

# BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS



NC A&T Sports Photo

## NC A&T MAKES ITS MARK ON THE TRACK

**FABULOUS FROSH:** NC A&T's Cambrea Sturgis finishes second in 200 meters, part of sixth-place finish in 4x100 meter relay at NCAA Div. I national championships.

**AGGIE MEN AND WOMEN FINISH 15th IN NCAA TRACK; 'BAMA STATE BEST IN SWAC; MLB DRAFT**



Photos by Erin E. Mizelle / N.C. A&T Athletics



**AGGIE PRIDE:** (Far left) NC A&T's Trevor Stewart leans and is nipped at the tape in the 400 meter finals at the NCAA Div. I Championships Friday. (Center) A&T's Kayla White battles LSU's Sha'Carri Richardson in an earlier race. White finished second to Richardson in Friday's 100 meter finals. (Above) White and Cambrea Sturgis embrace after seventh- and third-place finishes respectively in the 200 meter finals.

# NC A&T shines at NCAA Div. 1 nationals

## LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

AUSTIN, Texas— Men and women track performers from **Mid Eastern Athletic Conference** champion **North Carolina A&T State** both scored 19 points and both finished 15th at the 2019 NCAA Div. I Outdoor Track & Field Championships here at Mike A. Myers Stadium that was completed on Saturday.

The unprecedented high finishes by the squads, led by NC A&T Director of Track and Field programs **Duane Ross**, signal the Aggies as a burgeoning national power in the world of Div. I track.

But Ross was far from satisfied. "We didn't finish as well as we should have," said Ross on the A&T website. "We're a better team than that and some of our athletes forgot that this week. If everyone does their job, both programs finish top-5."

To put the teams' finishes in perspective however, the Aggie men outdistanced all of the ACC teams in the field and the Aggie women beat all the ACC teams except Florida State that finished just one point ahead of them (20 points). In other words, A&T competing with and beating much better-financed ACC programs in any competition would be and is big news!

NC A&T was led by senior **Kayla White** and junior **Trevor Stewart**.

On Saturday, White, already named the 2019 Indoor Track Athlete of the Year after winning the indoor 200 meters national championship, led for much of the race and turned in a personal-best effort in the 100 meters final as she clocked in at 10.95, her second sub-11 second time of the season (she ran a 10.96 in winning the MEAC title in the event on May 4, which had been the top time in the nation heading into this weekend).

It took a new collegiate record time of 10.75

turned in by LSU freshman **Sha'Carri Richardson** to beat White.

"I'm so happy for Kayla," said Ross. "She had a great collegiate career and has really set herself up for the future. This program is so much better because of her. She has made me a better coach and I can't wait to see what she does at the next level."

On Friday, Stewart, who has another year of eligibility, came two-hundreds of a second from becoming a national champion as he and the University of Houston's **Kahmari Montgomery** staged an amazing final 100 meters of the men's 400 meters final.

Montgomery leaned forward at the end to nip Stewart's outstanding effort. Montgomery crossed in 44.23 while Stewart, who led for nearly all of the final straight, finished with a personal-best 44.25 in a race that was in doubt to the very end.

"I thought he ran great," said Ross of Stewart's effort. "The young man from Houston ran a very smart race and ran off of Trevor till the end. I'm proud of the way he competed. We wanted the win, but this is track and field and sometimes second happens."

Both second-place finishes garnered eight points for the Aggies and Lady Aggies. But they were not finished.

Two Lady Aggies, White and freshman **Cambrea Sturgis** made the 200 meters finals Saturday with Sturgis turning in a personal-best time of 22.40 to grab third place while White finished a disappointing seventh in 22.81. That racked up another six points (Sturgis) and two points (White) for the ladies.

Sturgis and White joined junior **Tori Ray** and freshman **Kamaya Dubose-Epps** in the 4x100 meter relay final with the Lady Aggies finishing sixth in a time of 43.09 seconds. The sixth-place finish (3 points) brought the Lady

Aggies' point total to 19.

For the Aggie men, senior **Michael Dickson** finished sixth in the men's 110 meter hurdles final on Friday with a time of 13.71 to earn another three points.

Dickson (4x100) and Stewart (4x400) were also part of Aggie relay teams that made the finals of their respective races and garnered another eight points.

Dickson joined junior **Akeem Sirleaf**, senior **Rodney Rowe** and sophomore **Malcolm Croom-McFadden** in the 4x100 meter relay final finishing fifth (four points) in a time of 38.59 seconds.

Stewart and Sirleaf were on the 4x400 relay team along with freshman **Akeem Lindo** and junior **Kermani Mighty** that also finished fifth in a time of 3:01:50 garnering another four points.

But the Aggies weren't the only HBCU performers to make a strong showing.

**Coppin State** sprinter **Joseph Amoah** claimed two all-American (top eight) finishes and scored four points for the Eagles on Friday. The four points tied CSU with four others in 46th place. Amoah finished eighth in the men's 100 meters with a time of 10.22. In the 200 meters final, Amoah was clocked at 20.19 and finished sixth.

