

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



NCCU Sports Photo

RISON RISIN: New NC Central head coach leads Eagles into their first year of Div. I Football; Opens Saturday at Albany State.

2007 SEASON KICKS OFF

▼ 12 GAMES ON TAP AS 2007 SEASON GETS STARTED; FAMU FIRES GILLESPIE

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

GILLESPIE LET GO BY FAMU:

Florida A&M University announced last week the release of coach **Mike Gillespie, Sr.** from his duties as head men's basketball coach effective November 2. Gillespie, who has been on paid administrative leave since May when he was arrested for misdemeanor stalking, will remain on paid leave through November 2. University President **Dr. James Ammons** said in a statement Tuesday that "this employment action is in the best interest of the Men's Basketball Program and the University."



FAMU Sports Photo

GILLESPIE: Stalking charge leads to his dismissal as head basketball coach.

Athletic Director **Nelson Townsend** that "there will not be an interim head coach appointed, rather a committee will be formed to begin a search for a replacement, whom we hope to name early in the fall." Gillespie compiled a 90-94 career mark at Florida A&M from 2001-02 to 2006-07, winning a pair of **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** Tournament titles in 2004 and 2007. The Rattlers won the 2007 MEAC Tournament crown this past March, finishing the season 21-14 overall, after finishing second in the regular season.

LINCOLN COACH HONORED:

Lincoln University of Pennsylvania track and field coach **Cyrus D. Jones** will be inducted into the United States Track and Field Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame on Tuesday December 18, 2007 during the annual USTFCCCA national convention in Phoenix (Az.). Jones has built a Division III powerhouse at Lincoln. His men's and women's teams have won 17 NCAA championships, including seven outdoor titles. The Lions won their sixth NCAA indoor title in March. "I am so overwhelmed by this honor," Jones said. "I felt numb when reading (the actual induction/congratulatory) letter. An honor like this is something I can't explain. I am more excited for all of the student-athletes who have run for Lincoln and for the people around me that have helped me over the years and have been my backbone." This honor caps a memorable 2007 for Jones, who was named Mideast Region Coach of the Year by the USTFCCCA and recently featured on ESPN.com. Jones also received the prestigious **Bob Hayes Award** from the city of Jacksonville, Fl. earlier this year. During a remarkable 33-year run as men's and women's track and field head coach, Jones, has been named Division III National Coach of the Year seven times (1985, 1990, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1997 and 2000). The women have won four national titles (three outdoor and one indoor). Meanwhile, the men have dominated the Division III landscape by winning 13 national titles (seven outdoor and six indoor). Since the NCAA has conducted championships in 1974, the Lincoln men have finished in the top five during the outdoor championships an astounding 23 times. The Lincoln men also have 12 outdoor runner-up finishes to its credit, including 2006. Also serving as the Lincoln associate athletics director, Jones was named Mid East Region Track Coach of the Year prior to this year's NCAA Indoor Championship meet (2006). Jones also served as honorary official during the 2002 Penn Relays and was recently selected as one of the top 100 sports figures in the Philadelphia region of the past 100 years by the Philadelphia Tribune. Under Jones, Lincoln has produced over 300 All-American Athletes, including **Clive Terrelonge**, who was inducted into the NCAA Track and Field Hall of Fame in 2005 and **Rhondale Jones**, who was named the most outstanding female performer of the last 25 years by the NCAA in 2006. The USTFCCCA Hall of Fame has been in existence since 1995 and currently houses 122 of the greatest coaching names in track and field and cross-country history. Members are chosen to the Hall of Fame based on their career accomplishments and significant contributions to the sports of track and field and cross-country.

Lincoln Sports Photo

JONES: Long career of NCAA Div. III track and field domination leads to Hall of Fame selection.

Lincoln Sports Photo



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Let the football games begin!

CSTV to carry re-match of last year's CIAA/SIAC Challenge

LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

The 2007 black college football season kicks off Thursday with two games and continues Saturday with ten more.

