

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS



B-CU Sports Photo

CLOSEOUT OF 2018-19 SEASON

HBCU BASEBALL CLASSIC SET FOR CHICAGO; SPRING SPORTS WRAPPING UP; TRAGIC LOSS AT ELIZ. CITY

GO PRO: B-CU senior golfer Yudika Rodriguez wins PGA Tourney, heads for pro ranks.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

BELOVED ECSU RADIO VOICE PASSES:

Randy Jones, the former **Elizabeth City State University** sports information director and current "Voice of the Vikings" has passed away.



ECSU Photo Jones

A 1996 graduate of ECSU, Jones served Viking athletics as SID before taking on his role as the Program Director and on-air personality for WRVS 89.9. However, Randy couldn't let go of his passion for Viking athletics and when he went to WRVS he became its "Voice." Randy was on the call to bring Viking fans some of the most memorable moments including the 2007 **CIAA** men's basketball championship and football championship game appearances.

"There was nothing better than listening to Randy's passion coming through the radio on a Saturday afternoon or during the **CIAA** Basketball Tournament," said ECSU Athletics Director **George Bright**.

"Randy was also crucial in the operation of our ECSU Vikings Hall of Fame. Every year he worked to identify that year's recipients but also to provide a welcoming atmosphere for Hall of Fame weekend."

Randy made an incredible impact in the community. His work as an official endeared him to numerous high school student-athletes throughout northeastern North Carolina. He was the driving force behind *The Border Clash*, which is a basketball showcase that pitted high schools from northeastern North Carolina against high schools in southeastern Virginia.

A celebration of his life and memory will be held at an ECSU campus memorial service Thursday, May 16, noon to 2 p.m., in the Mickey L. Burnim Fine Arts Center. On Friday, May 17, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., there will be a viewing at Robinson Funeral Home, 215 U.S. Hwy. 158, Littleton, North Carolina. A funeral service will follow at noon.

For more information about funeral services, contact Robinson Funeral Home at 252-586-3661, or go to <https://rfh.robinsonfuneralhome.com>

WVSU SOFTBALL DOWNS WSSU:

INSTITUTE, WV – **CIAA** champion **Winston-Salem State** (33-13) was eliminated from the NCAA Division II Atlantic Region Tournament in an 8-0 loss to Mountain East Conference South Division champion **West Virginia State** Friday.

The WSSU Lady Rams were seeded seventh while the Yellowjackets, who hosted the regional for the first time, were a second-seed.

WVSU (35-16) concluded its historic season with a 11-5 loss to West Chester in the Region 2 championship game Saturday afternoon at Lady Jacket Field.

NCAA APR HITS HBCUs HARD:

Twenty-two (22) teams are facing NCAA APR penalties including eight facing postseason bans based on the organization's annual report released recently.

None is from a Power Five conference and seven schools on that list are HBCUs.

Savannah State had four teams impacted — the most in Division I — including postseason bans for the school's football and baseball teams. The school is in the process of moving to Division II.

Alabama A&M and **Coppin State** each have three teams facing punishment and **Detroit Mercy**, where former **Texas Southern** head coach **Mike Davis** is now the head coach, is the only school dealing with a postseason ban, in men's basketball.

As reported by *HBCU Gameday*, **Alabama A&M's** baseball and men's track teams are ineligible for the postseason along with **Arkansas-Pine Bluff's** men's golf team and **Grambling State's** men's track team. **Howard University** received a Level Two penalty meaning it will lose practice time and spring football. **Delaware State** football and men's basketball received Level One penalties, meaning reduced practice times. **North Carolina A&T** had the highest four-year APR in MEAC football at 967.

While the one-year total for HBCUs declined by one point to 960, the NCAA noted that number is significantly higher than the 918 posted in 2010-11.

Low-resource institutions also have made big improvements, with its one-year scoring jumping from 945 in 2010-11 to 969 this year.

Chicago to host inaugural HBCU World Series

Two HBCUs will showcase their baseball teams and their universities when the inaugural **HBCU World Series** is held on May 24 in Chicago at Guaranteed Rate Field, home of Major League Baseball's Chicago White Sox.

