

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



Hampton Sports Photo

'BOUT TO GET PAID

LANGFORD: Hampton DE likely second black college player to go off NFL Draft boards.

TENNESSEE STATE DB LIKELY EARLY SELECTION FOR WEEKEND'S NFL DRAFT

2008 BLACK COLLEGE BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL (Results, Standings and Weekly Honors)

MEAC		MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE				
SOFTBALL	CONF	ALL	W	L	W	L
NORTH	7	1	24	12		
Hampton	7	1	24	12		
Delaware State	7	2	22	18		
Morgan State	5	2	12	13		
Howard	5	3	13	15		
UMES	0	8	7	28		
Coppin State	0	8	0	28		
NORTH	W	L	W	L		
Bethune-Cookman	8	1	18	31		
NC A&T State	6	3	24	15		
Norfolk State	4	5	16	24		
SC State	2	7	6	21		
Florida A&M	1	5	11	34		

MEAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK
PLAYER
JESSICA CHRABASZCZ, Sr., 1B, DSU, Johnson, RI - Hit .470 with 2 HRs, 4 doubles and 10 RBI in six games.
ROOKIE
LIZ PARRISH, Fr., C/UT, B-CU, S. Dayton, FL - Hit .571 in three games with one RBI.
PITCHER
KY BROWN, Jr., P, NSU, Woodsfield, OH

MEAC		MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE				
BASEBALL	CONF	ALL	W	L	W	L
Bethune-Cookman	12	0	25	15		
Delaware State	9	2	14	22		
NC A&T State	6	5	18	23		
Florida A&M	6	5	13	17		
Md.-Eastern Shore	4	7	5	33		
Norfolk State	3	9	13	17		
Coppin State	0	12	2	40		

MEAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK
PLAYER
DARRYL EVANS, So., OF, Merrillville, IN - Hit for cycle (4-4) vs. UMES. Hit .500 (11-of-22) for the week with 4 runs, 3 doubles, 1 HR and 1 RBI in 3-2 week.
ROOKIE
PATRICK REGALADO, Fr., C/INF, CSU, Miami - Hit .438 with 1 HR, 2 doubles and 32 RBI in five games.
PITCHER
HIRAM BURGOS, Jr., P, B-CU, Cayey, PR - Allowed one earned run on six hits and struck out four in five innings for Wildcats.

SWAC		SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE				
SOFTBALL	DIV	ALL	W	L	W	L
EAST	13	4	25	25		
Miss. Valley St.	13	4	25	25		
Alcorn State	11	5	22	28		
Alabama A&M	9	8	10	20		
Jackson State	7	8	17	35		
Alabama State	2	12	4	34		
WEST	13	4	25	15		
Southern	13	4	25	15		
Grambling State	10	7	14	25		
Prairie View A&M	9	8	14	26		
Texas Southern	5	12	7	24		
Ark. Pine Bluff	3	14	3	38		

SWAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK
PLAYER
NA
PITCHER
NA

SWAC		SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE				
BASEBALL	DIV	ALL	W	L	W	L
EAST	15	3	31	14		
Jackson State	15	3	31	14		
Alcorn State	10	6	21	8		
Miss. Valley St.	9	8	13	19		
Alabama State	8	12	13	15		
Alabama A&M	2	16	4	29		
WEST	11	4	19	11		
Southern	11	4	19	11		
Grambling State	14	7	17	17		
Prairie View A&M	11	7	17	19		
Texas Southern	4	11	8	25		
Ark. Pine Bluff	5	16	9	25		

SWAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK
PLAYER
PERNELL HALLIMAN, Jr., OF/P, JSU, Tupelo, MS - Went 11-of-17 (.647) in five games. He also scored six runs, with 3 doubles, 2 HRs and 9 RBI.
PITCHER
SHERRARD BROOKS, Jr., RHP, SU, Texarkana, TX - Pitched seven innings in Jaguars' 12-5 win over UAPB allowing 5 hits and 3 earned runs while striking out 10.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

CHEYNEY CHOOSES BRAXTON:

Jeff Braxton was named last week as **Cheyney University's** new head football coach. Braxton comes to Cheyney after his second three year stint at **Delaware State**. This is Braxton's second stint at Cheyney having earlier spent one season under former head coach **Chris Roulhac**. Braxton succeeds **Tim Newsome** who was relieved of his duties after compiling a 4-29 record in three seasons as the Wolves' head coach. Braxton's coaching career also includes stints at **Bowie State**, Hofstra (1997), Towson (1998), Fordham (1999), Wesley (1993-94), **Morehouse** (1994), and **Tennessee State** (2005).



BRAXTON

NEW TUSKEGEE AD: Tuskegee

President **Benjamin F. Payton** announced the appointment last week of **Stacy L. Danley II** as the school's new athletic director at the institution. In this position, Danley will report and be responsible to the President for the effective and efficient operations of the total athletic program and will work closely with the vice president for university advancement in funds development for the Athletic Department. Danley, an alumnus of Auburn, has served the Southeastern Conference (Birmingham) in the areas of compliance and championships/events management. He most recently served as associate athletic director /men's sports coordinator at Auburn, where he was previously associate athletic director for external affairs.



DANLEY

GREEN LEAVES MVSU:

Jacksonville (Ala.) State officials announced last week that **Mississippi Valley State** head basketball coach **James Green** has decided to become the school's new coach. Green, who led the Delta Devils to the 2006-07 **Southwestern Athletic Conference** regular season title and this season's **SWAC** Tournament crown and **NCAA** Tournament appearance, becomes the 10th men's basketball coach in JSU school history bringing 11 years of experience as a head coach at the Division I level. He has spent the last three as head coach at MVSU and eight previous years at Southern Miss. Green was named the **SWAC** Coach of the Year in 2006-07 season after guiding the Delta Devils to a 13-5 league mark. He compiled an overall record of 44-51 in three years at MVSU. Prior to MVSU, Green served as the head coach at Southern Mississippi for eight seasons, a stretch that saw him post a 123-109 record and earn **Conference USA** Coach of the Year accolades in 2001. At USM he won one conference title and make one trip to the NIT.



MVSU Sports Photo

GREEN: Gets job at Jacksonville State after 44-51 three-year mark at MVSU.

LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

Tennessee State defensive back **Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie** is getting the royal treatment.

The 6-2, 185-pound speedster is going through final look-sees by NFL personnel in anticipation of this weekend's Draft. And they're getting a good look.

Last week, the Brandenton, Fla., native flew to Baltimore, St. Louis and Arizona for meetings with and workouts for NFL teams. St. Louis owns the second pick in Saturday's first round of the draft. Baltimore picks tenth and Arizona 16th.

Rodgers-Cromartie then worked out on the TSU campus Tuesday for New Orleans. On hand for the workout were Saints' head coach Sean Payton and several assistants who also brought along back-up quarterback Tyler Palko and wide receiver David Patten for the session. The brass left impressed. New Orleans has the tenth pick in the first round.

New England, who has the seventh selection, was due on TSU's campus Wednesday.

As one of the top prospects, the talented playmaker was invited by the league to come to New York Friday ready to make his walk to the platform before the TV cameras Saturday after his selection.

Perhaps remembering Brady Quinn's painstaking wait last season, Cromartie declined the offer, instead choosing to fly to Florida Thursday to take the draft in amongst family and friends at home.

All the attention is coming to Rodgers-Cromartie because he wowed scouts at both the Senior Bowl and the NFL Combine.

He had great workouts against many of the top wide receivers at the Senior Bowl and then had an interception and several tackles to earn defensive MVP at the game in Mobile in January.

TENNESSEE STATE FIRST ROUND DRAFT PICKS

1968

3 - Claude Humphrey, DE (Atlanta)
 25 - Eldridge Dickey, QB (Oakland)

1969

23 - Jim Marsalis, DB (Kansas City)

1971

15 - Vernon Holland, OT (Cincinnati)

1974

1 - Ed "Too Tall" Jones, DE (Dallas)
 4 - Waymond Bryant, LB (Chicago)

He then blazed a 4.33 40 time, had an impressive 38.5-inch vertical jump, bench pressed 225 pounds 17 times, and had the top time in the cone drill (.64) to further open eyes at February's Combine. Every one of his scores was in the top three among cornerbacks.

His name is at the top of the list of defensive backs for this weekend's draft. He is rated along with Leodis McKelvin of Troy, Mike Jenkins of South Florida and Aqib Talib of Kansas as first-tier corners, all of whom are expected to go in the first round.

In just about every list of prospects, Rodgers-Cromartie is listed among the best 20 available and is a good bet to be among the first ten picks.

If he is chosen in the first round, he would become the seventh in Tennessee State history and first since 1974. He would join with TSU legends **Claude Humphrey** and **Eldridge Dickey** (1964), **Jim Marsalis** ('69), **Vernon Holland** ('71), **Ed "Too Tall" Jones** and **Waymond Bryant** ('74) as first round selections. Jones, was the highest TSU selection ever, going first overall to Dallas in the 1974 draft. Humphrey was picked third in '68.

DRC, as he is called, would also

Spring Sports champs

CIAA

TENNIS (men) - Shaw swept all singles and doubles competition to win its fourth consecutive championship. Shaw's **Alexandre Lord-Andrade** was named MVP. **Johnson C. Smith** was second.

TENNIS (women) - The **Virginia State** Lady Trojans won their first ever championship knocking off defending champ **Fayetteville State** in the finals.

OUTDOOR TRACK AND FIELD (men & women) - The **St. Augustine's** Falcons successfully defended their men's and women's outdoor crowns. The Falcon men won convincingly (241-95 over **Bowie State**) while the Falcon women topped Virginia State (181-152.5). The sweep was the second straight and the 10th in 11 seasons for the Falcons.

The Falcons were led by men's MVPs **Ken Samoi** (track - 1st in 1500 & 5000 meters) and **Joe Kindred** (field - 1st in high jump & long jump, 3rd in triple jump), and women's MVP **Barbara Pierre** (track - 1st in 100, 200 and 4x100 meters). **Damara Parrish** (1st in long jump, triple jump) of **Bowie State** was named women's field MVP.

BASEBALL - **Virginia State** captured its second straight baseball championship and 24th overall with a 14-7 clinching win over St. Augustine's. VSU shortstop **Michael Knight** was the Tournament MVP.

SOFTBALL - **Bowie State** completed an undefeated run thru the tournament knocking off Virginia State 5-0 in the title game. BSU third baseman **Annette Makle** was named tournament MVP.

GOLF - Sophomore medalist **Jerel Whiting** led Virginia State to a two-stroke (576-578) victory over defending champion Fayetteville State to take its first ever golf title.

Whiting carded a 3-under-par 141 for the two-day event to tie teammate **Kalani Bretos** and FSU's **Joel "Chip" Lynn**. On the second hole of sudden death competition, Whiting broke the tie, and was named the Individual Medalist for the tournament.

VSU wins the automatic bid to the **NCAA** Super Regionals, to be held May 5-7, 2008 at the Point Lake Golf Club in Belmont, N.C.

SIAC

TENNIS - Tuskegee (men)
TENNIS - Tuskegee (women)

HEAD AND SHOULDERS ABOVE THE REST

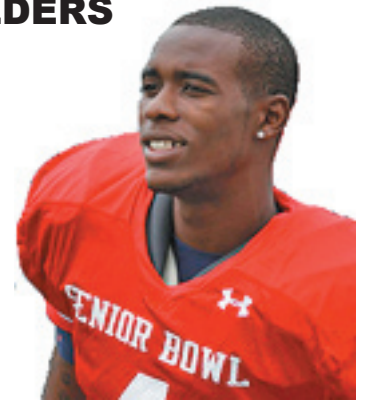
FIRST DAY (Rounds 1-3)

• DOMINIQUE-RODGERS CROMARTIE - Speedy

Tennessee State DB quickly rose up the draft charts behind sparkling Senior Bowl and Combine. Devastating playmaker and ballhawk who reminds scouts of Deion Sanders.

Projected team: New England (7th), New Orleans (10th) or Philadelphia (19th)

• **KENDALL LANGFORD** - Big (6-5, 287) Hampton D-lineman can either lighten up to be a rush defensive end or bulk up to play tackle or may be able to play line-backer in 3-4 alignment. Prolific tackler and sack man was hree-time all-MEAC lineman
Projected: Late 3rd or 4th round



RODGERS-CROMARTIE

SECOND DAY (Rounds 4-7)

Chad Simpson, RB, Morgan State
Bobbie Williams, S, Bethune-Cookman
Curtis Johnson, DE/LB, Clark Atlanta
Marcus Dixon, DE, Hampton
Rudolph Hardie, DE, Howard
Shaheer McBride, WR, Delaware State
Ed Williams, WR, Lane
Thaddeus Coleman, OT, Miss. Valley St.
Brian Witherspoon, DB, Stillman
James Lee, OT, SC State

be the 36th black college player taken in the first round since 1963 and the first since **Jackson State** teammates **Sylvester Morris** and **Rashard Anderson** were taken with the 21st and 23rd selections respectively in the 2000 Draft. Jackson State leads black colleges with seven first round selections. Tennessee State and Grambling have had six.

There's a precipitous dropoff after DRC in black college player rankings for this year's draft as no one consistently rates in the top ten at his position. The next highest ranked player is 6-5, 287-pound defensive end **Kendall Langford** out of Hampton. Langford, a three-time all-MEAC selection, is ranked among the top 20 at his position and may be taken on the first day (first three rounds) of the draft. One of his advantages is his size, which may allow him to also work as a defen-

sive tackle.

Any other black college first-day selections would be a surprise.

MEAC Offensive Player of the Year, **Morgan State** running back **Chad Simpson**, SIAC Defensive **POY** **Clark Atlanta** defensive end **Curtis Johnson**, **Bethune-Cookman** safety **Bobbie Williams**, **Howard** defensive end **Rudolph Hardie** and Hampton defensive end **Marcus Dixon** hover in the 20s at their positions and are most likely second-day (rounds 4-7) picks.

Among the sleepers they may find their way into the later rounds but are almost assured of signing free agent contracts are speedy **Stillman** defensive back **Brian Witherspoon**, **Jackson State** wide receiver **Jaymar Johnson**, **Delaware State** WR **Shaheer McBride**, **Texas Southern** DE **Derrick Gray** and **B-CU** LB **Ronnie McCullough**.

BASEBALL - **Stillman's** bullpen preserved 9-4 and 6-5 wins over **Paine** to give the Tigers their second consecutive SIAC baseball championship. **Graham Wright**, the tournament Most Valuable Player, allowed just two earned runs in 5 2/3 innings in relief to earn the win in game two.

MEAC

TENNIS (men & women) - The **South Carolina State** women's and men's teams captured the 2008 **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** championships. The Lady Bulldogs defeated **Norfolk State** 4-0 in winning their fourth consecutive MEAC title and fifth overall. SCSU's **Marcela Rodezno** recorded a 3-0 mark at the number two singles position and was named the outstanding performer. The Lady Bulldogs' Head Coach **Hardepe Judge** was named the Outstanding Coach for the fourth time on the women's side.

In men's action, SCSU topped **Florida A&M** 4-1, to win its seventh MEAC crown. SCSU's **Tomas Dobrotka** was 2-0 in singles to win outstanding performer.

With the wins, both teams receive automatic qualifications to the **NCAA** Division I Men's and Women's Championship. Team selections will be announced on ESPNNews on Tuesday, April 29, 2008.

SWAC

GOLF (men and women) - **Shasta Averyhardt** received medalist honors, as she led the **Jackson State** Lady Tigers to their fourth straight **Southwestern Athletic Conference** title. JSU shot a 616 (305 - 311) for the two-day tournament. The win is the 11th for head coach **Eddie Payton's** women's program. Averyhardt earned her fourth straight SWAC medalist honor, as she shot a 149 (73 - 76) for the tournament. **Jennifer Sells** was named SWAC freshman of the year, as she finished with a 154 (77 - 77). Averyhardt and Sells were also named to the All-Tournament team. Two other Lady Tigers **Merielle LeBlanc** and **Nikeya Peay**, as well as **Kyla Reay** of **Alabama State** made the All-Tournament team.

The JSU men are in first place after two days at the SWAC championships. JSU has a team score of 606 (308 - 298). **Texas Southern** is second with a total of 632. Men's play resumed with the final round beginning at 7:30 am Tuesday.

OUTDOOR TRACK AND FIELD - **Jackson State** (women) narrowly outscored Grambling State, 182.5 to 180 to take the women's crown. JSU's **Ledrianna White** won the hammer throw, javelin and discus to win outstanding field performer. **Arkansas-Pine Bluff's** **Vasity Chemweno** won the 800 and 1500 meters to win the track award.