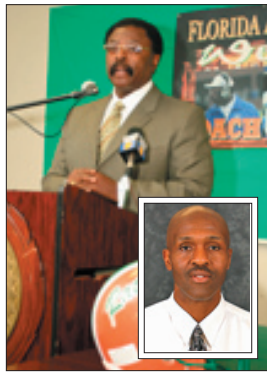


# BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



FAMU/Hampton Sports Photos

**NEW ERAS BEGIN:** Joe Taylor (background) goes to Florida A&M while Jerry Holmes (inset) takes his place at Hampton.

## SHOCKING MOVES

**MEAC FOOTBALL COACHING SHAKE-UP; LEAGUE PLAY BEGINS IN HOOPS**

## 2007-08 BLACK COLLEGE BASKETBALL (Men's Results, Standings and Weekly Honors)

CIAA	CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION			
	DIV	W	L	ALL
E. DIVISION				
Virginia Union	1	0	6	2
Bowie State	2	1	8	5
Eliz. City State	0	0	6	3
Virginia State	0	1	3	9
St. Paul's	0	0	1	3
W. DIVISION				
St. Augustine's	1	0	8	2
J. C. Smith	1	0	7	4
Livingstone	1	0	7	4
Fayetteville State	0	0	5	6
Shaw	0	3	3	8

### CIAA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

**BRAD BYERSON, Sr., F/C, VUU, Colonial Hts., VA** - Averaged 20.5 points, 11.5 rebounds in two wins shooting 65.3% (17 of 26) from the field. Tallied 25 points, pulled down 12 boards and had 3 blocks vs. JC Smith.  
**ROOKIE HAYWARD FAIN, F, SAC, Akron, OH** - Tallied 19 points, got 11 rebounds, 3 assists and 2 steals in win over Catawba.  
**COACH THOMAS HARGROVE, SAC** - His team improved to 8-2 with 105-97 OT win vs. Catawba.

MEAC	MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE			
	CONF	W	L	ALL
Hampton	1	0	6	6
Morgan State	1	0	6	7
Bethune-Cookman	1	0	6	7
Norfolk State	1	0	4	8
Delaware State	1	0	3	9
NC A&T State	0	1	5	8
Florida A&M	0	1	4	9
Howard	0	1	3	11
Coppin State	0	1	3	11
Md.-Eastern Shore	0	1	2	12
SC State	0	0	4	10
# W-Salem State	0	0	3	5

### MEAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

**PLAYER JAMAR SMITH, Sr., G, MSU, Brooklyn Park, MN** - Had game-high 28 points, 19 in second half, and earned 11 of 23 free throws in loss to Seton Hall. Also matched his career high with 12 boards.  
**ROOKIE MARC DAVIS, Fr., G, UMES, Baltimore, MD** - Got 11 points, 6 rebounds, 3 assists vs. Nebraska.  
**DEFENSE BOUBACAR COLY, Sr., C, MSU, Senegal** - 13 rebounds, 10 on defensive board, 8 points and 2 blocks vs. Seton Hall.

SIAC	SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE			
	CONF	W	L	ALL
Benedict	4	1	6	2
Morehouse	4	1	7	2
Kentucky State	3	1	5	3
Albany State	2	1	4	3
Clark Atlanta	3	2	4	5
Tuskegee	2	2	2	6
Miles	3	4	5	6
LeMoyne Owen	2	3	2	7
Paine	2	4	3	7
Fort Valley State	1	2	2	5
Stillman	0	3	0	6
Lane	0	3	0	7

### SIAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

**PLAYER KENNY JONES, Sr., F, KSU, Long Island, NY** - Averaged 23 ppg., 9.7 rpg., 1.0 steals in four wins over Morehouse, Clark Atlanta and Lane. In his best outing he had 31 points, 12 rebounds vs. Morehouse making 13 of 14 shots from the field.

SWAC	SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE			
	DIV	W	L	ALL
Jackson State	2	0	4	11
Texas Southern	2	0	3	12
Ark. Pine Bluff	1	0	5	7
Alabama State	1	1	5	7
Alabama A&M	1	1	4	8
Southern	1	1	3	10
Alcorn State	1	1	2	13
Miss. Valley St.	0	1	2	10
Prairie View A&M	0	2	2	12
Grambling State	0	2	0	9

### SWAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

**GRANT MAXEY, 6-7, So., F, JACKSON STATE** - Averaged 18.5 points and 8 rebounds as the Tigers won their first two conference games of the season. Maxey scored a game-high 24 points and pulled down 11 rebounds in a win over Alabama A&M Saturday and had 13 points and 5 boards as JSU beat Alabama State Monday. He shot 73.9% (14 of 19) from the floor in the two games.

