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COUNTDOWN TO KICKOFF CAN BEGIN

SAM WASHINGTON: His NC A&T Aggies picked to three-peat in Mid Eastern Athletic Conference football.

MEAC ENDS PRESEASON EVENTS; NC A&T HOSTING NATIONAL EVENT, MAKING HEADLINES

NC A&T clear choice for 3-peat in MEAC

LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

NORFOLK, Va. – Two-time defending champion **North Carolina A&T** placed 11 players on the three preseason all-conference teams and was picked to win its third straight **Mid Eastern Athletic Conference** title at the league's 2019 Football Media Day here at the Hilton Norfolk The Main Hotel.

A&T, who had four first team selectees, received 12 first-place votes from the conference's nine head coaches and sports information directors to easily outdistance second choice **Bethune-Cookman** who also had 11 players on the preseason teams including a league-best six first teamers. B-CU got one first-place vote.

Second-year A&T head coach **Sam Washington** enters this season without quarterback **Lamar Raynard**, who finished his career with a 30-1 record as a starter, as the school's all-time leading passer and with back-to-back MEAC titles and Celebration Bowl wins.

Longtime back-up **Kylil Carter**, a graduate, will get the first shot at replacing Raynard but will be challenged by East Carolina transfer **Kingsley Ifedi** and redshirt freshman **Khalil Gilliam**.

"There will be healthy competition at quarterback but Carter, he's the guy," said Washington, who noted that Carter is still rehabbing from an injury last season. "They are going to have to take it from him. He looks good and he can really spin the ball."

Florida A&M was the third choice and received two first-place votes. **Howard** was picked fourth. **North Carolina Central** (5th), **Norfolk State** (7th) and **Morgan State** (8th), also received first-place votes. Florida A&M is on probation this season and is not eligible for the conference title or postseason play.

The event also featured the debut of three new head coaches in Howard's **Ron Prince**, Morgan State's **Tyrone Wheatley** and North Carolina Central's **Trei Oliver**. With their addition, six of the nine MEAC head coaches are in either their first or second year.

South Carolina State head coach **Oliver "Buddy" Pough** is the dean of league coaches entering his 18th year at the helm of the Bulldogs' program. B-CU's **Terry Sims** is in his fifth



DelState's Cavicante



Howard's Anthony

year as is **Norfolk State's Latrell Scott**.

Howard junior quarterback **Caylin Newton** was selected as the Preseason Offensive Player of the Year, while Delaware State junior linebacker **Brian Cavicante** was selected as Preseason Defensive Player of the Year. Cavicante was present for the media event but Newton was not.

After winning the 2017 MEAC Rookie of the Year award, Newton ended his sophomore campaign ranked among the nation's leaders in several categories, including passing yards per completion (1st/16.85) and total offense (7th/313.3) en route to earning the 2018 MEAC Offensive Player of the Year honor. Newton completed his sophomore campaign as the MEAC's top passer with 2,629 yards and 22 touchdowns in 10 games.

Newton will enter the 2019 season with three other skill position teammates named to the first team - senior wide receivers **Jequez Ezzard** and **Kyle Anthony** and sophomore running back **Dedrick Parsons**.

Cavicante was a 2018 All-MEAC First Team selection and finished second in the league in total tackles with 89. He was third in the MEAC in tackles per game (8.1), second with 17 tackles for loss and tied for third with 50 unassisted tackles.

2019 MEAC PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1. North Carolina A&T State (12)
2. Bethune-Cookman (1)
3. Florida A&M (2)
4. Howard
5. North Carolina Central (1)
6. South Carolina State
7. Norfolk State (1)
8. Morgan State (1)
9. Delaware State

