

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



HBCU GIANTS: (Top l.) Cleve Abbott, (top r.) Ed Temple and (bottom) Dr. Leroy Walker prepared HBCU athletes for success in world and Olympic competition.

OLYMPICS, SOCCER HISTORY, FOOTBALL PREVIEWS

OLYMPICS BEGIN WITH HBCU FLAVOR; HOWARD SOCCER ON FILM; SWAC, OVC PREVIEW FOOTBALL

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

SWAC PRESEASON FOOTBALL PICKS:

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. - The **Southwestern Athletic Conference** announced its 2021 Preseason All-SWAC Football selections and Predicted Order of Finish on Tuesday during the league's media day. The preseason all-conference teams, individual award winners, and predicted order of finish were voted on by the league's head coaches and sports information directors.

Alabama A&M quarterback **Aqeel Glass** was named SWAC Football Preseason Player of the Year while **Southern** defensive end **Jordan Lewis** was tabbed SWAC Football Preseason Defensive Player of the Year.

Glass went 67-of-113 for 1,084 yards passing and 13 touchdowns as the Bulldogs won the league title in the spring. Lewis led the SWAC in sacks with 10.5 for 73 yards and tackles for loss with 15.0 for 82 yards en route to winning the FCS **Buck Buchanan Award** as the best defender in the nation.

The league's 2021 Predicted Order of Finish has Alabama A&M tabbed to win the SWAC Eastern Division tallying a total of 122 points. **Florida A&M** (109) was picked to finish second followed by **Jackson State** (80), **Alabama State** (76), **Bethune-Cookman** (71), and **Mississippi Valley State** (25).

Alcorn State (128) was picked to finish in first place in what will be the Braves debut season in the SWAC Western Division. **Southern** (108) was projected to finish in second place followed by **Grambling State** (85), **Prairie View A&M** (78), **Arkansas-Pine Bluff** (68) and **Texas Southern** (37).

EASTERN DIVISION

Alabama A&M (122); Florida A&M (109); Jackson State (80); Alabama State (76); Bethune-Cookman (71); Mississippi Valley State (25)

WESTERN DIVISION

Alcorn State (128); Southern (108); Grambling State (85); Prairie View A&M (78); Arkansas-Pine Bluff (68); Texas Southern (37)

ALL-SWAC OFFENSE

QB-Aqeel Glass, AA&M; RB-Ezra Gray, ALS; Jarod Sims, SU; OL-Mark Evans II, UAPB; Brian Williams, SU; Dallas Black, SU; Ja'Tyre Carte, SU; Johnathan Bishop, SU; WR-Abdul-Fatai Ibrahim, AA&M; Josh Wilkes, UAPB; TE-Ethan Howard, SU

DEFENSE

DL- Jordan Lewis, SU; Christian Clark, ALS; Jalen Ivy, SU; Andrew Ogletree, ALS; LB- Keonte Hampton, JSU; Aubrey Miller, JSU; Kolby Watts, UAPB; DB-Jalon Thigpen, UAPB; Irshaad Davis, ALS; Chase Foster, SU; Caleb Brunson, MVSU

SPECIALISTS

PK-Spencer Corey, AA&M; Aubrey Grace, AAM; RS-Tyrin Ralph, UAPB

TSU PICKED FIFTH IN OVC PRESEASON:

Tennessee State will begin the 2021 football season with new head coach **Eddie George** and eight preseason all-Ohio Valley Conference selections on his roster.

That was the determination of conference head coaches and communications directors as the OVC preseason picks were unveiled Monday.

The Tigers were also picked to finish fifth in the seven-team OVC race behind Murray State, Austin Peay, SE Missouri and UT Martin and ahead of Tennessee Tech and Eastern Illinois.

TSU's eight preseason selections only trailed Murray State's ten.

The Tigers placed four players on the preseason offensive unit including running back **Devon Starling** (648 rushing yards), fullback **Benjamin Johnson**, wide receiver **Cam Wyche** (22 catches, 456 yards, 2 TDs) and offensive lineman **Cam Durley**.

The defensive preseason picks included defensive back **Josh Green** (39 tackles, 3 interceptions), lineman **Davaon Hawkins** (32 tackles, 5.0 sacks, 2 forced fumbles) and linebacker **James Green** (28 tackles, 2.0 sacks).

Placekicker **Antonio Zita** (14 field goals, FCS-best 62-yarder) was named one of the specialists.

Long history of Olympic greatness for HBCU track & field

LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

Athletes from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have been at every Olympic Games since 1948.

In fact, the **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference** (SIAC) in particular had athletic participation at every Olympics from after World War II through the turn of the century. **Tennessee State** alone under legendary coach **Edward S. Temple** from 1952 to 1988 posted 16 Olympic track and field gold medals, eight silvers and five bronzes.

"We've had some outstanding moments in track and field history," late SIAC Commissioner **Wallace Jackson** told the BCSP during the historic Centennial Olympic Games in Atlanta in 1996.

