



NBA Photo

IN THE NBA FINALS

HBCU MVP: Bethune-Cookman graduate Eric Lewis among 12 officials to work NBA Finals.

EARLY ESPN SCHEDULE, SIAC, MEAC FOOTBALL MEDIA DAYS, GRAMBLING'S FOBBS IN THE NEWS

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

B-CU ALUM WORKING NBA FINALS:

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. – There will be an HBCU flavor in this year's NBA finals with the announcement that **Eric Lewis**, **Bethune-Cookman University** alum and husband of Women's Head Basketball Coach **Vanessa Blair-Lewis**, has been named one of the 12 referees who will officiate the 2019 NBA Finals.



Lewis

The league announcement was made on May 28 just before game 1 between Toronto and Golden State.

Lewis is one of two officials who will be working their first finals. The 15-year veteran served as an alternate last year.

"For an official, to be at the top is to be at the Finals," Lewis said in a video on the NBA Officials' web site. "To make it there, it's a huge accomplishment and huge goal for all the referees."

"Words cannot express how proud I am of my husband," Blair-Lewis said. "One of the best 12 in the NBA and officially in the white jacket" (given to officials assigned to work the playoffs).

Individual game assignments for referees are posted at NBA.com at approximately 9 a.m. ET on game days.

NEW LINCOLN (PA) TRACK COACH:

LINCOLN UNIVERSITY, PA. - **Lincoln University of Pennsylvania** has announced the hiring of **Roland Whiting** as Director of Track and Field/Cross Country Operations and Head Men's and Women's Track and Field Coach.

Whiting, a class of 2000 graduate from Lincoln returns to his alma mater to become the Lions fifth head track and field coach since 1974. The Lions have also won a total of 16 NCAA Division III Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field national championships (12 men's and four women's) from 1985-2000.

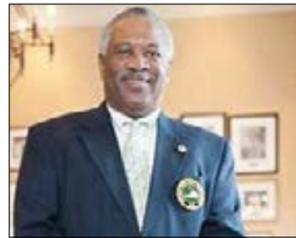
Whiting takes over from **Wilson Bailey** who served as the interim head track and field and cross country coach this past season. Bailey will remain at Lincoln as the Lions' Head Men's and Women's Cross Country Coach.

Before embarking on his coaching career, Whiting was a member of five Division III national championship teams at Lincoln, earning All-America honors 12 times. He was on the 2000 4 x 100 meter relay NCAA Championship team in that still holds the school record of 40.19, the third fastest time ever in Div. III history.

EARLY HBCU 2019 ESPN FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

THUR., AUG. 29		
7 p.m.	Morgan State at Bowling Green	ESPN3
8 p.m.	Alabama State at UAB	ESPN+
SAT., AUG. 31		
7 p.m.	Alcorn State at Southern Miss	ESPN+
	Norfolk State at Old Dominion	ESPN3
8 p.m.	Grambling at Louisiana-Monroe	ESPN3
SUN., SEPT. 1		
3 p.m.	Bethune-Cookman vs. Jackson State	ESPN2
SAT., SEPT. 7		
6 p.m.	North Carolina A&T at Duke	ACC Network Extra
7 p.m.	Tenn. State at Middle Tenn. State	ESPN3
8 p.m.	Prairie View A&M at Houston	ESPN3
SAT., SEPT. 14		
2 p.m.	Norfolk State at Coastal Carolina	ESPN3
4 p.m.	Bethune-Cookman at Miami	ACC Network
6 p.m.	S. Carolina State @ South Florida	ESPN3
7:30 p.m.	Texas Southern at Louisiana	ESPN3
SAT., SEPT. 21		
6 p.m.	Hampton at Liberty	ESPN+
THUR., SEPT. 26		
7:30 p.m.	Delaware State at N. Carolina A&T	ESPNU
THUR., OCT. 10		
6 p.m.	Bethune-Cookman at N. C. Central	ESPNU
THUR., OCT. 24		
7:30 p.m.	Jackson State at Prairie View A&M	ESPNU
SAT., NOV. 23		
TBD	Florida A&M vs. Bethune-Cookman	TBD
SAT., DEC. 7		
4 p.m.	2019 SWAC Championship Game	ESPNU

Coble gets U. S. Open rules assignment



PLUM ASSIGNMENT: Virginia Union golf coach on Escort Rules Committee for upcoming U. S. Open.

Virginia Union University's Head Golf Coach, **E. Lee Coble**, has been invited to work as a member of the TV Rules Escort Committee at the 2019 United States Open Golf Championship on June 13-16 in Pebble Beach, CA.

The 2019 United States Open Championship will be the 119th U.S. Open.

Coble joined the USGA in 1993 as a member of the Sectional Affairs Committee later named the

Regional Affairs Committee. Coble was also named to the USGA Rules Committee as a member of the TV Rules Escort Team. This will be Coble's 21st US Open.