North Carolina A&T will meet **Southern** on the diamond at 1 p.m. while the schools' admission departments will take the opportunity to deliver information about their respective universities to prospective students.

The **HBCU World Series** is the first of a series of events planned by the Chicago-based Black College Sports Group 360. According to its website (www.bcs360.org), events include football, basketball and other baseball classics.

"We want to utilize these events to promote educational opportunities to urban youth who in some cases may not know schools with the history of a North Carolina A&T State University or a Southern University even exists," said **Erwin Prentiss Hill**, the CEO of BCSG 360.

"These oftentimes may be first-generation college prospects. They have good grades and good GPAs. They just do not have an understanding from a previous generation of what it takes to navigate that process."

Hill said Tuesday that 3,000 tickets have been set aside for Chicago Public Schools high



school students to be at the venue from 9 a.m. to 12 noon for opportunities to interact with admissions personnel and tailgate. In addition to NC A&T and Southern, admissions staff from 12 other HBCUs will be on site to share their information.

Both North Carolina A&T and Southern baseball programs have rich histories.

The Aggies are the defending **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** (MEAC) champions, have had five players drafted over the past ten seasons and include former Major League pitcher and member of the College Baseball Hall of Fame **Al Holland** and **Tom Alston** amongst its alumni.

Holland finished seventh in the National League Rookie of the Year voting for 1980 but his best season was with the Philadelphia Phillies in 1983 when he won the Rolands Relief Man of the Year Award and TSN Fireman of the Year Award while finishing in the top ten in voting for both the Cy Young Award and National League MVP. Alston was the first black player on the St. Louis Cardinals roster in 1954.

Southern, who captured this year's **Southwestern Athletic Conference** (SWAC) Western Division title, touts **Lou Brock** and **Rickie Weeks** as notable products.

Brock, a two-time World Series champion and 19-year MLB veteran with the St. Louis Cardinals, was best known for breaking Ty Cobb's all-time major league stolen base record in 1977. He was an All-Star for six seasons and a National League (NL) stolen base leader for eight seasons. He led the NL in doubles and triples in 1968. He also led the NL in singles in 1972, and was the runner-up for the NL Most Valuable Player Award in 1974.

Weeks was drafted second in the MLB Draft by the Milwaukee Brewers and went on to an outstanding 14-year MLB career after being named College Baseball Player of the Year in 2003.

BCSG 360 is also hosting a football game this year dubbed the *'Ol Man River Classic* pitting teams from **Kentucky State** and **Lincoln (Mo.)** on Nov. 23 at The Dome at America's Center in St. Louis. The organization is also looking for teams to play in *The Windy City Basketball Classic* in December.

"Greatness comes from historically black colleges and universities," said Hill, who earned his undergraduate degree from **Tennessee State University** and his master's degree from **Clark Atlanta University**. "The bottom line is to get more urban youth back to our HBCU's, so that talented young men and women can add to the legacy of our outstanding predominantly black universities."

Spring Championship Update

Hampton sweeps Big South Outdoor Track and Field titles

ROCK HILL, S.C. -- The **Hampton University** Track and Field programs entered the outdoor seasons with targets on them after both teams won their first Big South indoor titles in February. Those targets may have grown now as both teams took their first outdoor crowns Friday night at Winthrop University.

The Lady Pirates scored 206.5 points to win the crown over High Point (194) and Campbell (105). They entered the last two races with a commanding 41.5 point lead and cruised to a repeat of its indoor crown.

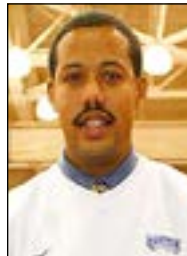
The men came from 35 points down heading into Friday's competition to win their first outdoor crown with 188.5 points as Campbell took second (181) and Charleston Southern took third (145).

The Pirate women took firsts in the 4x100 relay (**Autumn Smith, Asha Copeland, Isis Brooks and Mallory Pitchford**, 44.81), were 1-3-4-7 in the 100 meter hurdles led by Smith's 13.64 and were 1-3-6 in the 400 meters led by **Jaelen Leonard's** 54.65. Smith also won the 400 meter hurdles as she ran 59.53.