Alice Coachman:

The first champion

The first black female to win a gold medal in the Olympics was HBCU product **Alice Coachman** (Davis) of **Tuskegee University**. At the 1948 Olympics in London, Coachman won a gold medal in the high jump breaking the U. S. and Olympic records with a leap of 5-foot, 6 1/8-inches.



Coachman won 25 national titles, most in the high jump where she won 10 consecutive titles from

The 2020 Summer Olympic Games kick off this Thursday, July 23, 2021 in Tokyo with HBCU products **Quanera Hayes of Livingstone** and **Randolph Ross Jr., and Trevor Stewart of North Carolina A&T** on the U. S. Olympic team. Several other HBCU products are competing for other countries.

Leading up to and during this year's Games, HBCU Gameday and the Black College Sports Page are commemorating Historically Black College and University's (HBCUs) significant contributions to this worldwide event. Over the years, HBCU men and women athletes and coaches have helped set countless world records, won numerous medals, dominated some events and many times captured the imagination of the nation and the world. Our focus is on the medal winners though there were many more HBCU athletes that made it into Olympic competition.

The Games will run through August 8. This is Part 1 of a Four-Part Series.

1939 to 1948. Her first high jump national title was at the age of 16. The following year she moved from her home in Albany, Ga. to Tuskegee where Hall of Famer **Cleve Abbott** became her coach.

A fine sprinter, she won national titles in ten spring events from 1943 to 1947. Coachman also ran anchor on Tuskegee Institute's national champion 4x100 meter relay teams in 1941 and 1942.

Coachman Davis retired after the 1948 games, became a school teacher and established the Alice Coachman Track and Field Foundation to help young athletes with financial need. Coachman Davis died on July 14, 2014 at the age of 90.

Continuing the legacy

In the 1952 Helsinki Finland Games, **Catherine Hardy** (Lavender) of **Fort Valley State**, Tennessee State's **Mae Faggis** (Starr) and **Barbara Jones** (Slater) won gold medals as members of the 4x400 meter relay team. Hardy ran the anchor leg for the quartet that set a world record of 45.9 seconds.

In the 1956 Melbourne Australia Olympics, **Mildred McDaniel** (Singleton) of Tuskegee won the gold medal and broke the world

record in the high jump, jumping 5-feet, 9 1/4 inches. **North Carolina College's** (now N. C. Central) **Lee Calhoun** not only took the gold in the 110 meter hurdles but repeated the feat in Rome in 1960. Tennessee State long jumper **Willye White** took home a silver medal in Melbourne and later became the first woman to represent the U. S. in five Olympiads.

A star is born

In the 1956 Games, the legend of HBCU track and field legend **Wilma Rudolph** was born.

Rudolph was the 12th of 22 children from Bethlehem, Tennessee who was stricken with several illnesses as a youngster. Among them were pneumonia and scarlet fever. She suffered infantile paralysis at five which disabled for much of her early life. The future track star wore braces on her left leg and foot until she was 12 years old.

Her family moved to Clarksville, Tennessee and sought treatment for her conditions at **Meharry Medical College**, an HBCU in Nashville that was the first medical school for African-Americans in the South. Through a combination of the treatments at Meharry and TLC from her family, she was able

to overcome those early setbacks and excel in basketball and track while in high school.

Rudolph attended Temple's summer track camps at TSU while in high school and under his tutelage became a multiple winner on the AAU circuit. She qualified for the 200 meters in the 1956 Olympics but didn't medal. She earned a bronze medal at the age of 16 in the 4x400 meter relay along with Tigerbelles **Isabell Daniels** (Holston), **Margaret Matthews** (Wilburn) and Faggis.



In the 1960 Games with Rudolph, now running for Temple's Tigerbelles, she stunned the world before a national TV audience and lifted black America by winning an unprecedented three gold medals (100, 200 meters and 4x100 meter relay), each in world record times.

Tigerbelles Jones (Slater), **Martha Hudson** (Pennyman), and **Lucinda Williams** (Adams) joined her in winning the 4x100 meter relay gold in record time.

The Mentors

Dr. Leroy Walker, then at N. C. College, served as men's track coach of that 1960 Olympic team. Temple led the women's track team in 1960.

Howard soccer dominance on display in new film

LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

As a student at **Howard University** in the early 1970s, my friends and I would casually watch the Bison soccer team play at Greene Stadium from a third-floor room and window in the Cook Hall dormitory overlooking the field.

Soccer was not a particular concern of ours as we were tried-and-true, red-blooded black American sports fans. It never dawned on us that the game we were watching had more right to be called football than the game with which we were more familiar.

But interestingly, we noticed that games played against the Bison were often played on just one end of the field, towards the goal their opponents were defending. We found this odd, but refreshingly funny and entertaining, to say the least.

"Why can't the other team get the ball to Howard's end of the field," we'd wonder.

Howard soccer makes history

Little did we know - though we came to understand - that that phenomenon was evidence of the Bison's total domination. That 1974 team finished 19-0 and won the NCAA Div. I championship 1-0 in a four-overtime thriller vs. a powerful Saint Louis University squad. Perhaps most outstandingly, the Bison scored 63 goals on the season while their opponents - all 19 of them - scored six goals. Total.