2019 MEAC FOOTBALL ALL-CONFERENCE PRESEASON TEAMS

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

Caylin Newton, Jr., QB, Howard

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

Brian Cavicante, Jr., LB, Delaware State

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE

QB - Caylin Newton, Jr., HOW; **RB** - Isaiah Totten r-Jr., NCCU; **Dedrick Parson**, r-So., HOW; **WR** - Jequez Ezzard, Sr., HOW; **Kyle Anthony**, Sr., HOW; **TE** - Xavier Gravette, So., MSU; **C** - L'Dre Barnes, Jr., BCU; **OL** - Alex Taylor, r-Sr., SCSU; **Marcus Pettiford**, r-Sr., NCA&T; **Kaiden Crawford**, Sr., DSU; **Dontae Keys**, r-Jr., NCA&T

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE

DL - Marques Ford, r-Sr., BCU; **Justin Cates**, Gr., NCA&T; **Darius Royster**, r-Sr., NCCU; **Kawuan Cox**, Sr., NCCU; **LB** - Brian Cavicante, Jr., DSU; **Marquis Hendrix**, r-Sr., BCU; **Rico Kennedy**, r-Sr., MSU; **DB** - Trevor Merritt, Sr., BSU; **Tydarus Peters**, Sr., BCU; **Franklin McCain III**, r-Jr., NCA&T; **Jahad Neibauer**, Sr., DSU; **PK** - Yahia Aly, Gr., FAMU; **P** - Chris Faddoul, Jr., FAMU; **RS** - Jimmie Robinson, r-Sr., BCU

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

QB - Ryan Stanley, r-Sr., FAMU; **RB** - Jah-Maine Martin, r-Jr., NCA&T; **Deshawn Smith**, Sr., FAMU; **WR** - Elijah Bell, Sr., NCA&T; **Xavier Smith**, So., FAMU; **TE** - Malik Hyatt, So., HOW; **C** - Mike Terry, Jr., SCSU; **OL** - Kenneth Kirby, Jr., NSU; **Andrew Dale**, r-Jr., NCCU; **Stefan Touani**, Jr., MSU; **Cedric Jackson**, r-So., BCU;

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

DL - Marcello Allison, Sr., HOW; **Zamon Robinson**, So., HOW; **Christian Johnson**, Sr., DSU; **Tyrell Goodwin**, r-Sr., SCSU; **Paul Mckeiver**, r-Sr., SCSU; **LB** - Nigel Chavis, Sr., NSU; **Ian McBorough**, Sr., MSU; **Antoine Wilder**, r-Sr., NCA&T; **DB** - **Terry Jefferson**, Gr., FAMU; **Donte Small**, Jr., MSU; **Tye Freeland**, Jr., HOW; **Bobby Price**, Sr., NSU; **Nhyre Quinerly** Sr., NSU; **PK** - Jose Romo-Martinez, r-Jr., DSU; **P** - Fidel Romo-Martinez, Sr., DSU

THIRD TEAM OFFENSE

QB - **Tyrece Nick**, Jr., SCSU; **Akevious Williams**, Gr., BCU; **RB** - Bishop Bonnette, Jr., FAMU; **Josh Chase**, Sr., MSU; **Aaron Savage**, Sr., NSU; **WR** - Chad Hunter, Jr., FAMU; **Zachary Leslie**, r-Jr., NCA&T; **TE** - **Isiah Williams**, Sr., DSU; **Anthony Williams**, Jr., NSU; **C** - **Somadina Okezie-Okeke**, r-So., NCCU; **OL** - **Nicky Lee**, So., NCCU; **Bruce Triggs**, Jr., MSU; **Nicholas Roos**, r-Sr., BCU; **Jamal Savage**, r-Jr., BCU

THIRD TEAM DEFENSE

DL - **Bruce Johnson**, Gr., SCSU; **Gerome Howard**, Jr., BCU; **Jermaine Williams**, r-Sr., NCA&T; **Demontre Moore**, Sr., FAMU; **Devan Henron**, r-So., MSU; **LB** - **Richie Kittles**, r-Sr., NCA&T; **Elijah Richardson**, Sr., FAMU; **Branden Bailey**, Jr., NCCU; **DB** - **Aaron Walker**, So., HOW; **Devin Smith**, Sr., DSU; **Decobe Durant**, r-So., SCSU; **Dominick Prigg**, r-Sr., MSU; **Herman Jackson**, Jr., So., FAMU; **PK** - **Nicholas O'Shea**, So., MSU; **P** - **Michael Rivers**, So., NCA&T; **RS** - **Dedrick Parson**, r-So., HOW



