	9	7	19	14		
Benedict	9	8	14	15		
Lane	9	13	17	22		
Tuskegee	8	12	11	25		
Clark Atlanta	6	9	9	23		
Morehouse	6	8	9	22		
Paine	3	17	10	27		
LeMoyné-Owen	0	14	3	14		

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

PLAYER

NA

PITCHER

NA

SWAC

EAST	SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE					
	DIV	ALL	W	L	W	L
Alabama State	16	4	22	17		
Jackson State	12	6	25	18		
Alabama A&M	9	11	13	30		
Miss. Valley State	5	13	6	20		
Alcorn State	4	13	11	24		
WEST						
Southern	12	3	22	16		
Grambling State	14	7	20	19		
Texas Southern	8	8	12	26		
Prairie View A&M	8	9	16	26		
Arkansas Pine Bluff	2	17	6	31		

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

HITTER

Kevin Whitaker, Jr., GSU - Went 12-for-17 at the plate (.705) against Mississippi Valley State and Arkansas-Pine Bluff. The junior from Richmond, Calif. drove in six runs and scored six runs as well, collecting four extra-base hits (three doubles, one triple).

PITCHER

Jeremy Rivera, Fr., SOUTHERN - Improved to 6-2 with a complete game win over Alabama A&M. Scattered seven hits, two runs, while striking out nine and walking just one. It was the first complete game for Rivera, and the first nine-inning complete game for the Hornets this season.

Bama State's Howard tops NFL draft prospects

LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

A year ago, former **South Carolina State** linebacker **Darius Leonard** rocketed up the NFL Draft boards before being selected by Indianapolis early in the second round (see HBCU PLAYERS IN RECENT NFL DRAFTS) with the 36th overall pick.

To say the move paid off for the Colts would be an understatement.

This week's NFL Draft in Nashville (April 25-27) has another intriguing HBCU prospect making a late run up the draft boards.

Alabama State offensive lineman **Tytus Howard**, a former high school quarterback recruited to the Hornets as a tight end, bulked up and used the agility and athleticism gained from his former positions to become an outstanding offensive tackle.

The first team all-SWAC selectee was impressive in a regular season meeting against Auburn and then burnished his credentials with head-turning performances at both the Senior Bowl and the NFL Combine. He is on everyone's top 50 lists of prospects and has reportedly made visits to over 20 NFL teams.

Don't be surprised if the now 6-5, 322-pound Howard goes even earlier than Leonard's 36th



Alabama State Photos

HOWARD: Alabama State product Tytus Howard earned first team all-SWAC honors this year and showed his mettle against top competition at the Senior Bowl (above r.) and the Combine.

overall selection.

Leonard, a 6-2, 235-pound two-time **Mid Eastern Athletic Conference** Defensive Player of the Year, went on to lead the Colts and the NFL in total tackles (163) and solo tackles (111) while earning the NFL's Defensive Rookie of the Year award and being named a first team Associated Press All-Pro.

Behind Howard, the picture is not as clear. **North Carolina A&T** defensive end **Darryl Johnson Jr.**, this year's MEAC Defensive Player of the Year, surprised many by entering the draft despite having another year of eligibility. He has size (6-6, 253) and speed (4.8 in the

40) but is in a draft strong on defensive ends and edge rushers. The scouts love his explosiveness and pass-rushing moves but say he needs to add strength and power to his slender frame.

Morgan State offensive lineman **Joshua Miles** has also had some good press prior to the draft. At 6-6, 314 pounds, Miles combines ideal NFL size with athleticism and a sharp mind. He made his mark with an outstanding week at the East-West Shrine Game and followed it up with good work at the Combine.

Bowie State quarterback **Amir Hall** broke coveted CIAA records for career passing yards and touchdowns during his three-year tenure running the Bulldogs' offense. The productive 6-4, 220-pounder showed he was adept at reading defenses and making short and down-the-field throws. After a snub at the NFLPA Collegiate Bowl, Hall threw well and made an impression at Bowie State's Pro Day before a dozen NFL scouts.

Offensive lineman **Chidi Okeke** of **Tennessee State**, safety **Devanta Reynolds** of **North Carolina Central** and wide receiver **Bobby Hartzog** out of **Texas Southern** are among a group of as many as six other prospects who could be taken late in the draft or get looks as free agents.