INDEPENDENTS	W	L	PLAYERS OF THE WEEK	
			P. J. MILLS, F, CENTRAL STATE	Led five Marauders in double figures with 19 points sinking 8 of 9 shots while pulling down a team-high 8 rebounds and handing out 4 assists in win over Oakland City.
Central State	11	1		
Xavier (La.)	12	2		
Edward Waters	8	3		
Univ. District of Columbia	8	2		
Cheyney	5	4		
Florida Memorial	6	4		
Lincoln (Mo.)	4	5		
Savannah State	8	13		
West Virginia State	5	6		
Tennessee State	5	9		
Lincoln (Pa.)	1	11		
N. C. Central	1	20		

THRU GAMES OF MONDAY, JAN. 7

## UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

### SHARP SWAC COMMISH:

The Southwestern Athletic Conference Council of Presidents and Chancellors with President Ronald Mason Jr. of Jackson State University as chairman announced last week the selection of Duer Sharp as the new Commissioner of the SWAC. Sharp, who has served as interim commissioner since Robert C. Vowels, Jr. stepped down in June, begins his duties immediately as the SWAC's fifth commissioner. "I am honored and excited to lead the Southwestern Athletic Conference, and I am grateful to the Council of Presidents and Chancellors for giving me this opportunity to be a part of the exciting future of the SWAC. Robert and the Council have done an outstanding job of establishing a solid foundation in regards to the enhanced athletic experience of our student-athletes and fans and improving the academic mission of our member institutions," said Sharp. "The Conference office will continue to address issues such as sportsmanship, corporate sponsorships, developing new revenue sources and working with member institutions to ensure adherence to SWAC and NCAA rules compliance, academic progress and student-athlete graduation." The 38-year-old Camden, New Jersey, native joined the SWAC staff in January 2004. As assistant commissioner, he was responsible for overseeing the conference governance structure and officiating programs for football and men's basketball. Named associate commissioner in June 2005, Sharp served as the coordinator of the football championship and basketball tournament director as well as managed the day-to-day operations of the SWAC office. His duties also included the enforcement of 18 intercollegiate sports in accordance with SWAC and NCAA policies. Sharp received his bachelor's and master's degrees in Afro-American Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he was a four-year starter for the Badger football team (1988-1991).



SWAC Photo

**SHARP:** Gets full-time SWAC job after serving as interim commissioner since June.

TSU HISTORIAN PASSES: Kindell Stephens, 64, longtime sports information officer at Tennessee State University, passed away at his home on Wednesday, January 2. A stand-out basketball player at Fisk University, Stephens came to Tennessee State during the football glory days of the "Big John" Merritt era and served as the sports information director and 'Voice of the Tigers' on TSU radio broadcasts for many years. Stephens worked closely with many coaches and TSU athletes, coining many of the colorful nicknames associated with Tiger greats such as quarterbacks Joe "747" Adams and "Jefferson Street" Joe Gilliam. Stephens had become a historian, of sorts, for TSU athletics and at the time of his death was completing a book on Tennessee State University athletics.



STEPHENS

CAU AD RESIGNS: Brenda Edmond-Square has resigned as athletic director of Clark-Atlanta University. Ms Square was the school's first-ever female AD. She came to CAU in June of 2001 after serving as Assistant Director of Athletics at her alma mater, Southern University. She held that post for four years before coming to Atlanta. She was interim AD at Southern from 1999-2000. According to Onnidan Online columnist Hal Lamar, speculation is that Ms Edmond-Square is headed back to the SWAC in some capacity. As for Ms Square's replacement, that too has fueled certain speculation, according to Lamar. He reports the scuttlebutt is that decision makers at CAU are looking in the direction of former Savannah State Athletic Director Tony O'Neal, who resigned the post back in October after a three year stint.

## BCSP Notes

### Mercifully, conference hoops play starts

After another debilitating showing in Div. I non-conference play, black college men's basketball teams enter the new year ready to take their frustrations out on each other.

No teams emerged from their brutal pre-New Year's schedules with winning records. Hampton (6-6), Morgan State and Bethune-Cookman (both 6-7), all from the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference, came the closest. Jackson State (4-11, 2-0) and Texas Southern (3-12, 2-0) are the early leaders in Southwestern Athletic Conference play.

There were some bright moments like 5-9 Tennessee State's win last week over Illinois of the Big Ten, or 5-8 North Carolina A&T's win over DePaul of the Big East in late November. But mostly there were blowouts, none worse than Savannah State's 85-25 loss to Kansas State Monday night where the Tigers scored one second-half field goal.

