

# BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS



JC Smith / NC A&T Sports Photos

**TWO OF THE BEST:** CIAA, JC Smith and Globetrotter legend Curly Neal (top) and MEAC and NC A&T legend Eric Boyd (bottom), pass.

## PLENTY TO REPORT

**A&T LOSES PLACEKICKER; JACKSON OUT AT 'BAMA STATE; SMITH RE-UPS WITH BUCS; TWO TO TRY NBA**

## UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

### SMITH RE-SIGNS WITH BUCS:

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers are securing depth at cornerback and keeping one of their best special teams players on the roster by re-signing **Ryan Smith** last week, per Terez A. Paylor of Yahoo Sports.

Smith is a four-year veteran out of **North Carolina Central** who has had a backup role at corner, but has found his role as a special teams ace over the years on the Bucs roster. Smith specializes as a gunner on the punt team and has excelled at finding the ball before it reaches the end zone and pinning their opponents deep.

Over four seasons Smith has had 113 tackles, 12 passes defended, two forced fumbles and one interception in his Bucs career. Smith also had 10 kick returns during his rookie season in 2016 for a total of 169 yards.

Smith is at the young age of just 26 years old, but he is the oldest and most experienced corner on the Bucs roster that boasts a young cast of Carlton Davis, M.J. Stewart, Sean Murphy-Bunting and Jamel Dean. Smith should see most of his playing time on special teams while playing behind the other corners.

### NC A&T STANDOUT ERIC BOYD PASSES:

One of the most decorated players at **North Carolina A&T**, standout guard **Eric Boyd**, passed last week in his hometown of Charlotte, N.C.

The 6-3 former baller, 58, played in 111 games in his career (1981-85) with the Aggies averaging 13.8 points over his four years. The Aggies won MEAC titles and advanced to the NCAA Tournament in each of his four seasons beginning a run of eight straight MEAC crowns (1981-88) and NCAA appearances under late legendary head coach **Don Corbett**.

Boyd was named the MEAC Tournament Most Valuable Player a record three times in 1982, 1984 and 1985. He scored 58 points in the four NCAA Tournament appearances with a high of 23 points in his junior season vs. Morehead State. He finished his career with 1,528 points, sixth on the school's all-time scoring list.

He averaged 8.1 points as a freshman and was a key contributor each year averaging 15.3 ppg. as a sophomore, 15.0 ppg. as a junior and a career-best 17.0 ppg. as a senior. He was the MEAC player of the year in his senior season (1984-85). The Golden State Warriors selected him with the second pick of Round 7 in the 1985 NBA Draft.

### SWAC, JACKSON STATE TOP FCS ATTENDANCE NUMBERS:

The **Southwestern Athletic Conference** topped FCS conferences in average home football attendance and conference member **Jackson State** had the highest average home attendance and led five HBCUs in the top ten it was revealed in a story by STATS FCS Senior Reporter Craig Haley last week.

The **Southwestern Athletic Conference** led the 13 FCS conferences with 15,266 fans per game followed in the top five by the **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** (9,782), Big Sky Conference (9,444), CAA (8,930) and Missouri Valley Conference (8,928).

Jackson State averaged 33,762 over its five home games to top the list of schools. Montana (22,545, seven home games) was second followed in the top 10 by James Madison (18,108, nine), **Alabama State** (17,799, five), national champion North Dakota State (17,440, nine), Montana State (17,281, eight), **Southern** (16,957, four), **North Carolina A&T** (16,927, five), Jacksonville State (16,829, seven) and **Florida A&M** (16,537, six).

### HBCUs in 2019 FCS Home Attendance

Rank	Team	Attendance	OTHERS	Attendance
1.	Jackson State	33,762	Alabama A&M	8,132
4.	Alabama State	17,799	Hampton	7,218
7.	Southern	16,957	UAPB	7,191
8.	N. C. A&T	16,927	Bethune-Cookman	6,660
10.	Florida A&M	16,537	Prairie View A&M	6,364
12.	Alcorn State	13,196	N. C. Central	6,335
15.	Norfolk State	11,296	Morgan State	4,815
20.	Grambling	10,396	Miss. Valley State	4,416
21.	SC State	10,339	Howard	3,829
27.	Texas Southern	9,204	Delaware State	1,514
29.	Tennessee State	8,787		

# Pandemic causes revised NCAA revenue distribution

In response to the cancellation of all remaining winter and spring NCAA championships, the Board of Governors has voted unanimously to distribute \$225 million in June to Division I members; nearly 400 million less than originally budgeted.

Division I revenue distribution for 2020 previously was budgeted at approximately \$600 million, with the first distribution scheduled for April.

