



SIAC Graphic

TIME TO START OVER

ALL FOUR FOOTBALL MEDIA EVENTS ON TAP IN JULY; NEW COACHES, ADS, CONTRACT EXTENSIONS, TOURS

FOOTBALL, ALREADY?: SIAC to kick off preseason football events with Media Day at College Football Hall of Fame on July 9.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

ALBANY STATE NAMES INTERIM AD:

ALBANY, GA - **Jacqueline Nicholson**, who has spent the last two years at **Albany State University** as the Associate Athletics Director for Academics, Compliance and Student-Athlete Development and Senior Woman Administrator has been named Interim Director of Athletics.



Nicholson

Nicholson took over for **Sherie Gordon**, effective July 1.

Nicholson joined ASU athletics in January 2017 as the Associate Athletics Director for Academics, Compliance and Student-Athlete Development and Senior Woman Administrator.

Nicholson came to ASU after a stint at the University of Texas at San Antonio. She started her tenure in October 2015, serving as the Assistant Athletics Director for Academics. At UTSA, Nicholson was the academic advisor for men's basketball, men's cross country/track & field and women's cross country/track & field. She also assisted with the input of academic data for all sports (17) and developed a summer bridge program for incoming athletes.

Before going to UTSA, Nicholson was Assistant Athletics Director for Student-Athlete Academic Services at **Norfolk State University**. During her seven-year tenure at NSU, Nicholson was in charge of providing academic support, monitoring eligibility for incoming student-athletes, and assisting with compliance, development and strategic planning. She was also the Athletics Academic Coordinator at Norfolk State for two years prior to being named the Assistant Athletics Director. Nicholson also served as the advisor for several programs, including the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and Chi Alpha Sigma National Honor Society.

Nicholson is a graduate of Virginia Tech where she was a four-year letter winner on the women's track & field team. She completed her Bachelor of Science degree in Human Services in 2005 and obtained her Masters from Virginia Tech in Higher Education and Student Affairs.

She currently serves as the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II South Regional Representative for Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field. Nicholson is also a member of the National Association of Academic Advisors for Athletics, Women Leaders in College Sports and the National Academic Advising Association.

FRANQUET TO LEAD DSU SOFTBALL:

DOVER, DEL - **Delaware State University** Director of Athletics **Dr. D. Scott Gines** has announced the appointment of **Jeffrey S. Franquet** as the new head coach of the Hornets' softball program, effective July 8.



Franquet

"I am pleased to welcome Jeff Franquet and his family to Hornet Athletics," said Gines. "We conducted an experienced, deep search, and Jeff rose to the surface as a great fit for DSU softball."

Franquet has 14 years of collegiate head coach experience, highlighted by a historic four-year run at Central Connecticut University of the Div. I Northeast Conference, where he is the school's all-time leader with 115 wins.

After inheriting a team that posted nine wins the previous season in 2009, he led the Blue Devils to school record totals in each of the next four years.

In his first season at CCSU in 2010, Franquet's squad tallied a school-record 19 wins. The Blue Devils also set team records with 29 and 31 wins, respectively, the next two years.

In 2013, Franquet's squad again made history by posting 36 wins, in addition to capturing the team's first-ever Northeast Conference title and NCAA Tournament berth.

During the NCAA Tournament appearance, the Blue Devils put up a good fight before falling to nationally-ranked LSU 3-2 in the opening game. Central Connecticut bounced back to defeat Northwestern State 9-1 to record the team's first NCAA Tournament victory, but fell again to LSU to end the historic season.

Franquet replaces **Amber Jackson** as Delaware State's head softball coach. Jackson resigned after five seasons with the Hornets to serve as a teacher in Africa.

Hoops Happenings

Wester new Livingstone women's hoops coach

After serving as the as the assistant women's basketball coach at **Virginia State University** since August 2006, **Chiante Wester** is moving south to become head coach of the **Livingstone College** Lady Blue Bears basketball team.

Wester

"It is bittersweet leaving Virginia State after 13 seasons, but I am excited to show what I've learned from VSU," said Wester.

Wester is no stranger to the **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA)**, entering the CIAA in 2000 as a player at **Shaw University**, to transitioning to an assistant coach at VSU and now taking over as the head coach at Livingstone.

