

BLACK COLLEGE
SPORTS™



Tennessee State Sports logo

**ONE
WILL
PLAY?
MOST
WON'T**

NC A&T FOILED IN ATTEMPT TO PLAY FALL FOOTBALL; McCLENDON HONORED AGAIN

GOING IT SOLO: For now, Tennessee State in the OVC, looks to be the only HBCU playing football in the fall.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

USAF PARTNERS WITH NBOTB:

HOUSTON, TX- Webber Marketing and Consulting, LLC., creators of the *Cracker Barrel National Battle of the Bands* (NBOTB), has announced the addition of the U.S. Air Force as an official sponsor of the NBOTB and the new title sponsor of the event's HBCU S.T.E.M. College Fair.

"We are thrilled about adding the U.S. Air Force as an official sponsor of the NBOTB," said company founder Derek Webber. "Their support will support the continued execution of our mission to enhance the exposure of **Historically Black Colleges and Universities** (HBCUs) and their marching bands. It's the support of sponsors like the U.S. Air Force whose contribution and resources allow us to raise the bar in our efforts to create opportunities and generate scholarship dollars for the education and development of our future leaders."

In addition to the NBOTB, the U.S. Air Force sponsorship will also support the event's *HBCUs Band Together* scholarship initiative designed to bring together those who love and seek to support HBCUs, HBCU marching bands and their band members during the COVID-19 crisis.

As the title sponsor for the *HBCU College Recruitment Fair*, the U.S. Air Force will be helping students gain access to HBCUs from around the country recruiting for both undergrad and graduate admissions for S.T.E.M. and non S.T.E.M. programs.

"We are excited and proud to partner with the Battle of the Bands," said Major Ross McKnight, Chief of National Events. "It will be great to connect with the fans and students at this entertaining and fun event that celebrates hard work, attention to detail, passion, and most importantly music. These are the same characteristics that we need in our Airmen to continue to be the world's greatest Air Force."

For more information about the NBOTB and its Virtual Battles Series follow us on social media at @NationalBattleOfTheBands (FB & IG) / @NationalBOTB (Twitter) or visit the official home of the National Battle of the Bands at www.nationalbattleofthebands.com.

For more information about HBCUs Band Together and how to make a donation visit, www.hbcusbandtogether.org.

GRANDISON TO LEAD TX-STHRN GOLF:

HOUSTON- Texas Southern University Vice President of Intercollegiate Athletics **Kevin Granger** has announced that 13-time *Southwestern Athletic Conference* Coach of the Year **Dr. Gary Grandison** has been elevated to head men's and women's golf coach.

Grandison becomes the fourth head coach in the history of the program. Last season, the Mobile, Ala. native served as an assistant under recently retired head coach

Grandison

Hank Stewart.

Prior to his arrival at TSU in the fall of 2019, Grandison served as head coach at *Alabama State University* and transformed the program into one of the top programs in the region and one of the most dominant programs in the SWAC with a combined total of 13 men's and women's SWAC Championships and 12 NCAA Regional appearances. He has produced multiple Academic All-Americans and has had a multitude of student-athletes compete professionally. His teams have also fared well above the NCAA Academic Performance Rate threshold including several NCAA Public Recognition Awards for perfect APR scores.

UMES SUSPENDS WOMEN'S TENNIS:

PRINCESS ANNE, Maryland — The *University of Maryland Eastern Shore* will suspend the women's tennis program beginning with the 2020-21 academic year. UMES will still field the required 14 Division I sports to meet sports sponsorship.

In addition, the university will initiate a fundraising campaign that will be dedicated to supporting the tennis program and returning the team to the court as well as reinstating the men's program, which was suspended beginning with the 2017-18 academic year.

N. C. A&T will not play a Big South schedule

By LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

According to Big South Commissioner Kyle Kallender, the possibility of *Mid Eastern Athletic Conference* member *North Carolina A&T* playing football in the spring will prevent the Aggies from facing Big South members this fall.

In a Zoom conference call Tuesday that opened the Big South's 2020 Virtual Football Media Day, Kallender explained that the league has had conversations with Robert Morris and N. C. A&T about playing games this fall vs. Big South opponents.

As it relates to A&T, it won't happen.

"We had a brief conversation with A&T about doing the same thing (as Robert Morris) but with the MEAC still looking at the possibility of a spring season, they're not able to participate," said Kallender. "So that's completely understandable. It was something we would have been interested in but we respect that situation."