Highlighting the first week is the match-up of two-time CIAA champion **North Carolina Central** and four-time defending SIAC champion **Albany State** Saturday at Albany Municipal Stadium (6 p.m.) in Albany, Ga., in a game that will also kickoff the 2007 TV schedule by being carried live on CSTV.

The game is the second in a series that began last year with NCCU's 20-0 shutout win over the Golden Rams in Durham, N.C. That win started the Eagles on their way to an undefeated 10-0 regular season campaign which included its second straight CIAA West Division title.

The Eagles (11-1) went on to claim its second straight league title by defeating CIAA East Division champ **Elizabeth City State** 17-14 in the conference title game. They earned a first-round bye to the NCAA Div. II playoffs but were upended 24-17 in the second round by Delta State.

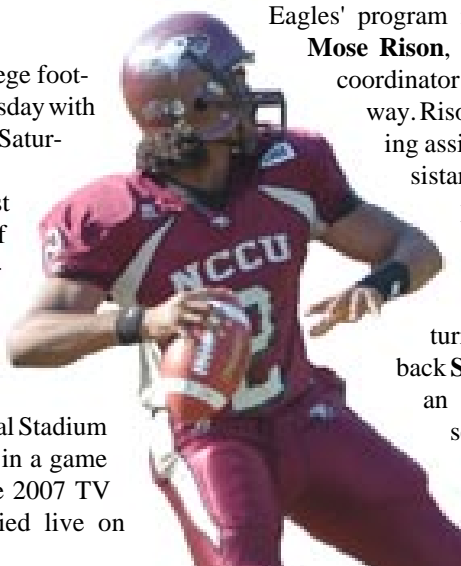
Albany State rebounded from an 0-2 start to win its fourth consecutive SIAC title and also earn a Div. II playoff berth. The Golden Rams went down to Newberry 34-28 in the first round of the playoffs.

Last year's battle was unofficially dubbed the *CIAA/SIAC Challenge*. But because of some a major change at NCCU this season, that moniker does not fit this year.

The Eagles are no longer members of the NCAA Div. II CIAA, deciding to give up their long-standing relationship with the conference to move to Div. I in all sports and to the newly named Football Championship Subdivision (formerly I-AA) level. They will compete this year as an FCS independent.

Additionally, after resurrecting the Eagles' program during a four-year stay, head coach **Rod Broadway** resigned following last season to take the head coaching position at **Grambling State** of the **Southwestern Athletic Conference**. Taking the reins of the

Eagles' program now is veteran assistant **Mose Rison**, who served as offensive coordinator last season under Broadway. Rison is in his first head coaching assignment after being an assistant on both the college and pro levels.



NCCU QB STAFFORD BROWN

While those changes should have some effect on NCCU, the return of outstanding quarterback **Stafford Brown**, who had an unprecedented freshman season a year ago, should help smooth the transition.

Brown, a Washington, D.C., native and transfer from the University of Oregon, was the backbone of the Eagles' offensive success last season. He threw for 2,577 yards (214.8 yards per game) including 26 TDs and only 11 interceptions, completing 54.2% of his tosses (174 of 321) while directing an offense that scored nearly 31 points per game.

For his efforts, Brown was named the CIAA offensive player of the year and the Doug Williams Offensive Player of the Year award presented to the black college offensive player of the year by American Urban Radio Network (Sheridan Broadcasting Network). He was the first freshman to win the award. Though the Eagles lost several skill positions players to graduation, they return solid veterans in running back **Jeff Tolliver** 454 rushing yards, 6 TDs), all-rookie fullback **Saeed Abdul-Azeez** and wide receiver **Wayne Blackwell** (33 receptions, 454 yards, 5 TDs) and three starters on the offensive line. All-American defensive back **Craig Amos**, lineman **Courtney Coard** and linebacker **Derrick Ray** are the defensive standouts. The Eagles also have some of the best special teamers in all of black college football in placekicker **Brandon Gilbert** (11 of 16 FGs) and kick returner **Brandon Alston**.

The Golden Rams could muster just 148 yards of total offense and just nine first downs in being shutout by NCCU a year ago. The lack of production on offense was a trend that held through most of last season as ASU averaged just 117.6 passing yards and 15.8 points per game, both eighth best in the conference.