Did I mention that Howard is a Historically Black College or University (HBCU) or that it was the first and only HBCU to win an NCAA Div. I championship. Who knew? Turns out, not many. But there's more to the story.

Taking down a soccer power

Taking down a soccer power is the part of this story that Grammy-winning rapper turned Oscar-winning actor Common and Steel Springs Pictures are telling in an upcoming movie entitled, "Rising Above."

You see, prior to its record-setting 1974 season, the Bison had won the 1971 NCAA championship 3-2 over an equally powerful



DOMINATION AND REDEMPTION: Picture of the 1974 Howard soccer team that won the NCAA Div. I championship and outscored opponents 63 to 6.

St. Louis team. That Howard squad was led by Trinidadians **Keith Aqai**, **Al Henderson** and **Ian Bain**. But that title was stripped away three weeks later by the NCAA, ostensibly for Howard's use of two ineligible players. St. Louis had won the first NCAA Div. I soccer title in 1959 and six of the 11 titles over that span.

The Billikens, as they were called, had a predominantly white squad. Howard's was all-black made up mostly of African and Caribbean players. The contrast was obvious, to say the least.

Howard ending Saint Louis's dominance in Div. I college soccer in 1971 could be likened to Texas Western employing an all-black line-up to end the dominance of Adolph Rupp's all-white Kentucky team in basketball only five years earlier. Texas Western (now Texas at El Paso University) was a predominantly white school - or an Historically White College or University (HWCU), if you will. The NCAA found no discrepancies in their roster. But that's another story. Howard was an HBCU. The NCAA found two in theirs.

The road to redemption

"We feel that it is simply because we are a black institution that the NCAA was requested to investigate," the late Howard University President **Dr. James E. Cheek** said in an official statement at the time.

Needless to say, the NCAA stripped Howard

of that 1971 title and awarded it to the Billikens. Additionally, the NCAA imposed another penalty after the 1972 team lost 2-1 to St. Louis in the NCAA semifinals. The Bison played that game without seven players ruled ineligible. After an investigation, the NCAA said only four were ineligible. As a result of that violation, the 1973 team was put on probation.

Thus began the road to "Rising Again" for the Bison that culminated with the redemptive dominance of 1974. In fact, a 2016 **Spike Lee** ESPN documentary film entitled, "Redemption Song," also tells the story.

Howard soccer paved the way

All those Howard teams were coached by **Lincoln "Tiger" Phillips**, a renowned professional goalie and football coach from Trinidad & Tobago. It was Phillips who put together the powerful force that became the Bison's teams throughout the 1970s. From 1970 to 1980, he posted an outstanding record of 117-19-11 and

took his teams to the NCAA Tournament eight times. He is now 80 years old.

By the end of that decade, all the top teams in America were recruiting players from Africa and the Caribbean and offering much more than Phillips and the Bison could.

Current and former U.S. soccer stars - Jozy Altidore, DaMarcus Beasley, Mo Edu, Oguchi Onyewu and Charlie Davies - are financing and executive producing the project.

"I'm very excited and grateful to be partnering with Steel Springs on this project," Common told *Variety* of the film. "This inspiring story is one we never knew existed and together, are passionate about telling."

Common, Spike Lee, call this writer. There's plenty more stories where this one came from.



Phillips

BCSP Notes

Edward Waters earns full NCAA membership, becomes Florida's only Div. II HBCU

Jacksonville, Florida - For the first time in its 155-year history, **Edward Waters University** (EWU) has become a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). The exciting news chronicling EWU's inclusion as a new member of America's premiere collegiate athletic association at the Division II level was shared during a university press conference Monday afternoon.

Relatedly, EWU has also officially accepted an invitation to become a member of the **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference** (SIAC) after an 86-year separation. Edward Waters was previously a member of the SIAC from 1930-1935. Notably, Monday's historic announcement distinctively marks Edward Waters University as the only NCAA Division II Historically Black College or University (HBCU) in the State of Florida.

"This incredibly significant achievement is yet another important milestone in our continued ascendancy and transformation towards becoming one of America's "best-in-class" higher educational institutions of

choice," said EWU President and CEO, **Dr. A. Zachary Faison, Jr.**

As a new NCAA Division II member, Edward Waters will begin the first year of a three-year provisional process in August. When all benchmarks are met, it will be eligible for full membership in August of 2024.

"Our diligent work in this process has brought us to this historic moment in the long and storied history of EWU Athletics," remarked Director of Intercollegiate Athletics **Dr. Paul A. Bryant**.

The addition of Edward Waters will increase the SIAC's membership to 15 institutions. The conference's current membership includes **Albany State University, Allen University, Benedict College, Central State University, Clark Atlanta University, Fort Valley State University, Kentucky State University, Lane College, LeMoyne-Owen College, Miles College, Morehouse College, Savannah State University, Spring Hill College, and Tuskegee University.**

"We are pleased to welcome back Edward Waters University as a member institution of the SIAC and congratulate President Dr. A. Zachary Faison, Jr., Athletic Director Paul Bryant and the entire EWU community as they make their transition into NCAA membership," remarked SIAC Commissioner **Gregory Moore**.