NC A&T officials confirmed Tuesday that they were in discussions over the weekend with Big South officials about playing fall sports and competing for championships in that league. Those talks fell through when it was made clear the MEAC was considering playing those fall sports in the spring.

The MEAC, citing the health concerns connected to the COVID-19 pandemic, suspended its fall sports schedule, including football, earlier this month. The league has not made a decision about playing those fall sports in the spring.

While Kallender said fitting NC A&T into the football schedule was not going to be possible, he said the conference is still trying to figure out if Robert Morris can be added.

Former MEAC member and now Big South member *Hampton* decided earlier this month to suspend fall sports, including football, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. That decision came before the Big South decided to go ahead with fall sports including football.

Monmouth, who plays football in the Big South but is a member for all other sports in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, decided Monday to not play football in the wake of the MAAC deciding on the same day to cancel all fall sports activities because of the pandemic.

The decisions by Hampton and Monmouth provided an opportunity for teams like A&T and Robert Morris, both slated to join the Big South next season, to look at perhaps playing vs. future Big South opponents this fall.

Kallender and several coaches in the conference call noted that with the ever-changing way the virus is spreading and spiking they would continue to monitor those developments

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Big South Commissioner
Kyle Kallender

with hopes to play football beginning on Sept. 3.

With Hampton and Monmouth now out for football, the Big South has only four teams – Campbell, Charleston Southern, Gardner-Webb and Kennesaw State – competing on the gridiron for conference honors this season. Former member Presbyterian left the Big South after last season to move to the Patriot League. Associate member North Alabama is not eligible for the preseason ranking again this year as part of its transition to Division I.

Kennesaw State was the preseason 2020 pick to win the Big South this season. Monmouth was the 2019 football champion.

Campbell sophomore quarterback Hajji-

Malik Williams was named the preseason offensive player of the year. Kennesaw State redshirt senior linebacker Bryson Armstrong was pegged as the preseason defensive player of the year.

Hampton junior wide receiver **Jadakis Bonds** was the lone Pirate named to the preseason all-Big South team.

BIG SOUTH PRESEASON FOOTBALL PREDICTIONS (1st-place votes)

1. Kennesaw State (8)	68
2. Monmouth (3)	57 (not competing)
3. Charleston Southern (1)	43
4. Campbell	42
5. Hampton	23 (not competing)
6. Gardner-Webb	19

Tennessee State lands three on preseason all-OVC football team

NASHVILLE --- Because the Ohio Valley Conference is still planning to go forward with football this fall, the league has unveiled its preseason all-OVC football team. Three *Tennessee State* players made the team.

OVC Commissioner Beth DeBauche was on a conference call last week fielding questions and repeated a position offered earlier this summer.

"Back in June our OVC Board of Presidents issued a statement, saying it was the intention of this conference to play sports and to have championships this fall, if the medical science supported it. Well, that certainly is our plan, nothing has changed since that point in time," said DeBauche.

DeBauche said what comprises a season is far from final, if the decision is made to move forward with OVC football. The commissioner indicated a shortened season is certainly possible.

TSU redshirt-senior cornerback **Nick Harper, Jr.**, along with redshirt-senior offensive lineman **Cam Durley** and junior punter **Kaleb Mosley** were on the preseason all-OVC team



Harper

Durley

Mosley

Harper is coming off a junior campaign where he led the OVC with 1.3 passes defended per game, which was 11th nationally. The cornerback finished fifth on the team with 58 tackles, 46 solo, 14 pass breakups and two interceptions.

Mosley led the conference in punting, averaging 42.2 yards per punt, and ranking 20th in the nation. As a sophomore, the Montgomery, Ala., native had 44 boots for 1,857 yards with a career long 64-yarder to highlight the season. Mosley finished with eight punts over 50 yards, while placing 12 inside the 20.

Durley played in 12 games, starting 10, at right tackle in his first season as a Tiger. The lineman helped the offensive unit average 400.1 yards per game, finishing third in the Ohio Valley Conference in total offense. The offense also finished second in passing with 260.7 yards per game. Durley anchored a line that allowed the second least amount of sacks in the OVC at 1.75 per game

TSU is currently scheduled to open the 2020 season on Sept. 26 versus Jacksonville State.

