

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



NCAA Photo

DRAFTIN' OFF THE HBCUs

HBCU ALUMS SIRE TOP NBA PICKS; HINTON INKS DEAL WITH NY KNICKS; NORFOLK STATE EXTENDS JONES

ALL IN THE FAMILY: Former Claffin hoopster, Jamie "Tee" Morant, sees his son Ja go second to Memphis in the NBA Draft.

Top NBA Draftees have HBCU roots

By **Steven J. Gaither**
HBCU Gameday

Zion Williamson and Ja Morant did not go to HBCUs, but their parents did, and they praised them for their impact.

Williamson and Morant both became instant millionaires on Thursday night as they were the top two picks of the NBA Draft.

Williamson, as expected, was selected first overall by the New Orleans Pelicans while Morant went second overall to the Memphis Grizzlies. While neither player suited up for an HBCU, both have HBCU sports ties.

Williamson's parents both went to **Livingstone College** in the late 1990s. His father, **Lateef**, played football while his mother **Sharonda** ran track. Zion, in fact, was born in Salisbury where Livingstone is located. Williamson's mother took the stage with him on Thursday night for an emotional and memorable moment for anyone who watched the draft.

"My mom sacrificed a lot for me. I wouldn't be here without my mom," said Zion. "She did everything for me. I just want to thank her."

Morant's father, **Jamie "Tee" Morant**, played high school basketball with Ray Allen

Zion Williamson and Ja Morant both sons of HBCU athletes



IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Zion Williamson (r.) and his mom Sharonda Anderson (l.), a former track athlete at Livingstone, join hands after the New Orleans Pelicans selected him first in the NBA Draft.

in South Carolina. Jamie went on to play his college ball at **Claffin University**, then of the **SIAC** and now of the **CIAA**, before starting a pro career overseas. He, too went viral as he showed up to support his son. But it wasn't for what he said as much as the hat he wore.

"He made me who I am today," said Morant of his father.

Obviously neither player followed in their parents' footsteps by attending an HBCU. Williamson was the top player in the class of 2018 from the start and could have attended any college he wanted to, eventually choosing another private school in North Carolina, UNC.

Morant wasn't as highly regarded as Williams, and several of his offers did come from schools in the **MEAC** like **South Carolina State** and **Maryland-Eastern Shore**. He would end up at Murray State where he became a star.

Both Williamson and Morant join a growing number of recent NBA Draft picks whose parents played sports at HBCUs.

Sacramento's **Harry Giles** (20th, 2017) and **Marvin Bagley III** (2nd, 2018) both played for Duke, but their fathers played at **Winston-Salem State** and **North Carolina A&T** respectively.



Jamie Morant

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

JONES EXTENDED AT NORFOLK STATE:

NORFOLK, Va. – **Norfolk State University** Director of Athletics **Marty L. Miller** has announced that men's basketball coach **Robert Jones** has agreed to a contract extension that will keep him at the helm of the program through the 2022-23 season.



Jones

Jones has one year remaining on his current contract, and will receive an additional three years in his new deal.

"Coach Jones has been instrumental in the men's program achieving success both on and off the court," Miller said. "In addition to the NIT berth last season, he has led the team to the **MEAC** tournament championship game two of the last three years.

"The men's basketball program also achieved a perfect 1,000 score (2017-18) in the latest APR report, which reflects the academic success of the men's basketball student-athletes as well as the overall academic accomplishments of the department. They played a significant role in helping the athletics department achieve an overall grade point average of 3.05, the highest academic average for student-athletes in the school's history."

Jones has posted a 109-96 overall record, including a 72-24 mark in MEAC play, in his first six seasons leading the Spartans. NSU won the MEAC regular-season title with a 14-2 league ledger this past season, just the second of its kind in program history. Jones was named the MEAC Coach of the Year and the NABC District 15 Coach of the Year and also won CollegeInsider's Skip Prosser Award, which is presented annually to a Division I coach who not only achieves success on the court but also displays moral integrity off of it.

The year culminated in the program's second-ever NIT berth. The Spartans pulled off one of the biggest upsets in NIT history when, as the No. 8 seed, they knocked off No. 1 seed Alabama 80-79 on the road. The NIT appearance was the fifth postseason appearance in Jones' six years as head coach, which also includes four CollegeInsider Tournament (CIT) berths from 2014-17.

BAILEY TO LEAD CAU WOMEN'S HOOPS:

ATLANTA, GA – June 19, 2019 – **Clark Atlanta University** Athletics Director **J. Lin Dawson** has announced the promotion of **Tony Bailey** to head coach of the Lady Panthers women's basketball team. Bailey had been an assistant coach for the past two seasons.



Bailey

Bailey, a native of Villa Rica, Ga., was the assistant to **Yolanda Moore** during a period where the two led the Lady Panthers to the **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference** title and an NCAA Division II Women's Basketball Tournament appearance. Before coming to Clark Atlanta, Bailey spent three seasons as an assistant women's basketball coach at the University of West Georgia.