On the women's side, **Norfolk State's Kiara Grant** was sixth in the 100 meters with a Spartan- and Jamaican-record 11.04-second finish to earn three points for the Spartans. NSU tied with four others in 57th place among the women's teams.

On Wednesday, **Alabama State's Jamie Brown** finished sixth in the men's long jump final with a leap of 7.88 meters (25-10¼) to earn the Hornets three points and a tie for 50th place among the men.

N. C. A&T Sports Information contributed to this story.

## HBCU TEAM FINISHES AT 2019 NCAA DIV. I TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

MEN		WOMEN	
1 Texas Tech	60	1 Arkansas 64	
2 Florida	50	2 USC	57
3 Houston	40	3 LSU	43
4 Georgia	32.5	4 Texas A&M	38
5 Stanford	32	5 Oregon	34
6 Texas A&M	29	6 Florida	32
7 LSU	28	7 Alabama	29
8 BYU	27	8 New Mexico	27
9 Texas	26	9 Colorado	24
10 Alabama	25	10 Texas	20
11 Miss State	24	10 South Carolina	20
12 South Carolina	23	10 Stanford	20
12 Oregon	23	10 Florida State	20
14 Kansas	21	14 Kentucky	19.5
15 N. Carolina A&T	19	15 N. Carolina A&T	19
T46 Coppin State	4	T57 Norfolk State	3
T50 Alabama State	3		

## UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS



Maldonado



Joyce



Larson

## 7 HBCU PRODUCTS IN MLB DRAFT:

A total of seven HBCU players were selected in last week's 2019 Major League Baseball (MLB) Draft.

Leading the way was **Bethune-Cookman** pitcher **Anthony Maldonado**, who was selected in the 11th round by the Miami Marlins. Maldonado was named Second Team All-MEAC this past season after tying for the league lead with 97 strikeouts. Over his three seasons as a starter, he earned three all-conference honors and was the 2018 MEAC Pitcher of the Year. He is the first Wildcat drafted since shortstop **Demetrius Sims** was also picked by the Marlins in the 14th round of the 2017 MLB Draft.

**North Carolina Central** infielder **Corey Joyce**, the two-time reigning MEAC Player of the Year, went in the 12th round to the Detroit Tigers. Joyce was named MEAC Rookie of the Year in 2017 as well as a Collegiate Baseball Freshman All-American. He followed that with back-to-back MEAC Player of the Year campaigns in 2018 and 2019, and was the first Eagle to win the award.

He is the second NCCU player ever to be drafted, following **Andrew Vernon** in 2016 -- who went to the Milwaukee Brewers in the 28th round.

**Garrett Lawson** of **Delaware State**, the 2019 MEAC Pitcher of the Year, went in the 19th round to the Los Angeles Angels. Lawson was 7-3 with a MEAC-best 1.85 ERA during the 2019 regular season. He also led the league with a .196 opponent batting average and tied for the conference high with 97 strikeouts, averaging 11.2 strikeouts per nine innings.

**Southern** centerfielder **Javeyan Williams** went to San Francisco in the 22nd round, 65th overall. Williams hit .404 and swiped 27 bases in 28 attempts to lead the Jaguars to this year's SWAC title.

**Winston-Salem State** had a player selected for the second straight season as sophomore outfielder **E. P. Reese** was taken by the Houston Astros in the 25th round, 766th overall. Reese led the Rams hitting .408 with 10 doubles, two triples and four home runs. Rams centerfielder went in last year's draft.

**North Carolina A&T State** bullpen ace **Leon Hunter** went in the 35th round to the Texas Rangers. He was 3-1 this past season for the Aggies with an ERA under three and 31 strikeouts in 31.1 innings pitched. He also had 10 saves on the season.

Hunter is the first Aggie to be drafted since the Atlanta Braves took **Cutter Dyals** -- also a reliever -- in 2017.

The Los Angeles Dodgers took **Savannah State** outfielder **Justin Washington** in the 35th round, making him the first Tiger taken in the MLB Draft since pitcher **Kyle McGowin** was taken in 2013 by the Washington Nationals in the fifth round. McGowin is currently on the Nationals' big-league roster.

## HBCU BASEBALL PLAYERS SELECTED IN THE 2019 MLB DRAFT

NAME / SCHOOL	ROUND / PICK	BY
Anthony Maldonado, BCU	11 / 321	Miami Marlins
Corey Joyce, NCCU	12 / 352	Detroit Tigers
Garrett Lawson, DELST	19 / 571	LA Angels
Javeyan Williams, SOU	22 / 656	SF Giants
E. P. Reese, WSSU	25 / 766	Houston Astros
Leon Hunter, NC A&T	35 / 1,045	Texas Rangers
Justin Washington, SAVST	35 / 1,061	LA Dodgers

# BCSP Notes

## Alabama State captures sixth consecutive SWAC Commissioner's Cup

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. | **Alabama State University** used 10 **Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC)** championships to capture their sixth consecutive **James Frank Commissioner's Cup**, awarded by the conference office Thursday at the annual conference meetings.