The USGA remains indebted to the volunteers who serve on USGA committees and to the thousands more who assist in conducting the national championships and team competitions.

"Again, it's an absolute honor to be invited to work this year's U.

S. Open at Pebble Beach. While this is my third time working the U. S. Open at Pebble Beach each U. S. Open is a great experience and I am excited to be at Pebble Beach again.

"Of course none of this could be possible without the support of VUU Vice President of Intercollegiate Athletics, **Joe Taylor** and Athletic Director, **Felicia Johnson** and the entire Athletic Administrative staff," said Coble.

BCSP Notes

Grambling State's Fobbs selected to serve on AFCA Head Coaches Committee

WACO, Texas- The American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) has announced that **Grambling State University** head coach **Broderick Fobbs** has been selected to serve on the FCS Executive Head Coaches Committee.



Fobbs

The committee serves as FCS's voice to the AFCA organization under the leadership of Todd Barry, and the NCAA football oversight committee. In addition, the committee gives input and promote rules, rule changes and interpretations that help foster the continued development and growth of football at the FCS level.

"We are very excited and pleased to welcome Coach Fobbs to the committee," said FCS Executive Head Coaches Committee president Roger Hughes. "This committee has undoubtedly been extremely instrumental in the modification of rules related to improving the overall game as it relates to player safety and well being. We look forward to working with Coach Fobbs as we collectively seek the advancement of the sport of football at the FCS level."

Headquartered in Waco, the AFCA's FCS Executive Head Coaches Committee has dedicated itself to improving football coaches through ongoing education, interaction, and networking with one of its primary goals of providing resources for personal and professional development for its members.

"I'm very excited to be apart of this extremely important committee," said Fobbs. "I look forward to working with each member on the committee as we strive to improve the game of football within the FCS."

CIAA recognizes 2018-19 Highest Team Academic Award recipients

CHARLOTTE, NC - The **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA)** would like to acknowledge the **Dr. Freddie Vaughns Highest Team Academic Award** recipients for the 2018-2019 year. This award is given annually to the team in each of the CIAA's sponsored sports with the highest cumulative grade point average. Each team was formally recognized throughout the year at their respective conference championship.

The **Chowan** softball team had the highest team grade point average among women's sports and across all sports with a 3.65. The **Virginia Union** men's golf team had the highest among men's sports with a 3.60 cumulative grade point average.

The CIAA Highest Team G.P.A. Award was renamed prior to this academic year in honor of former **Bowie State University** Faculty Athletic Representative, **Dr. Freddie Vaughns**, who passed away in 2015.

For more information and to get the latest updates on the CIAA Conference, visit theciaa.com , like us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter and Instagram.

SPORT	INSTITUTION	TEAM GPA
Football	Livingstone	2.89
Volleyball	Chowan	3.60
Men's Cross Country	Shaw	3.50
Women's Cross Country	Clafin	3.46
M Indoor Track & Field	Virginia Union	3.11
W Indoor Track & Field	Clafin	3.33
Men's Basketball	Livingstone	3.16
Women's Basketball	Saint Augustine's	3.30
Bowling	Virginia Union	3.49
Golf	Virginia Union	3.60
Women's Tennis	Virginia Union	3.32
Softball	Chowan	3.65
M Outdoor Track & Field	Virginia Union	3.11
W Outdoor Track & Field	Clafin	3.33
Cheerleading	Lincoln (PA)	2.98

ESPN releases early 2019 College Football slate

BRISTOL, Conn. – ESPN has released several key match-ups included in the network's upcoming college football slate and the **Southwestern Athletic Conference** and **Mid Eastern Athletic Conference** are represented in ESPN's initial television line-up.

The two conferences will meet early in the season in the **15th SWAC/MEAC Challenge** when **Jackson State** of the SWAC meets the MEAC's **Bethune-Cookman** in Atlanta on Sunday, Sept. 1. That game will be carried on ESPN2.

Thirteen (13) games involving MEAC and SWAC schools and one involving **Hampton** vs. non-conference opponents are on the schedule before **North Carolina A&T** hosts **Delaware State** on Thursday, Sept. 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the first MEAC game to be broadcast on ESPNU.

The first SWAC game pits the **Prairie View A&M** Panthers in a home contest versus the **Jackson State** Tigers on Thursday, Oct. 24 at 6:30 pm (CST) also to be broadcast live on ESPNU.

In addition, ESPN will provide live coverage of the **2019 Toyota SWAC Championship** football game with that broadcast also slated to be shown live on ESPNU on Saturday, December 7th at 3:00 pm (CST).

"We're excited to be apart of the early release of ESPN college football games, and to once again partner with them to bring SWAC football into the homes of millions," said SWAC Commissioner **Dr. Charles McClelland**. "We're currently working towards solidifying additional games that will be released at a later date."

"As we strategically seek to raise the overall profile of our conference, our partnership with ESPN has proven to be a key part of that vision and we look forward to working with them to bring more SWAC content to the network's wide array of digital platforms."