The **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** is scheduled to receive \$5,721,636 which includes \$503,026 for **Hampton University** and \$461,063 for **North Carolina A&T State**. The **Southwestern Athletic Conference** will get \$4,732,765 led by **Alabama State University** (\$538,077).

**Tennessee State University** is scheduled to receive \$393,758 as a member of the Ohio Valley Conference.

The distribution formula was based on Division I membership during the 2013-14 athletics season.

The NCAA receives most of its revenue from the Division I Men's Basketball Championship television and marketing rights, as well as

championship ticket sales. The revenue is used to provide distributions to member conferences and schools along with funding championships, national programs and other initiatives to support student-athletes.

In its decision, the Board of Governors stressed the importance of using the distributions to aid college athletes during the uncertainty of the current environment, along with the importance of planning carefully with less revenue. The decision also allows membership to engage in planning while the NCAA continues to work with its contractual partners.

"We are living in unprecedented times not only for higher education, but for the entire nation and around the globe as we face the COVID-19 public health crisis," said Michael V. Drake, chair of the board and president of The Ohio State University.

Of the \$225 million distribution, \$50 million will come from NCAA reserves. The NCAA also has a \$270 million event cancellation insurance policy, and the proceeds when received will be used to pay off a line of credit that will cover the remaining distribution within 12 months.

To further assist with the reduction in revenue this year, Drake emphasized the NCAA is undertaking a variety of cost-cutting budget measures that will be determined in the upcoming weeks.

The Division I Board of Directors determined how the distribution will be shared among members.

For this year's Division I distribution, \$53.6 million will be distributed through the Equal Conference Fund, which is split equally among Division I basketball playing conferences that meet athletic and academic standards to play in the men's basketball tournament. The remainder will be proportionally distributed through the remainder of all other funds. The funds will be unrestricted to provide latitude to conferences.

Division II will receive 4.37% of actual revenues, currently projected to be \$13.9 million for the division, which is a \$30 million decrease from last year. Division III will receive 3.18% of actual revenues, currently projected to be \$10.7 million for the division, which is a \$22 million decrease from last year. These amounts will be used to fund national programs.

## BCSP Notes

### Norfolk State's Bishop, NC A&T's Langley place their names in 2020 NBA Draft pool

RALEIGH, N.C. – Two 2019-20 all-MEAC basketball first-teamers – **Jermaine Bishop** of **Norfolk State** and **Kameron Langley** of **North Carolina A&T** – have decided to test the NBA Draft waters.

Bishop, a 6-1 redshirt senior shooting guard from Queens, N.Y., and Langley, a 6-2 junior point guard from Greensboro, N.C., were both named to first team all-MEAC following the 2019-20 season. Both will have one year of eligibility left if they decide to return to school.

Bishop, who played two years of eligibility at St. Louis but sat out the previous two seasons, led the Spartans and was fourth in the MEAC in scoring at 15.6 points per game. He was also second in free throw percentage (.855) and fifth (.365) in three-point percentage.

"This has been an incredible year, getting back on the court and doing what I love after sitting out the past few seasons," Bishop wrote in his Twitter announcement.

Langley topped the MEAC and NCAA Div. I in assists during the 2019-20 season, averaging 8.0 per game. He broke both the school's career record previously held by A&T's **Thomas "Ice" Griffis** and the MEAC record previously held by **Larry Yarbray** of **Coppin State**. He has a three-year total of 632 assists.

Langley averaged 9.4 points, 5.2 rebounds and 2.1 steals per game.

### Lewis Jackson resigns at Alabama State

MONTGOMERY, Ala. | **Alabama State** head men's basketball coach **Lewis Jackson** has announced his resignation from the program Friday, March 27, after 15 years as the head coach of the Hornets.

"As I continue my Alabama State University athletic journey, I am stepping down as head coach of the Alabama State University men's basketball program," Jackson said. "The joys and challenges of college athletics as a student, alumnus and coach at ASU continue to rank among the most rewarding milestones in my career. I am extremely grateful for the many opportunities that Alabama State University has afforded me."

In 15 years at the helm of the program, Jackson coached the Hornets to an overall record of 207-264 and 156-115 in **Southwestern Athletic Conference** (SWAC) competition.

He led the Hornets to three NCAA Tournament appearances, a NIT appearance and the 2014 CIT postseason tournament.

"Coach Lewis Jackson has been the face of the Alabama State men's basketball program not only as a coach but as a student-athlete," Alabama State University Director of Intercollegiate Athletics **Jennifer Lynne Williams** said. "I want to thank him for the time he has poured into the program for so many years as its leader. We wish him the best, and will continue to support him in his future endeavors."

Since the program's inception in 1934, Alabama State has posted a 1,144-931 record with four NCAA Tournament appearances and five

SWAC regular season championships.

A national search for the Hornets' head coaching position will begin immediately.