Spring Championship Notes

Benedict wins SIAC men's tennis title

PEACHTREE CITY, Ga. -- The **Benedict** men's tennis team won their fifth consecutive **SIAC** Men's Tennis Championship with a 4-2 victory over **Spring Hill** on Tuesday afternoon at the Peachtree City Tennis Center.

The Tigers avenged two regular-season losses to the Badgers with **Taj Ballantyne** winning a tough 6-1, 4-6, 6-3 match at No. 6 singles to clinch the victory.

The Tigers improve to 12-9 overall and will now advance to the NCAA Tournament, which begins May 21 and concludes with the national championship on May 24 in Altamonte, Fla.

Benedict started by earning the doubles point by winning two of the three doubles matches. **Batsiraii Sauroombe** and **Quentin Eloise** won the deciding match at No. 3 doubles with a 7-6 victory over Spring Hill's team.

Clark Atlanta takes SIAC Women's Tennis Title

Clark Atlanta women's team has completed a perfect 2019 season in the **SIAC**, capping a 12-0 regular season mark with the SIAC women's tennis championship after they defeated **Tuskegee** Tuesday in Peachtree City, Ga.

It's the first time the Lady Panthers have won the SIAC tournament title since 2011 when they defeated **Fort Valley State**.

A day after defeating three-time defending champion **Benedict**, Clark Atlanta fell behind early, dropping two of three doubles matches to Tuskegee, a team that CAU defeated 4-1 and 4-3 nine days prior at the CAU Tennis Courts. But Tuesday, the Lady Panthers were able to dominate singles competition, capped by a rousing win by a hobbling **Madison Majors** to clinch the championship. Majors' performance over the two days earned her the Tournament Most Valuable Player award.

The Lady Panthers now turn their focus to the NCAA Division II Women's Tennis Tournament as they've earned the SIAC's automatic bid.

Benedict sweeps SIAC Outdoor Track titles

ROCK HILL, S.C. -- The **Benedict College** women's track & field team won their third consecutive **SIAC** Championship with a dominating performance to win the title by 91 points on Saturday at Winthrop University's Irwin Belk Track.

Benedict had a 13-point lead over **Albany State** heading into the final

2019 BLACK COLLEGE SOFTBALL (Standings and Weekly Honors)

CIAA

NORTH	CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION					
	DIV	CONF	ALL	W	L	L
Chowan	10	0	15	2	19	20
Virginia State	6	4	11	6	17	20
Elizabeth City State	6	4	9	8	12	16
Virginia Union	4	6	8	9	8	19
Bowie State	4	6	7	10	7	19
Lincoln	0	10	1	15	4	28
SOUTH						
Claflin	12	0	18	0	32	15
Winston-Salem State	6	2	12	2	25	8
J. C. Smith	8	4	12	6	12	11
Fayetteville State	4	6	7	9	7	23
St. Augustine's	4	6	5	11	5	17
Shaw	2	8	3	13	3	17
Livingstone	0	10	0	16	0	24

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

OFFENSIVE - Tierra Russaw

Jr., IF, LINC - 10-for-14 (.714) 1 triple, 1 HR, 12 RBI. 12 for 12 in SBs. Had record 8 RBI, 6 SBs, 5 runs, 5 hits in one game vs. Trinity.

PITCHER - Makayla August

Jr., SAU - 22 innings, 4-0, 19 Ks, complete game 1-hitter vs. Shaw, back-to-back 2-hitters vs. Livingstone.

ROOKIE - Dee Dee Irsin

Fr., IF, LINC - Was 8-for-11 (.727), with 2 triples, 1 RBI, 6 of 6 SBs, and 7 runs in 2-2 week.

MEAC

NORTHERN	MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE					
	CONF	ALL	W	L	T	L
Norfolk State	10	2	0	23	16	0
Morgan State	7	4	0	16	23	0
Howard	5	5	0	12	24	0
Coppin State	5	7	0	8	24	0
Delaware State	4	8	0	7	30	0
Maryland-E. Shore	2	7	0	7	27	0
SOUTHERN						
Florida A&M	12	0	0	21	23	0
Bethune-Cookman	11	1	0	20	26	0
North Carolina Central	7	5	0	17	23	0
North Carolina A&T	5	7	0	8	25	0
Savannah State	1	11	0	6	26	0
South Carolina State	0	12	0	0	26	0

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

PLAYER