GAMES THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23

Glennville State vs. Bowie State in Glennville, WV 6:00pm
C-Newman vs. Virginia State in Jefferson City, TN 7:00pm

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25

Kentucky State vs. Mercyhurst in Frankfort, KY 1:00pm
Stillman vs. Concordia in Tuscaloosa, AL 5:00pm
Fayetteville State vs. Wingate in Fayetteville, NC 6:00pm
Fort Valley St. vs. Clark Atlanta in Fort Valley, GA 6:00pm
Henderson St. vs. Texas College in R'nd Rock, TX 6:00pm
J. C. Smith vs. Edward Waters in Charlotte, NC 6:00pm
Lane vs. Lincoln (MO) in Jackson, TN 6:00pm
Miles vs. Shaw in Fairfield, AL 6:00pm
Morehouse vs. Benedict in Atlanta, GA 7:00pm

TV GAMES

CSTV
Albany St. vs. NC Central in Albany, GA 6:00pm

But they were rescued by head coach **James "Mike" White's** always stingy defense which led the league in rushing (77.8 ypg.) and scoring (11.8 ppg.) defense. Albany State was also second in rushing offense averaging 147.3 yards per contest.

Illinois transfer **Kisan Flakes**, who came in as a sub vs. the Eagles last season, begins this year as the starter at quarterback for Albany State. Flakes, who shared the position with **Terrance Ransome** last season, finished with 753 passing yards with four TDs and three interceptions last season. 2006 rushing leader **Gary Neavins** (467 rushing yards, 3 TDs) also returns.

Linebackers **Rod Cummings** and **Jason Marshall** will lead the defense. The Golden Rams have been picked by league coaches as preseason favorites to win their fifth consecutive league title.

The SIAC race gets started Saturday when **Benedict** travels to **Morehouse** (7 p.m.) and **Clark Atlanta** travels to **Fort Valley State** (6 p.m.).

The Morehouse/Benedict tussle involves teams with new head coaches. Former **Alabama A&M** assistant **Stan Conner** is the new coach at Benedict while former **Lane** defensive coordinator **Rich Freeman** is the new man at Morehouse. The CAU at FVSU match-up involves teams picked behind SIAC favorites Albany State and **Tuskegee**.

Two CIAA teams have the distinction of opening the season with Thursday games, both on the road. **Bowie State** plays at Glennville State (6 p.m.) while **Virginia State** opens at Carson-Newman (7 p.m.).

There's one CIAA vs. SIAC match as **Shaw** travels to Fairfield, Alabama to face **Miles**.

BCSP Notes

Rookies impress, especially Jones

Houston rookie **Jacoby Jones**, the 6-2, 210-pound wide receiver/kick returner out of **Lane**, had an impressive afternoon Saturday in a 33-20 exhibition game win over Arizona. Jacobs gained 24 yards on a pair of reverses, caught two passes for 32 yards and capped off his performance by returning a punt 80 yards for a third-quarter touchdown.

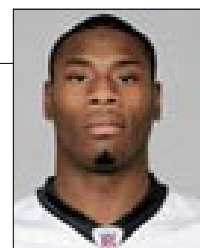
Thru two exhibition games, the third round pick is impressing new Texans' coach Gary Kubiak, especially on Saturday's punt return.

"Boy, that play he made on the punt," Kubiak said, "to even field the punt. I'm on the headset expecting him to make a fair catch. He's fearless, he's a playmaker and we got something special right there."

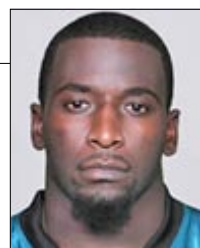
His four receptions for 47 yards in the preseason opener against Chicago led the team, and his punt returns also were impressive. He is currently leading the pack of receivers challenging Kevin Walter for the No. 2 job.