In her tenure at VSU, Wester contributed to five regular-season division championships, four NCAA appearances and a CIAA Championship while on the Trojans coaching staff. Alongside assisting in amassing over 200 wins at VSU, Wester also mentored several all-conference players, league players of the year, a first ever VSU HBCU/CIAA Player of the Year and Academic All-Americans.

Wester worked primarily with the guards in her role at VSU and assisted on the recruiting trail. Along with coordinating and directing community relations and outreach projects for the women's basketball team, Wester helped facilitate community service projects with VSU's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC).

Staying true to the VSU Athletics mission of developing academic and athletic champions, Wester oversaw the academic study hall and academic progress of the student-athletes within the women's basketball program.

In his first season as head coach, Funchess guided the women's basketball team to 20-12 record and led Southern to the program's third **Southwestern Athletic Conference** regular season title. Southern captured the first SWAC tournament championship in a decade and sent Funchess, a Mississippi native, and the Jaguars to Starkville for the NCAA Women's Tournament, the fifth appearance in program history.

Funchess, who previously spent 13 seasons as the Jaguars top assistant coach, earned SWAC Coach of the Year Award and received the WBCA Maggie Dixon Division I Rookie Coach of the Year Award during the Women's Final Four in Tampa in April.

Jackson ushered in a new era in Southern University baseball, producing a 23-game turnaround in the win column after battling through a 9-win season in 2018.

Southern opened the 2019 season going undefeated in the **Andre Dawson Classic** before reeling off 17 conference wins and a signature midweek win over nationally-ranked LSU.

The Jaguars punctuated their remarkable turnaround with a dominant 15-0 win over SWAC East Champion **Alabama State** and received the league automatic bid to the NCAA Baseball Starkville Regional.

Howard headed to Spain

WASHINGTON - First-year head coach **Kenneth Blakeney** and the **Howard University** men's basketball team will head to Europe for a Summer Tour in Spain this August. The tour runs August 9-18 in Barcelona and Valencia, featuring team-bonding activities throughout the trip while playing three competitive contests.

"I love that our student-athletes have this chance to represent Howard University on a global stage in Spain," said Blakeney. "This trip will be a great educational, cultural, team and basketball experience that our guys will remember for the rest of their lives."

The tour begins in Barcelona where they will take a tour of the famous Camp Nou Stadium, home of FC Barcelona, followed by a bike tour through the city and cruise on the Mediterranean Sea. Howard wraps up its stay with a pair of games and a tour of the Temple Expiatori de la Sagrada Família, a large unfinished Roman Catholic church in Barcelona, built in 1882.

Midway through the tour, Coach Blakeney's squad journeys to Valencia for its final contest. The city is known for its arts and sciences with futuristic structures including a planetarium, an oceanarium and an interactive museum.

Per NCAA Bylaws, Howard may begin training for Spain as early as Tuesday, July 30.

Vickers extended at NSU

NORFOLK, Va. - **Norfolk State** Director of Athletics **Marty L. Miller** has locked in his basketball coaches to contract extensions.

The Spartans announced last week a contract extension for women's head basketball coach **Larry Vickers**.

Just over a week earlier, NSU announced that men's basketball coach **Robert Jones** had agreed to a contract extension that would keep him at the helm of the program through the 2022-23 season.

Vickers has agreed to an extension that will keep him running the Lady Spartans' program for the same period as Jones (2022-2023)

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

"Coach Vickers has done an excellent job with improving the overall performance of the women's basketball team," Miller said. "His success in elevating the program to a contender for the conference championship in less than three years reflects his abilities as a coach and teacher."

Vickers has presided over a resurgence for the women's basketball program. After taking over a winless team midway through the 2015-16 season, he has compiled a 53-49 record leading the Spartan women, including a 33-25 conference record. NSU has finished .500 or better overall in each of his three full seasons leading the program, including back-to-back winning seasons in 2017-18 and 2018-19.

In 2017-18, NSU went 18-11 overall, the program's first winning season since 2001-02 and the third-most wins in NSU's Division I history. In 2018-19, the Spartans were 17-15 overall and made the program's first MEAC tournament championship game appearance since 2005.

In addition, NSU has had a winning MEAC record during each his first three full years with the program, the first such three-year streak since joining the league in 1997.

Three of the program's four winning MEAC seasons since 2001-02 have come under Vickers. During those three seasons combined, the Spartans have had the league's top scoring defense.



Vickers

Southern extends Funchess, Jackson

NEW ORLEANS -- The **Southern University** Board of Supervisors has approved the contract extensions for Women's Basketball Head Coach **Carlos Funchess** and Baseball Head Coach **Kerrick Jackson**.