THREE JOIN THE MEAC FRAY: (L. to r.) Howard's Ron Prince, Morgan State's Tyrone Wheatley and North Carolina Central's Trei Oliver are the new head coaches to be patrolling the MEAC football sidelines this season.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

LEWIS TO LEAD WASHINGTON'S PR:

The NFL franchise in Washington has announced that it has promoted **Zena Lewis** to Director of Communications.



Lewis

Lewis is entering his fourth season with the team after joining the organization during the 2015 offseason. He has been responsible for providing the media scheduling, promotional efforts, counsel and media training surrounding the players. His various roles included assisting with the drafting and editing of media materials, game releases, media guides, game notes and season in reviews. In February of 2018, Lewis provided communications assistance for the NFL during the week of Super Bowl LII.

Prior to joining Washington, Lewis contributed to the game day press operations of the Tennessee Titans (2009-10), Detroit Lions (2011), Miami Dolphins (2012 preseason) and Atlanta Falcons (2012-14).

With more than a decade of experience at the collegiate level, Lewis served as the Assistant Commissioner for Communications & New Media at the **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference** in Atlanta. His background also includes public relations experience with the **Southwestern Athletic Conference**, the University of Michigan, **Tennessee State University**, the Women's Basketball Coaches Association and **Clark Atlanta University**.

A native of Brooklyn, Lewis earned his degree from **Florida A&M University**.

DR. HARRISON WILSON PASSES:

NORFOLK, Va. – **Norfolk State University** announced the passing of longtime former president **Dr. Harrison B. Wilson** saying, "The Spartan family mourns the loss of one of its stalwart champions."



Wilson

Wilson served at the helm of the university from 1975-1997. An NSU administrative building has been named in his honor.

NSU President-elect **Javaune Adams-Gaston**, Ph.D. said a memorial service for Dr. Wilson will be held on the University's campus in the near future. She added, "We are grateful for his many contributions. He will be deeply missed by all of us."

The condolences poured in Monday following the news of Dr. Wilson's passing.

Virginia Governor **Ralph Northam** released this statement: "I join the entire Spartan community in mourning the loss of Dr. Harrison B. Wilson. For more than two decades, his leadership brought tremendous achievement to Norfolk State University and charted a new course for the institution, both in academics and in athletics."

Congressman **Bobby Scott** added, "I was saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Harrison B. Wilson. He was a renowned basketball coach, educator, and long-time president of Norfolk State University. His tenure at NSU was marked by significant growth and his passion for excellence helped increase the university's stature as a premier institution of higher education in Virginia. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Dr. Lucy Wilson, his children, grandchildren, and the countless students positively impacted by his life and work."

NFL star **Russell Wilson** tweeted that he was going to miss his grandfather, adding, "He was an educator, a mentor, a college basketball coach, and the second President at Norfolk State University..."

BCSP Notes

NC A&T Aggies shine again at USATF Nationals - Three make team for Worlds

DES MOINE, IOWA – Three products of the **North Carolina A&T** track program made their mark last week at the USA Track & Field Championships at Drake University Stadium and will compete in the IAAF World Track and Field Championships in Doha, Qatar in September.

Former Aggie sprinter **Chris Belcher** was the first to make the national team on Friday as he ran a 10.12-second time in the 100-meter final to finish third becoming an automatic qualifier for the team.

A&T rising senior **Trevor Stewart** was next to earn a place on the team and a trip to the world championships. Stewart, who finished second in the nation in the men's 400 meters over the spring, will compete for the U.S. at the IAAF World Championships in the 4x400-meter relay after finishing seventh in the 400 meters in 44.94 Saturday. Fred Kerley won the event in a Drake Stadium record 43.64.