SIAC Football Media Day returns to College Football Hall of Fame on July 9

ATLANTA (May 28, 2019) - The **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC)** is excited to announce that it will return its annual Football Media Day on Tuesday, July 9 to the College Football Hall of Fame and Chick-fil-A Fan Experience in Atlanta for its third consecutive year.

Atlanta's position as the capital of college football and home to ma-

lor college football annual events such as the Chick-fil-A Kickoff Game, ESPN College Football Awards Show, Air Force Reserve Celebration Bowl and Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl, Atlanta is the ideal destination for the SIAC Football Media Day.

"The College Football Hall of Fame and Chick-fil-A Fan Experience was built to serve as the home for and celebrate all things college football – players, coaches, teams, conferences and fans," said Dennis Adamovich, CEO of the Hall. "We are the perfect venue for important events like this and we are thrilled to welcome the SIAC here to host their Football Media Day."

This event will feature head football coaches and two student-athletes from each team that will be available for interviews and will have the opportunity to share their expectations and views on the upcoming football season. The predicted order of finish along with the preseason teams will also be announced during media day. Additionally, players, coaches, and invited guests will have an interactive experience after the event with a self-guided tour of the Hall.

"We are pleased to announce the return of the SIAC Football Media Day to the College Football Hall of Fame to kick off the 2019 college football season," remarked SIAC Commissioner **Greg Moore**. "In light of the rich history which spans more than 100 years, I cannot think of a more appropriate place to hold this year's event."

Registration is scheduled to start at 8:30 a.m. followed by opening remarks at 9 a.m. Media members may obtain a credential for the brunch and one-on-one interviews by completing an application found on www.thesiac.com. One-on-one interviews will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m. in a rotational format.



Moore

MEAC Football Press Luncheon set for July 26

NORFOLK, Va., June 3, 2019—The **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC)** will host the annual Football Press Luncheon, Friday, July 26, at the Hilton Norfolk The Main hotel (100 E. Main Street, Norfolk, Va. 23510/ (757) 763-6200). MEAC head football coaches and two student-athletes from each team will be on hand to offer an inside view on the upcoming 2019 football season.

A limited number of tickets are available to the public for the press luncheon and can be purchased by calling the MEAC Office at (757) 951-2055. Tickets are \$35 per seat or \$350 per table (10 persons) and must be purchased by 5:30 p.m. on Friday, July 19 in order to obtain the special rate.

Media interested in covering the event are invited to complete the credential application. One-on-one interviews will begin promptly at 9 a.m.

The 2019 season will kick off on Thursday, Aug. 29 with **Delaware State**, **Florida A&M**, **Morgan State** and **North Carolina Central** all in action on the road.

Bethune-Cookman will travel to Atlanta, Ga. to face **Jackson State** in the 15th annual **MEAC/SWAC Challenge** on Labor Day Weekend, Sunday, Sept. 1 at 12 p.m. Details and ticket information can be found on www.meacswacchallenge.com.

For more information about the MEAC, log on to www.MEACsports.com.

Celebration Bowl set for Saturday, Dec. 21 on ABC

The **Celebration Bowl**, in its fifth year, will be televised live on ABC for the fifth consecutive year, kicking off at noon ET, on Saturday, Dec. 21, from Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta.

The Celebration Bowl, which showcases the heritage, legacy, pageantry and tradition of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), features the conference champions from the **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC)** and **Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC)**.

The MEAC leads the series 3-1 with all three wins coming from **North Carolina A&T**, who held off **Alcorn State** to win the 2018 Celebration Bowl 24-22. The Aggies also captured their last minute 21-14 win over **Grambling State** in 2017 capping the first unbeaten season in MEAC history. **Grambling State** won the SWAC's first title in 2016 with a thrilling 10-9 victory over **North Carolina Central**.

Tickets for the game, a full ancillary event schedule and discounted rates at downtown Atlanta hotels will be available this summer. To stay up to date on Celebration Bowl announcements, sign up for updates on www.TheCelebrationBowl.com and follow the event on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

ESPN Events, a division of ESPN, also manages the season-opening **MEAC/SWAC Challenge** on Labor Day weekend, another game that showcases these two conferences. The 2019 Challenge will be played in Atlanta, featuring **Bethune Cookman** from the MEAC and **Jackson State** from the SWAC. The game is set for Sunday, Sept. 1, at Georgia State Stadium, at 3 p.m.

The Celebration Bowl is one of this year's 14 bowl games owned and operated by ESPN Events.



2019 NCAA Div. I Baseball Playoffs

ATLANTA REGIONAL
Georgia Tech 13, **Florida A&M** 2
Coastal Carolina 9, **Florida A&M** 4
MEAC champion **Florida A&M** (27-34) eliminated

STARKVILLE REGIONAL
Mississippi State 11, **Southern** 6
Miami 12, **Southern** 2
SWAC champion **Southern** (32-23) eliminated