"This award is a testament to the hard work put in by our student-athletes and coaches," Alabama State University Director of Intercollegiate Athletics **Jennifer Lynne Williams** said.

"Our teams compete at a high level year-round, and it starts in the offseason with their training. To win six consecutive Commissioner's Cups is amazing, but to do it with 10 conference championships and a pair of conference runner-up finishes is even more amazing. The groundwork was laid by those that came before us, and to be able to look back over the last six years and have 50 conference championships over that time is a blessing."

Alabama State also captured the **Sadie Magee/Barbara Jacket Award** for the seventh consecutive year as the top female athletic department, and tied with **Prairie View A&M** for the **C.D. Henry Award** on the men's side.

"The Southwestern Athletic Conference would like to congratulate Alabama State University and Prairie View A&M University for their outstanding athletic seasons," said SWAC Commissioner **Dr. Charles McClelland**.

"This past year, both programs exemplified excellence in the field of athletics in a wide variety of sport. We're extremely pleased to be able to recognize the achievements and hard work of the student-athletes and athletic support staffs at both institutions with the crowning of the Magee/Jacket and James Frank Commissioner's Cup awards for Alabama State, and the C.D. Henry Award for Alabama State and Prairie View A&M."

Alabama State was able to pull away in the Commissioner's Cup standings during the spring, winning six of a possible eight conference championships. In the two championships that the Hornets weren't able to grab in the spring, they finished second in those respective sports to finish four points shy of the maximum points available. The Hornets captured championships in tennis (men and women), outdoor track and field (men and women), women's golf and softball.

Meanwhile, the Hornets started the year with championships in cross country (women) and volleyball, followed by indoor track and field (men and women). The six consecutive cups ties for the best mark in the history of the conference with **Southern University** winning the first six beginning in 1992.

## MAGEE / JACKET AWARD

The Lady Hornets totaled 109.5 points to beat out second-place finisher Prairie View A&M (89.5 points).

Alabama State captured seven team titles, including women's cross country, volleyball, indoor track and field, outdoor track and field, golf, tennis and softball.

Rounding out the standings are Texas Southern (71), Southern (67), Grambling State (61.5), Jackson State (57), Alabama A&M (51), Arkansas-Pine Bluff (38.5), Alcorn State (38), and Mississippi Valley State (28).

The Magee/Jacket Award is presented to the top women's athletic program in the SWAC. It is named after former Jackson State women's basketball coach **Sadie Magee** and former Prairie View A&M track and field coach **Barbara Jacket**.



SWAC Photo

**HORNETS TAKE CUP, AGAIN!** (L-R) Alabama State Senior Associate Athletics Director Shay Terrell, ASU AD Jenifer Williams and SWAC Commissioner Charles McClelland at awarding of Commissioner's Cup.

Magee was the first women's basketball coach at Jackson State, compiling four SWAC regular season titles and three-straight National Association of Women's Sports National Championships from 1978-1980.

Jacket led the Prairie View A&M to eight cross country, nine indoor and five outdoors SWAC titles from 1965 to 1991. She was also the head coach of the 1992 U.S. Women's Olympic Track team that brought home four gold medals, three silver medals and three bronze medals from Barcelona, Spain.

## C. D. HENRY AWARD

Prairie View A&M (72), and Alabama State (72 points) each claimed a share of the league's men's all-sports award finishing in a tie.

PVA&M captured team championships in men's basketball and men's golf. PVAMU claimed back-to-back golf titles and ended a two-decade long drought by claiming the 2019 SWAC Tournament title in men's basketball.

Alabama State claimed three men's titles during the year winning championships in indoor track and field, outdoor track and field and tennis.

Finishing in third through tenth, respectively, were Arkansas-Pine Bluff (59), Jackson State (57), Texas Southern (50.5), Southern (46.5), Grambling State (41.5), Alcorn State (36.5), Mississippi Valley State (27), and Alabama A&M (24).

The Henry Award is presented to the top men's athletic program in the SWAC. The award is named for C. D. Henry, former Grambling State chairman of the College of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Department from 1958-74, as well as serving as the executive officer and secretary-statistician for the SWAC in 1968-73.

Henry became the first African American assistant commissioner of any conference office when he joined the Big Ten Conference in June of 1974.

## JAMES FRANK COMMISSIONER'S CUP

With 109 points from the Magee/Jacket Award and 73 from the Henry Award standings, ASU took first place with 182 total points. Prairie View A&M finished second with a combined 165 points.

Texas Southern finished third with 121.5 total points, and Jackson State tallied 114 total points to earn fourth place. Southern (113.5), Grambling State (103), Arkansas-Pine Bluff (97.5), Alabama A&M (75), Alcorn State (74.5) and Mississippi Valley State (55) round out the final standings.

The Commissioner's Cup, named for former league commissioner James Frank who led the SWAC from 1983 through 1998, is awarded to the university compiling the highest combined total of men's and women's all-sport points.