Funchess and Jackson received extensions through the 2023 seasons, along with additional compensation to their respective base salaries.

Jackson's contract includes a two-year extension through the 2022 season with an option year in 2023.

UPCOMING 2019 BLACK COLLEGE PRESEASON FOOTBALL MEDIA DAYS

SIAC

SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE
Tuesday, July 9 - 9 a.m.
College Football Hall of Fame
Atlanta, GA



This event will feature head football coaches and two student-athletes from each team for interviews and 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.

Additionally, players, coaches, and invited guests will have an interactive experience after the event with a self-guided tour of the Hall.

SWAC

SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE
Tuesday, July 16 - 10 a.m.
Westin Hotel - Birmingham
Birmingham, AL



All ten SWAC head football coaches and two student-athletes from each team will be in attendance to address the media about the upcoming 2019 football season.

One-on-one interviews with coaches and student-athletes will begin at 10:00 a.m.

The predicted order of finish and preseason all-SWAC teams will also be announced.

CIAA

CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
Thursday, July 18 - 9 a.m.
Holiday Inn - Valley View
Roanoke, VA



Each of the CIAA's twelve head football coaches and a returning player from each school will discuss the outlook of their respective programs and expectations for the upcoming season.

The CIAA preseason football all-conference team along with the predicted order of finish and television schedule for the 2019 season will be released. It will conclude with remarks from CIAA Commissioner Jacqie McWilliams.

MEAC

MID-EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE
Friday, July 26 - 9 a.m.
Hilton Norfolk - The Main
Norfolk, VA



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 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 Fri., July 19 in order to obtain the special rate.

BCSP Notes

Alcorn State to face Auburn in 2020 opener

Alcorn State will start the 2020 season with a hefty payday but they'll have to bring their proverbial lunch pail. The Braves will travel to Auburn University on September 5, for a game that will net them a reported \$475,000. The news was first reported by FBSchedules.com.

According to the report, the game contract also stipulates that Alcorn State's band, "Sounds of Dyn-O-mite" will be allotted up to 419 tickets if they attend.

This will be the first meeting ever between Alcorn State and Auburn in football. The game opened up on the schedule after **Alabama A&M** canceled its match-up with Auburn to take a game at Mississippi State instead on Nov. 21 in Starkville. That will be the first game ever between MSU and Alabama A&M.

Alcorn State was supposed to open the season at Mississippi State on September 5, but that game was cancelled back in January. Alcorn's game with MSU has been pushed back to the 2025 season.

Delaware, Del State ink six-year football deal

The University of Delaware and **Delaware State University** have signed a six-year deal for a football series beginning in 2024 that is dubbed the *First State Showdown*. Included in the deal will be the first-ever trip to Dover for the Blue Hens, which will occur twice during the series.

"We are excited to have the opportunity to bring our two state institutions together. Both of these Universities have outstanding people who make an impact across the state," said University of Delaware Director of Intercollegiate Athletics and Recreation Services Chrissi Rawak said. "This series will be an opportunity for many folks in this state to show off their pride for their respective schools."

"This football series agreement provides another opportunity for Delaware's major public Universities to engage while also bringing together



BCSIDA Photo

The Black College Sports Information Directors' Association held its annual meeting in June at the Orlando World Center Marriott Hotel. Nearly 40 persons representing both Predominantly White Institutions and Historically Black Colleges and Universities gathered to strategize influencing the diversity and inclusion efforts of the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). Representation came from the NCAA, conference offices and individual schools at all levels (Div 1, II, III & NAIA). Oralia Washington, seated second from the left, is the new SID at Johnson C. Smith.

state and local officials, alumni and fans of each school, constituents and our communities," said Delaware State Director of Athletics **Dr. D. Scott Gines**. "We are excited to be a part of this showcase for our great institutions and the First State."

The Blue Hens and Hornets will square off in 2019 and 2020, which are separate from this six-year contract. The series will begin with back-to-back games in Dover in 2024 and 2025, followed by dates at Delaware Stadium in 2026, 2027 and 2029. The host of the sixth game of the contract will be determined by the first five meetings.

Between the two schools, nearly 50 student-athletes that are Delaware natives will be suited up for the 2019 contest.

UD and Delaware State have met eight previous times, the last time coming in 2017. Del State is 0-8 since the series began in 2007.