On Sunday, it was 2018 graduate **Rodney Rowe's** turn. Rowe will be a member of the world team as a 200 meter runner. Rowe made the 200 meters final at USATF by running a qualifying time of 20.59. Rowe then finished seventh in the final in 20.75. He needed to finish in the top-3 in order to be an automatic qualifier for the national team.

However, since some of the other athletes competing did not have the qualifying standard between January 1, 2018-July 21, 2019, Rowe will make the world championship team.

Two other Aggies competed but did not make the world team.

Michael Dickson abolished his personal record twice on Sunday in the men's 110-meter hurdles. Dickson blew away his previous PR of 13.65 by running a 13.47 in the semifinals to qualify for the finals. Dickson's time was the fourth-fastest qualifying time. In the final, Dickson again lowered his PR by finishing in 13.45. His fifth-place finish, however, was not enough to place him on the U.S. team.

Kayla White, perhaps the most decorated of the A&T tracksters, finished fifth in her 100 meters heat in 11.39 and finished 10th, just outside of the top eight and 11.32-time that made the finals.

Duane Ross, who has led N.C. A&T to a total of 12 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) track and field championships in eight seasons as the school's director of track and field programs, was present for the performances by his pupils. He said he is excited for his entire program that includes men's and women's indoor and outdoor track field and men's and women's cross country.

"We're only doing what we have been doing all season – training smart, training hard and believing that we are among the best in the world," said Ross. "I'm happy for all our athletes that competed here. They showed the world that A&T is and will continue to be one of the best track and field programs in the country."

Mansfield heads to Florida Memorial

(MIAMI GARDENS, Fla) -- **Chevonne Mansfield** has joined **Florida Memorial University** as the Deputy Athletics Director and Senior Woman Administrator.



Mansfield

"It means a great deal to me to be named FMU's Deputy Athletics Director and Senior Woman Administrator," said Mansfield. "I am excited to join the Lions family and for the opportunity to partner with the Miami Gardens community to make a positive impact on the lives of scholar-athletes at Florida Memorial."

As the Deputy Athletics Director/Senior Woman Administrator, Mansfield will be a member of the athletics senior leadership team with responsibility for external areas including communications, marketing, promotions, and development. She will have direct oversight of several athletic programs and employees, as well as providing vision



Belcher



Stewart



Rowe

and leadership to advance the athletic department's fundraising efforts, including major gift planning and premium seating, with a concerted focus on building the donor base and engaging contributors.

Mansfield joins the Lion family after serving the Director of Communications at the LEAD1 Association, which represents the athletics directors and programs of the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS).

Mansfield has over 10 years of experience in college athletics including posts at **Howard University** and the **Southwestern Athletic Conference**.



SWAC announces partnership with City Jet, Inc.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – The **Southwestern Athletic Conference** has announced a partnership with City Jet Inc. to serve as the official airline provider for the conference.

The SWAC's partnership with City Jet Inc. will give conference member institutions the ability to schedule charter travel directly to sporting events, providing a benefit of significantly reduced missed class time for student-athletes.

"We are extremely excited to add City Jet as a corporate sponsor," said SWAC Commissioner **Dr. Charles McClelland**.

"This partnership will greatly enhance the overall student-athlete experience, while giving our member institutions another viable option in regards to team and staff travel. City Jet is a well respected and established airline provider with a first-class fleet of charter planes and private jets."

"City Jet is proud to partner with the Southwestern Athletic Conference," said Ronald Mays City Jet Inc. Founder and CEO. "Our goal is to provide to the SWAC with a level of customer service that is second to none. We're truly elated to partner with SWAC and all ten of the member institutions that make-up this proud and historic conference."

2019 AAU Junior Olympics

Over 15,000 young athletes from 8 to 18 from all 50 states and Puerto Rico with their parents, fans and track teams have descended on North



Carolina A&T's BB&T Field all this week in what is billed as the largest youth track meet in the world. The competition began Sunday and runs thru Saturday with Olympians on hand each day to promote the sport.