"During the last two years, I had the opportunity to work with and observe Coach Bailey in a variety of situations," Dawson said. "He is conscientious, consistent, passionate, dedicated. I find in him the leadership attributes and behaviors that aligns with three Athletics priorities: 1) winning championships; 2) graduating student-athletes; and 3) developing leaders.

"I look forward to seeing Coach Bailey develop the Lady Panthers women's basketball program into a highly-ranked, nationally-competitive program," he said

BCSP Notes

SWAC announces 2019 ESPN Football Schedule

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.- The **Southwestern Athletic Conference** has announced the upcoming ESPN line-up for the 2019 season highlighted by a total of 13 games that will be featured across ESPN's networks.

"When we began scheduling the upcoming lineup of ESPN games we sought match-ups that would give viewers and the average fan that may not get to attend our games a strong representation of our brand of football," said SWAC Commissioner **Dr. Charles McClelland**.

ESPN's season coverage of the SWAC will begin on Saturday, August 31, with the *Labor Day Classic* as **Prairie View A&M** travels to face rival **Texas Southern** at BBVA Compass Stadium in Houston.

The 2019 edition of the *Celebration Bowl* which features the champions of the **MEAC** and SWAC will once again bring a fitting close to the national broadcast schedule for the league on December 21 at 12:00 pm EST on ABC at the Mercedes Benz Stadium in Atlanta.

DATE - TIME	GAME	NETWORK
8/31 - 5:30p	Prairie View A&M at Texas Southern	ESPN3 (5:30 pm live) ESPNU (*9:30 pm tape)
9/1 - 2p	Bethune-Cookman vs. Jackson State	ESPN2 (2:00 pm live)
9/21 - 5p	Prairie View A&M at Alcorn State	ESPN3 (5:00 pm live) ESPNU (*9:30 pm tape)
9/28 - 6p	Southern at Arkansas-Pine Bluff	ESPN3 (6:00 pm live)
10/5 - 6p	Grambling State at Jackson State	ESPN3 (6:00 pm live)
10/12 - 6p	Prairie View A&M at Southern	ESPN3 (6:00 pm live)
10/19 - 2p	Jackson State at Mississippi Valley State	ESPN3 (2:00 pm live) ESPNU (*12:15 am tape)
10/24 - 6:30p	Jackson State at Prairie View A&M	ESPNU (6:30 pm live)
10/26 - 2:30p	Alabama A&M vs. Alabama State	ESPN3 (2:30 pm live) ESPNU (*9:30 pm tape)
11/2 - 4p	Alabama A&M at Southern	ESPN3 (4:00 pm live)
11/9 - 2p	Alcorn State at Grambling State	ESPN3 (2:00 pm live) ESPNU (*9:30 pm tape)
11/23 - 2p	Alcorn State at Jackson State	ESPN3 (2:00 pm live)
12/7 - 3p	2019 SWAC Football Championship	ESPNU (3:00 pm live)

* ESPNU tape delay times are subject to change
All games will be available on the ESPN App

Albany State Athletics Director resigns

ALBANY, Ga. – **Albany State University** (ASU) has announced that **Sherie Gordon**, Director of Athletics, has accepted a new job opportunity with another institution. The transition is effective June 30.



Gordon

"Sherie has been an outstanding leader of ASU Athletics," said President **Marion Ross Fedrick**. "During her tenure, she has led efforts to improve our student athletes experience, enhance university community engagement efforts and increase our number of championships. We are all deeply grateful for her commitment

Hinton inks NY Knicks free agent deal

NEW YORK, N.Y. – **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association** (CIAA) Basketball Player of the Year, 6-5 guard **Amir Hinton** of **Shaw University**, was signed to an undrafted free agent contract by the New York Knicks on Friday, June 21.

The news comes less than 24 hours after the June 20, 2019 NBA draft was completed in Brooklyn, N.Y.

His next stop will be the NBA Summer League in Las Vegas, Friday, July 5 thru Monday July 15 at the Thomas & Mack Center. The Knicks and Hinton open play on July 5 against the New Orleans Pelicans, who took Duke's Zion Williamson with the top pick in the draft. That game is scheduled to be broadcast on ESPN at 9:30 p.m. ET.

"I'll be in Vegas that whole time," Hinton told **Donald Hunt** of his hometown *Philadelphia Tribune*. "I'll be playing with the Knicks this summer. I'm excited. I can't put it into words. My family is so excited. They're very happy for me."

In his only season at Shaw after transferring from Lock Haven University, Hinton led the CIAA and all NCAA Div. II scorers at 29.4 points per game while averaging 4.9 rebounds, 4.0 assists and



AMIR HINTON

2.3 steals and shooting .894 from the free throw line.

He also scored a season-high 52 points against Tampa and scored over 40 points at least four times.