"He's done a heck of a job," Kubiak said. "He's still got some rookie in him, but he continues to make plays. He can go all day. I think he's as well-conditioned as any player we have on the team. Is he pushing Kevin hard as far as being our No. 2? Yeah, I think they all are, but Kevin is doing his job also

While talking of black college NFL rookies, former **Hampton** linebacker **Justin Durant**, the highest black college draftee this year going to



JONES



DURANT



PETERSON

Jacksonville in the second round, had three solo tackles, two assists and a forced fumble in the Jaguars' 31-19 win over Tampa Bay. Fellow rookie, defensive tackle **Greg Peterson**, a fifth round pick of Tampa Bay out of **North Carolina Central**, also had a good game in Saturday's game registering three solo tackles.

Rookie linebacker **Johnny Baldwin** out of **Alabama A&M** registered two solo tackles in the Detroit Lions' 23-20 exhibition game win Saturday over Cleveland.

O'Neal scores

Former **Jackson State** golfer **Tim O'Neal** scored his first top 25 finish in three months as he shot an even-par 280 to tie for 20th at last week's Nationwide Tour's Xerox Classic in Rochester, N.Y. O'Neal picked up a paycheck of \$6,744, his largest since a tie for 13th and a payday of \$12,187 at the BMW Charity Pro-Am at the Cliffs in May. The winnings boosted his haul this year to \$46,282, 89th on the Nationwide Money List.

2007 HOMECOMINGS

DATE	HOMECOMING TEAM	OPPONENT	TIME			TIME	
9/29/07	ALABAMA A&M	Texas Southern	3:00pm		KENTUCKY STATE	Miles 1:30pm	
	BETHUNE-COOKMAN	Morgan State	4:00pm		LANE	Stillman 2:00pm	
	LIVINGSTONE	Fayetteville State	2:00pm		MISS VALLEY STATE	Texas Southern 2:00pm	
	VIRGINIA UNION	Saint Augustine's	1:00pm		MOREHOUSE	Clark Atlanta 2:00pm	
	10/6/07	ALCORN STATE	Prairie View A&M	2:00pm	SAINT AUGUSTINE'S	Saint Paul's 2:00pm	
10/13/07	CLARK ATLANTA	George Mason	1:30pm	10/27/07	ALBANY STATE	Morehouse 2:00pm	
	LANGSTON	Texas College	2:00pm		BOWIE STATE	Shaw 1:00pm	
	SAINT PAUL'S	Shaw	1:30pm		GRAMBLING STATE	Texas Southern 2:00pm	
	SOUTHERN	Alabama A&M	5:30pm		JACKSON STATE	Arkansas-Pine Bluff 3:00pm	
	10/13/07	CENTRAL STATE	Open	1:30pm	JOHNSON C. SMITH	Fayetteville State 1:00pm	
10/20/07	MILES	Lane	12 noon	11/3/07	NC A&T	Bethune-Cookman 1:30pm	
	MORGAN STATE	Howard	1:00pm		NORFOLK STATE	Howard 1:00pm	
	NC CENTRAL	North Greenville	1:00pm		PRAIRIE VIEW A&M	Miss Valley State 2:00pm	
	SHAW	Livingstone	4:00pm		SAVANNAH STATE	Edward Waters 2:00pm	
	TEXAS SOUTHERN	Alcorn State	2:00pm		SC STATE	Delaware State 1:30pm	
	WEST VIRGINIA STATE	Seton Hill	1:30pm		VIRGINIA STATE	Virginia Union 1:00pm	
	10/20/07	BENEDICT	Fort Valley State	2:00pm	11/3/07	ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF	Prairie View A&M 2:30pm
	DELAWARE STATE	Morgan State	2:00pm		FLORIDA A&M	NC A&T 3:00pm	
	EDWARD WATERS	UNC-Pembroke	5:00pm		TENNESSEE STATE	Murray State 4:00pm	
	ELIZABETH CITY STATE	Livingstone	1:30pm		TUSKEGEE	Clark Atlanta 1:00pm	
FAYETTEVILLE STATE	Shaw	2:00pm		WINSTON-SALEM STATE	Delaware State 2:00pm		
HAMPTON	SC State	2:00pm		11/10/07	STILLMAN	Benedict 1:30pm	
				11/22/07	ALABAMA STATE	Tuskegee 1:00pm	