The men's performances included a 1-2-3-7 finish in the 110-meter hurdles led by **Charles Graham's** 14.20, a 1-2-7 showing in the 400 meters paced by **Jerrick Powell's** 47.26, a 1-2 output in the 800 meters with **Tayvon Burris** winning in 1:51.25 and a 1-2-3 outcome in the 200 meters led by **Derrick Price's** 21.33 timing. **Jaelen Williams** broke the meet record in winning the 400 hurdles in 50.80. Price, Powell, Burris and Williams teamed up to win the 4x400 relay in 3:12.44.

Head Coach **Maurice Pierce** won Coach of the Year honors for both the men and women, while **Coby Price** took Freshman of the Year honors for the men. Representing Hampton on the All-Academic teams were **Trey Clark** and **Ayana Culhane**.

Both teams are now off for two weeks until the NCAA East Regionals in Jacksonville, Florida.



Pierce

Bethune-Cookman women and men capture D1 PGA Works Collegiate titles

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. -- The best teams don't always win in golf. They did Sunday at the 33rd PGA WORKS Collegiate Championship at PGA Golf Club, formerly the National Minority College Golf Championship.

The women of **Bethune-Cookman University** rolled to their eighth consecutive Division I title, by 52 shots, 873-925 over Texas A&M-Kingsville on the Ryder Course, while the B-CU men's teams easily defended its title for the fourth straight time in Division I

The B-CU men's team shot a 3-under to move 21 shots ahead of **Florida A&M** on the Wanamaker Course when play was stopped due to lightning. Play was called about an hour later with the scores reverting to 36 holes when Bethune-Cookman led FAMU by four shots. Mens Division I was the only score to be shortened by the rain.

The B-CU women shot 9-over as a team on a difficult course and have won this event 11 times.

"They played phenomenal," coach **Danny Forshey** said. "The fun part is seeing where they started nine months ago to where they are now. We're not really playing against other people; we're playing against ourselves, to be the best we can be. This is the icing on the cake."

The Wildcats were led by **Yudika Rodriguez**, who was medalist at 8-under 208, after a 72. She won by six shots over teammate **Caitlyn Evans-Brand** (67-210) for her fifth victory of her senior year.

"This means a lot to me," said an emotional Rodriguez. "I've been trying to win this tournament since I was a freshman. My plan is to probably turn pro and see if I can make a living doing this."

Forshey saw the Bethune-Cookman men struggle to a first-round tie, but they took a four-shot lead Saturday and quickly settled the issue Sunday morning when they completed the second round, before the storm rolled in.

In the Men's Independent Division, Zahidali Nathu of British Columbia (71-216) overcame losing a two-shot lead on the 18th hole to eagle the first playoff hole and beat **Logan Bryant** (71-216) of **Florida A&M**.

Linda Wang of St. John's defended her title in the Women's Independent Division. Wang shot 72-214 and won by seven shots over **Ana Freyreya Heit** of Bethune-Cookman.

Isiah Belton of **Virginia State** made a hole-in-one on the 17th on the Wanamaker Course. Every player wore a pink shirt Sunday in honor of Mother's Day.

Alabama State wins SWAC Softball championship

MONTGOMERY, Ala. | **Alabama State** claimed its first **Southwestern Athletic Conference** (SWAC) Softball championship in three years with an 8-4 victory over **Texas Southern** Saturday night.

Alabama State (24-23), playing in their fifth consecutive conference title game and third at home, used a three-run fourth inning to extend their lead over TSU en route to the championship. Tournament MVP **Justine Jean** led the way for the Lady Hornets pitching in the championship game, while **Amira James** led the team at the plate throughout the week.

Alabama State, in the regionals for the first time since 2016, will travel to Tuscaloosa to face eighth-seeded Alabama Friday, May 17, in the opening round.

ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

Kayla Owens, JSU; Danielle Hansell, AA&M; Laurisa Hernandez, Crystal Castillo, PVA&M; Tevanee Tate, Naomi Reyes, Madi Marek, Julia Bilbao, TSU; Amira James, Justine Jean (MVP), Alexis Sydnor, Kristin Gunter, Alabama State

Bethune-Cookman wins MEAC Softball title

ORMOND BEACH, Fla. -- **Bethune-Cookman** won the 2019 **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** (MEAC) softball championship at the Ormond Beach Sports Complex on Saturday after defeating rival **Florida A&M** 11-5 in the second game of the championship round. The Lady Rattlers had forced the if-necessary game with a 1-0 win in the first contest.

B-CU (26-29) wins its second consecutive title and ninth overall. **Laura Watten** was named the tournament's Outstanding Coach, and **Sasha Killings** earned Outstanding Performer honors.

The first game saw Florida A&M's **Kyaira Brown** throw a complete-game shutout, coming within one out of throwing a no-hitter. The Lady Rattlers only had three hits in their own right.

FAMU got off to a quick start in the second game, going up 2-0 in third inning before Bethune-Cookman responded with a six-spot in the bottom of the frame. The Lady Wildcats scored four times in the fifth.

Alexis Bermudez, the MEAC Pitcher of the Year, threw five innings of relief in the second game, striking out three.

The Wildcats (26-29) will face defending National Champion Florida State (51-8) in their NCAA tournament opener Friday in Tallahassee at 2:30 p.m on ESPNU. B-CU is the fourth seed.

ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

Alexis Bermudez, Sasha Killings, Cheyenne Smith, Bethune-Cookman; Brianna Baker, DSU; Kyara Brown, Tyra Bowers, Kimiya Watkins, FAMU; Kalita Dennis, Jackie Jones, HOW; Kaylee Lopez, Norfolk State Kiara Hurley, NCCU

2019 BLACK COLLEGE BASEBALL (Results, Standings, Honors and Championship Dates)

SIAC SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

SIAC champion **Spring Hill** will travel to the University of Tampa for its first-ever appearance in the NCAA Division II Baseball Tournament, May 16-18.

Spring Hill (29-20) is the No. 8 seed in the South Region, traveling to No. 1 seed Tampa (36-14) for a 1 p.m. ET first pitch on Thursday, May 16.

Four-seed West Florida (36-16) will meet fifth-seed Nova Southeastern (32-15) at 5 p.m. ET. All games will be played at UT Baseball Field.

MEAC MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

FINAL	CONF	ALL	T
NORTHERN	W L T W L T		
Norfolk State	17 7 0	22 24 0	
Coppin State	15 9 0	24 22 0	
Delaware State	12 12 0	18 23 0	
Maryland-E. Shore	4 20 0	10 44 0	
SOUTHERN			
North Carolina A&T	16 8 0	28 22 0	
Florida A&M	14 10 0	22 31 0	
North Carolina Central	10 14 0	21 28 0	
Savannah State	10 14 0	12 24 0	
Bethune-Cookman	10 14 0	17 38 0	

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Jarrett Norman, Sr., NCA&T - 7-for-13 (.538) with 5 RBI, 5 runs scored as Aggies clinched S. Div. crown. Was 7-for-8 in doubleheader sweep of FAMU with all five of his RBI, three runs scored with two doubles and a HR.
ROOKIE
Tony Mack, Fr., NCA&T - Went 9-for-13 (.692) with 5 RBI and four runs scored. Had a HR and a double with an RBI in each of four games this week. Had three hits in two games.

MEAC BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

May 15-18
Daytona Beach, Fla.
Hosted by Bethune-Cookman

SWAC BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

May 15-19
Wesley Barrow Stadium
New Orleans, La.

SWAC SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

FINAL	DIV	ALL	L	W	L
EAST					
Alabama State	18	5	25	24	
Jackson State	15	9	30	22	
Alabama A&M	11	11	15	35	
Alcorn State	7	16	14	29	
Miss. Valley State	6	16	8	26	
WEST					
Southern	15	5	26	19	
Grambling State	16	8	24	23	
Texas Southern	13	11	17	31	
Prairie View A&M	9	14	17	33	
Arkansas Pine Bluff	3	19	8	40	

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

HITTER
NA
PITCHER
NA