BCSP Notes

Kentucky coach John Calipari endows McClendon Leadership position at NC Central

CLEVELAND; – The *John McLendon Minority Scholarship Foundation* has announced that Kentucky Head Men's Basketball Coach John Calipari has endowed a McLendon Minority Leadership Initiative Future Leader position at *North Carolina Central University* where **John B. McLendon**, coached from 1941 – 1952.

NCCU Head Men's Basketball Coach and CIAA Hall of Fame inductee **LeVelle Moton** will serve as an ambassador, providing mentorship to the campus's Future Leader.

Last week, the McLendon Foundation announced a partnership with more than 50 collegiate coaches to launch the MLI. The coach-driven initiative will provide minorities a jump-start to their careers through practical experiences, opportunities to build their network, and instilling the values of John McLendon: Integrity, Education, Leadership, and Mentorship. Participants in the initiative will be known as MLI Future Leaders.

"North Carolina Central University is where Coach McLendon got his first opportunity at the collegiate level," Calipari said. "I'm grateful to be able to honor his legacy by helping provide that same opportunity to a Future Leader on NCCU's campus."

"Coach Cal and I have been good friends for years. Not only is he a man of integrity, but a man of action," said Moton. "I'm grateful for his friendship and his quest to provoke necessary change while continuing the legacy of John McLendon."

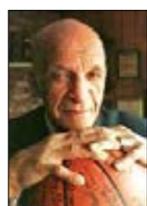
McClendon is a bonafide black college legend with a number of firsts.

During his 12 years at North Carolina Central, he led the Eagles to eight CIAA championships and was one of the founders of the league's basketball tournament.

After NCCU, he led *Tennessee State* to an unprecedented three straight NAIA national basketball championships in 1957, 1958 and 1959, the first college coach to have ever won three consecutive national titles. He also forced the integration of the tournament in Kansas City, Kansas which led to the integration of college basketball nationwide.

At NCCU, McLendon also helped organize *"The Secret Game"* vs. Duke University, which is regarded as the first college basketball game where black and white players competed on the same court.

He went on to become the first African-American head coach in any professional sport when he led the Cleveland Pipers of the American Basketball League in 1962. He also coached the Denver Nuggets of the ABA in 1969. In 1966, he became the head coach at Cleveland State and was the first African-American to lead a Historically White College and



McClendon

University (HWCU) basketball program.

The John McLendon Minority Scholarship Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization founded and administered by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) that provides educational opportunities and serves as a vehicle for networking, information and advocacy on behalf of the profession. Since its inception, the Foundation has awarded 123 students with scholarships in the amount of \$1,245,000.

Clafin's Romanda Noble-Watson voted NCAA Div. II SIDA secretary

Orangeburg, SC—*Clafin University's* sports information director (SID) **Romanda Noble-Watson** has been voted secretary of the D2 Sports Information Directors Association (D2SIDA). The selection is a two-year appointment beginning this fall (2020) and running thru the spring 2022.

Noble-Watson is finishing her second year as the *Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association* Sports Information Sports Information Directors Association (CIAASIDA) secretary.

With more than 23 years in the sports information field, Noble-Watson is familiar with working on national boards and committees. She has worked the last five NCAA Division I Women's College World Series as a member of the media coordination team and has previously served as the timeout coordinator for the first and second rounds of the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Tournament (2013 and 2014). She is currently a member of the NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship Region III Selection Committee.

"I'm excited for this opportunity to serve an organization that is dedicated solely to NCAA DII," Noble-Watson said. "It's always an honor to have your hard-work recognized by your peers. I feel serving as the CIAA SIDA secretary for the past two years has prepared me for this opportunity."

A native of Washington, DC, Noble-Watson recently completed her sixth year as the SID at Clafin University. She joined the Clafin staff in February 2014 after serving as the assistant sports information director at neighboring *South Carolina State* (SC State) University for seven years (2007-2014). Prior to her tenure at SC State, Noble-Watson served as the assistant sports information director at *Howard University* for six and a half years and before that she was the sports information director at the *University of Maryland Eastern Shore* (1997-2000). Noble-Watson's previous three institutions were on the NCAA Division I level.

She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the Black College Sports Information Directors Association (BCSIDA), Female Athletic Media Relations Executives (FAME), and College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) where she is a member of the Special Awards Committee.