Hinton was also named all-CIAA, all-CIAA Tournament, a first team National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) All American and a first-teamer on the All-Atlantic Region DII Conference Commissioners Association (D2CCA). Hinton had worked out for several teams during the NBA pre-draft process.

He reportedly performed well as an invitee to the NBA G-League Elite Mini Camp but was not one of the 11 invited to the NBA Draft Combine in Chicago. Five players

to building a program that bolsters the success of our student-athletes now and in the future."

"We will forever cherish our time at Albany State University and in Albany," Gordon said. "I want to thank ASU for giving me the opportunity to be a Golden Ram in 2016."

During Gordon's time at ASU, she contributed to the growth of the University in several ways. The academic performance of student-athletes increased from an average GPA of 2.5 in 2016 to the current 2.9 average, and student-athletes have gained over 2,400 hours of service. Under Gordon's leadership, the institution earned four SIAC Commissioner's Cups, three NCAA Individual National Championships, one HBCU National Championship and eight division titles.

With Gordon's departure, **Jackie Nicholson**, Associate Athletics Director for Academics and Compliance/Senior Woman Administrator, will serve as the interim Director of Athletics. A nationwide search for the new Director of Athletics will begin this summer.

Lincoln (Mo.), N. C. A&T and Xavier lead HBCUs in final Learfield Directors' Cup standings

CLEVELAND - Bolstered by a national championship in women's outdoor track & field, and four total top-10 finishes at NCAA Division II championships this year, **Lincoln (Mo) University** finished 49th out of 268 programs in the final 2018-19 *Learfield IMG College Directors' Cup* NCAA Division II standings, best among HBCUs.

The LU women's track & field team won its second-consecutive NCAA Division II Outdoor Track & Field Championship this spring and took third at the NCAA Division II Indoor Track & Field Championship, while the Blue Tiger men's track & field program placed fifth during the indoor season and seventh during the outdoor campaign. Lincoln finished the year with 330.5 points, collecting 171.25 points during the spring sports season and 159.25 points in the winter.

Points are assigned based upon finishes in NCAA national championship tournaments or events.

Saint Augustine's totaled 278.25 points for its performance in the NCAA Division II Track and Field Championships during the indoor and outdoor seasons, leading CIAA institutions and ranking 73rd overall. **Spring Hill College** led the SIAC with 125 points, ranking 151st overall. **West Virginia State**, a member of the Mountain East Conference, was the top ranked HBCU Division II independent ranking #164 with 114 points.

In Division I, thanks to its strong showing at the track & field nationals, **North Carolina A&T**, a member of the **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference**, was the top ranked HBCU standing 85th with 234.75 points. **Alabama State** led the SWAC institutions ranking #124 with 122 points.

Xavier University of Louisiana topped NAIA HBCUs ranking 43rd with 341.50 points

that performed at the G-League Draft, 42nd overall, by the Milwaukee Bucks. He went on to play

nine years in the league with eight different teams distinguishing himself as a dangerous scorer. Murray finished his NBA career averaging just under 10 points per game.

He played an additional four years overseas finishing his career with Moutteah Tripoli of the Lebanese Basketball League.

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Murray

Update on Morgan State's Tiwan Kendley

The 6-5 former high scoring **Morgan State** guard played 22 games with two teams in the NBA G-League last season.

After signing a free agent contract with the Washington Wizards last season and playing on the Wizards Summer League team, Kendley played 18 games for the Capital City Go Gos, the Wizards G-League team, averaging 23.6 minutes and 11.7 points per game on 39.8% shooting from the field. He hit on 25.0% 3-pointers and 66.0% of his free throws.

He was traded by the Go Gos to the Windy City Bulls, the Chicago Bulls G-League affiliate, and played just four games, averaging 2.5 points per game. On the season, he played a total of 22 games averaging 10.0 points on 38.6% shooting.

After his stint with Windy City, his rights were owned by the Wizards and has been trailing with the team in Florida.



Kendley

2019 BLACK COLLEGE BASKETBALL HEAD COACHING CHANGES

SCHOOL	FORMER COACH	NEW COACH
WOMEN		
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	Nate Kilbert	Dawn Brown
Clark Atlanta	Yolanda Moore	Tony Bailey
Florida A&M	LeDawn Gibson	Kevin Lynum (interim)
Livingstone	Tiffany Silver	TBD
Texas Southern	Johnetta Hayes-Perry	Cynthia Cooper-Dyke
MEN		
Fayetteville State	Ken Spencer	Luke D'Alessio
Howard	Kevin Nickelberry	Kenneth Blakeney
Langston	Stan Holt	Philip Stitt
Mississippi Valley State	Andre Payne	Lindsey Hunter
Maryland Eastern Shore	Clifford Reed (int.)	Jason Crafton
Morgan State	Todd Bozeman	Kevin Broadus
Tuskegee	Jerry Dunn	TBD