The bottom line is there was no indication that any team from either of the Div. I conferences - the MEAC or SWAC - or Div. I independents will make any noise on the national scene. Keep in mind, however, that these teams usually hone their style of play when they face off against each other. That's something to look forward to.

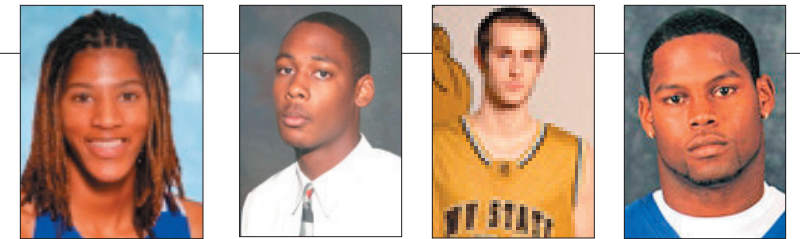
On the women's side, Florida A&M (9-3), North Carolina A&T (7-5) and Morgan State (7-5), again all out of the MEAC, were the only teams to post winning marks. Defending champ Prairie View (7-7, 2-0) has the best overall record among SWAC schools.

As usual, things are a little different on the NCAA Div. II level. There are plenty of teams with winning records though no one at this point is considered a serious contender for a national title.

On the men's side, Virginia Union (6-2) and surprising St. Augustine's (8-2) have posted the best records in the CIAA, while Morehouse (7-2) and Benedict (6-2) pace the SIAC. Bowie State (9-1) and Johnson C. Smith (8-4) pace the CIAA women, with Kentucky State (5-4, 3-0) and Tuskegee (4-4, 3-0) early leaders in the SIAC.

The men of Central State, who play at the Div. II level, have the best record so far among black college teams at 11-1 but their only loss was last week to 4-8 Lake Superior State.

Individually, the CIAA has some national stars.



TRAHAN

GLADNESS

PIDOCK

DIXON

Elizabeth City State senior center Celeste Trahan is leading all of Div. II women in both scoring (23.3 ppg.) and rebounding (17.0 rpg.). Trahan set her career high last week with a 36-point outing against Mount Olive. She has already been selected CIAA Player of the Week four times this season.

St. Paul's forward Jack Browne is among the nation's men's leaders in Div. II scoring at 23.3 points per game.

Alabama A&M center Mickell Gladness, last year's national shot blocks leader, is at it again. Through 12 games he currently ranks second among Div. I men at 5.3 swats per contest.

West Virginia State junior forward Wade Pidock is among the best 3-point marksmen in the nation. He ranks third in Div. II with 4.1 treys per game and is hitting on 52.3 percent of his shots from behind the arc, ninth best in the country.

Two SIAC stalwarts are among the Div. II leaders in field goal percentage. Kentucky State senior forward Kenny Jones is fifth hitting on 70.1% of his attempts with Morehouse junior center Kenney Boyd is just behind him at 69.9%.

Morehouse guard Travis Floyd is canning 96.4% (27 of 28) of his free throws to rank third in Div. II. Benedict junior guard Charles Gibbs has hit on 19 of 20 free throws (95.0%) to rank sixth.

### Dixon in Hula Bowl

Hampton defensive tackle Marcus Dixon is the only black college player on the roster for this week's Hula Bowl which will be played this Saturday, Jan. 12 at Aloha Stadium in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Dixon, a 6-4, 290-pound native of Rome, Ga., was a first team all-MEAC selection who totalled 58 tackles and six sacks this season.

## Taylor leaves Hampton for Florida A&M

### ROSCOE NANCE

BCSP Correspondent

'A man isn't worth his salt if he isn't up to a challenge.' That's the gospel according to Joe Taylor.

Taylor, 57, says that's what motivated him to forsake Hampton University last week after 16 years as the Pirates' football coach to take on the job of rebuilding the once-proud Florida A&M program.

"The idea of this particular challenge was intriguing," said Taylor, the dean of MEAC coaches, alluding to the task of turning around a program which has another year of NCAA probation resulting from violations during Billy Joe's tenure as coach and is limited to 60 scholarships - three fewer than the maximum for FCS programs.

Needless to say, the five-year, \$225,000 contract, plus \$12,000 annual housing allowance, the Rattlers offered added to the intrigue.

"It's about trying to put your family in a better situation," says Taylor, whose salary at Hampton was in the \$150,000- to \$170,000-a-year range.

Taylor guided Hampton to five MEAC championships and three CIAA crowns while compiling a 136-49 overall record. His 197-78-4 career mark places him third among active FCS coaches in total victories, and his .713 winning percentage is fifth best.

Jerry Holmes, the Pirates' defensive coordinator the past three years, was named Taylor's successor.

Hampton athletic director Lonza Hardy Jr. says Taylor will be missed, but his departure isn't a step backwards for the Pirates' program.

"If we didn't have a qualified person as his replacement, I would say it's a step backwards," Hardy says. "The business of Hampton football goes on. Coach Holmes was trained well by Coach Taylor."

Taylor takes over a program that has fallen on hard times in recent years. The Rattlers are 19-25 over the last four seasons and were eighth in the nine-team MEAC this season with a 2-6 conference record. They were 3-8 overall this year under third-year head coach Rubin Carter, who posted a 16-17 mark during his tenure.

Taylor also interviewed for the job at Western Carolina, 1-10 and last in the Southern Conference this season, and was offered the position. When Taylor resigned at Hampton, speculation was that he had accepted the Catamounts offer since it wasn't widely known that he was on Florida A&M's short list of candidates, which included Rod Broadway of Grambling and University of

Georgia associate head coach John Eason.

(Newport News, Va.) Daily Press columnist Dave Fairbank wrote that Taylor "had all but accepted" the Western Carolina job when he changed his mind and sought to return to Hampton. There was speculation also that Taylor tried to leverage the Western Carolina offer for improved contracts for his assistants at Hampton.

"There was no bartering," Taylor says, adding that his decision to go to Florida A&M came down to the sales job the Rattlers did on him and a matter of choosing between FAMU and Western Carolina.

"They were quite convincing when it came to what they have in place and what they hope to get done," he says. "The resources are more and the chances to win are better at FAMU. Western Carolina has put more resources into the program, but there are still some things to do."

The job of convincing Taylor to come to Florida A&M fell to Bill Hayes, the Rattlers' newly installed athletic director. Hayes and Taylor have a relationship that goes back to when both were coaching in the CIAA, Taylor at Virginia Union and Hayes at Winston-Salem State. They also went against each other in the MEAC after Taylor moved on to Hampton and Hayes took over at North Carolina A&T.

Broadway was the frontrunner based on his relationship with Hayes and Florida A&M president James Ammons. Broadway was head coach at North Carolina Central when Ammons was president and Hayes was athletic director. However, Broadway and Florida A&M weren't able to agree on contract terms, and Broadway opted to remain at Grambling. Eason, a Rattler All-American in the late 1960s, was a popular choice among FAMU alumni but he wasn't interested in returning to his alma mater.

"I thought he was the best," Hayes says of Taylor. "I thought he brought the most to the table."

Taylor's \$225,000 annual salary makes him the highest paid coach in black college football. The Rattlers will pay Carter through April and his assistant through February. That raises the question how will Florida A&M be able to pay Taylor and his staff.

Hayes insists that Ammons is committed to the program, and that Ammons "not only wants to win, he wants to provide infrastructure to win."

"Everybody is going to be better off than they were," Hayes says. Taylor plans to name his staff later this week when he returns from the American Football Coaches Association Convention in



FAMU Sports Photo

**DYNAMIC DUO:** New FAMU Athletic Director Bill Hayes (l.) and brand new head football coach Joe Taylor (r.), former rivals, now join forces to return the Rattlers to prominence.

Anaheim, Calif. Offensive line coach Lawrence Hershaw and running backs coach Aaron Taylor, Joe Taylor's son, are expected to accompany him from Hampton.

Taylor's move to Florida A&M took observers of black college football by surprise, among them ESPNU play-by-play announcer Charlie Neal.

"When I first heard he was offered another job, the only job I knew about from an HBCU perspective was FAMU," Neal says. "I didn't see him making that move laterally. I could see a move to Western Carolina. What else could he do at Hampton? He's done everything he needed to do except win a postseason game. He has won enough MEAC championships. But I can see where would be challenged at FAMU. FAMU is not a bad place to be. The down side is they still have some probation and are short some scholarships. Knowing the president, he wants a winner. He's proved it by giving him five-year contract and housing allowance. I was somewhat shocked."

Hayes and Taylor say they have bigger fish than an MEAC championship to fry.

"I've been around too long to do average things," Hayes says. "I ain't got time for that. Everything we do from here on out is with that in mind."

Florida A&M won the inaugural I-AA championship in 1978 and reached the semifinals in 1999.

"Every day I get up I will be working toward returning (FAMU) to prominence," Taylor says. "The potential is great to see some immediate improvement. You've always got a chance when you're in that Florida area. I feel like we have one more resurrection in us."