### NC A&T all-American placekicker transferring

**North Carolina A&T** all-MEAC junior placekicker **Noel Ruiz** announced via Twitter last week that he will be transferring to Georgia State, spending his final season kicking for the Falcons.

Ruiz was second in the MEAC in scoring and his 116 points led all league kickers. His 9.7 points per game was tenth overall in the FCS and third amongst FCS kickers. For the season, Ruiz connected on 47 of 52 PATs and on 23 of 27 (85.2%) field goals. His longest connection was from 52 yards out.

In his twitter post, Ruiz thanked the coaches, players, students and fans and said

"Academics has always been the top priority for my family and unfortunately A&T does not offer the Master's Program for my career path. Although I am leaving, I will always be an Aggie for life."

Ruiz was named first team all-MEAC and was named to the AFCA FCS Coaches all-America second team. His contributions will be sorely missed as the three-time defending MEAC champion Aggies enter the 2020 season and have a Sept. 19 date at three-time defending FCS champion North Dakota State.

### FAMU to pay imposed NCAA financial penalty

**Florida A&M University** must pay the financial penalty prescribed by the NCAA Division I Committee on Infractions, according to a decision from the NCAA Division I Infractions Appeals Committee.

In the Committee on Infractions' decision regarding Florida A&M, the panel found the university lacked institutional control and did not monitor its athletics program resulting in systemic underlying certification violations. In addition to other penalties, the panel prescribed a financial penalty of \$5,000 plus 3% of the total athletics budget.

In its appeal, the university cited new facts addressed at the expedited penalty hearing that the Committee on Infractions could have considered when determining mitigating factors.

The new facts included FAMU saying 1) it was unaware of the classification of the case (Level I-Aggravated) and would have argued different mitigating factors so the committee could reconsider the case as a Level I-Standard, 2) the new requirement that the fine would have to be paid from the athletics department's budget, 3) the financial penalty would have a detrimental effect on the progress in student/athlete academic success, and 4) the Committee on Infractions did not consider the case precedent when prescribing the penalty.

Ultimately, the Infractions Appeals Committee determined that the panel did not abuse its discretion by prescribing the financial penalty and upheld that penalty in this case

## Globetrotter and CIAA legend, Curley Neal passes

Family members confirmed last Thursday that famous Harlem Globetrotter, **Fred "Curly" Neal**, who played collegiately at **Johnson C. Smith**, passed in Houston.



J. C. Smith Sports Photo

**IN THE CIAA:** Fred "Curly" Neal as an all-CIAA guard at Johnson C. Smith before his 22-year career with the Harlem Globetrotters

Neal, 77, became renowned as one of the most magical showmen in basketball history, noted for his exceptional dribbling and ballhandling abilities and putting on such exhibitions as a key part of Globetrotter performances. He appeared with the team from 1963 to 1985 playing in more than 6,000 games in 97 countries.

Born on May 19, 1942 in Greensboro, N. C., Neal attended Dudley High School before moving on to J. C. Smith where he was a guard for the Golden Bulls. At 6-1, Neal earned all-CIAA honors in 1961 and 1963. In his senior year, he averaged 23.1 points per game and led his team to the CIAA title.

When Neal joined the Harlem Globetrotters in 1963, he shaved his head earning him the nickname "Curly."

In the 1970s, an animated version of Neal starred with various other Globetrotters in the Hanna-Barbera animated cartoon **Harlem Globetrotters** as well as its spinoff, **The Super Globetrotters**.

The animated Globetrotters also made three appearances in The New Scooby-Doo Movies. Neal himself appeared with Meadowlark Lemon, Marques Haynes, and his other fellow Globetrotters in a live-action Saturday morning TV show, The Harlem Globetrotters Popcorn Machine, in 1974-75, which also featured Rodney Allen Rippy and Avery Schreiber

On January 11, 2008, the Globetrotters announced that Neal's number 22 would be retired on February 15 in a special ceremony at Madison Square Garden as part of "Curly Neal Weekend." Neal was just the fifth Globetrotter in the team's 62-year history to have his number retired joining Wilt Chamberlain (#13), Meadowlark Lemon (#36), **Marques Haynes** (#20, **Langston**) and Goose Tatum (#50). He followed Haynes as the team's featured ballhandler.

Neal is also amongst a long list of **Globetrotters Legends** that hail from **Historically Black Colleges and Universities** including Haynes, **Hubert "Geese" Aus-**



NEAL: With the Globetrotters.

**bie (Philander Smith), David "Smokey" Gaines (LeMoyne-Owen), Charles "Tex" Harrison (North Carolina Central), Carl Helem (Tennessee State), Billy Ray Hobley (Dillard), Jackie Jackson (Virginia Union) and James "Twiggy" Sanders (J. C. Smith).**

On January 31, 2008, Neal was inducted into the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame.