

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



Photo by Mark Sutton

SPRING THINGS

MEAC SOFTBALL, SWAC BASEBALL, DIV. II TENNIS AND SOFTBALL REGIONALS SET

ASHE: Freshman hurdler is first Bethune-Cookman runner to set an MEAC meet record in track.

DIVISION II SOFTBALL PLAYOFFS

Mid-Atlantic Region in Kutztown, PA
 May 7 > 11:30am: **Bowie State** vs. Lock Haven
 Great Lakes Region in Edwardsville, IL
 May 7 > 5pm: **West Virginia State** vs. SIU-Edwardsville
 South Region in Miami Shores, FL
 May 7 > 6:30pm: **Albany State** vs. Barry

DIVISION II TENNIS PLAYOFFS

South Region in Valdosta, GA
 May 8 > 10am: **Tuskegee** women vs. North Alabama
 South Region in Pensacola, FL
 May 8 > 2pm: **Benedict** women vs. West Florida
 May 9 > 11am: **Tuskegee** men vs. Ouachita Baptist
 Mid-Atlantic Region in Augusta, GA
 May 8 > 9am: **Virginia State** women vs. Armstrong Atlantic
 May 8 > 2pm: **Shaw** men vs. Armstrong Atlantic
 Great Lakes Region in Midland, MI
 May 9 > 11am: **West Virginia State** women vs. Northwood

DIVISION I TENNIS PLAYOFFS

1st & 2nd Round in Atlanta, GA
 May 9 > 12n: **Alcorn St** women vs. Ga Tech
 1st & 2nd Round in Chapel Hill, NC
 May 9 > 10am: **South Carolina State** women vs North Carolina
 May 10 > 10am: **South Carolina State** men vs North Carolina
 1st & 2nd Round in Los Angeles, CA
 May 10 > 12n PT: **Southern** men vs Southern California

MEAC MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

SOFTBALL	CONF	ALL
NORTH	W	L
Hampton	12	2 31 16
Howard	11	3 20 15
Delaware State	10	5 25 23
Morgan State	7	7 14 18
UMES	3	12 10 34
Coppin State	0	14 0 36
NORTH	W	L
NC A&T State	9	3 31 15
Bethune-Cookman	9	3 19 34
Florida A&M	5	7 15 38
Norfolk State	4	8 19 31
SC State	3	9 9 24

MEAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

PLAYER
BRIANNE GUTIERREZ, Sr., UTL, HOWARD, Englewood, CO - Homered in 3 of 4 games with a .804 (8-15) batting average in 4-0 week. Also had 3 doubles with 9 RBI.
 ROOKIE
EMILY JOHNSON, Fr., P/F, HOWARD, Jacksonville, FL - Hit .666 (10-15) with 1 triple, 4 doubles and 4 RBI. Was 7-15 in 3 games vs. UMES.
 PITCHER
DALE McNEAL, Sr., P, HOWARD, Los Angeles, CA - Had 0.00 ERA with 16 strikeouts, 2 wins and 2 saves in 16.2 innings, shutting out Bowie State and UMES.

MEAC MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

BASEBALL	CONF	ALL
EAST	W	L
Bethune-Cookman	17	1 32 18
NC A&T State	11	6 24 26
Delaware State	11	6 16 28
Florida A&M	10	7 18 20
Norfolk State	7	10 20 19
Md.-Eastern Shore	4	12 5 44
Coppin State	0	18 4 49

MEAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

PLAYER
JEREMY JONES, Sr., DH, NC A&T, Fayetteville, NC - Hit .467 (7-15) with 1 home run, 1 triple, 2 doubles and 8 RBI in 3-1 week. Extended hitting streak to 11 games.
 ROOKIE
CHRIS JOYCE, So., 3B, NSU, Chesapeake, VA - Hit .300 in 2-1 week with 1 triple and 5 RBI. Drove in career high 4 runs vs. FAMU.
 PITCHER
TIM JOHNSON, Sr., P, NC A&T, Statesville, NC - Pitched a complete game win vs. Coppin State allowing 4 hits and striking out 11 batters.

SWAC Southwestern ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

BASEBALL	DIV	ALL
EAST	W	L
Jackson State	18	5 34 18
Alcorn State	13	8 26 12
Miss. Valley St.	13	10 17 23
Alabama State	8	14 13 20
Alabama A&M	3	18 6 34
WEST	W	L
Southern	18	6 26 15
Grambling State	15	9 21 23
Prairie View A&M	14	10 21 24
Texas Southern	7	17 12 32
Ark. Pine Bluff	6	18 10 33

SWAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

PLAYER
NA
 PITCHER
NA

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS



VASSELL PIERCE WOODS GILES

REPEATERS IN MEAC TRACK:

The **Hampton** Lady Pirates and **Norfolk State** Spartans won the 2008 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Outdoor Track and Field Championships at Hughes Stadium on the campus of **Morgan State** last weekend.

The Lady Pirates scored 123 points en route to their unprecedented sixth consecutive outdoor title. Hampton freshman **Raquel Vassell** tallied 35.25 points and earned outstanding performer. Vassell won the 100 meters (11.69), 200 meters (23.50) and also finished among the top three in the 100 meter hurdles (14.09), 4x100 meter relay (47.23) and 4x400 meter relay (3:40.52).

"I came into this program knowing that they had won many championships and I did not want to stop that streak," explained Vassell. Hampton Head Coach **Maurice Pierce** was named the outstanding coach of the championship.

Maryland Eastern Shore tallied 118 points to finish second. **North Carolina A&T** (94), **Morgan State** (80) and **Norfolk State** (76) rounded out the top five.

On the men's side the Norfolk State posted 162 points to capture their third straight title and fifth overall. Sophomore **Marlon Woods** earned outstanding performer after tallying 28 total points. Woods won the long jump with a 7.95m (26-01 ft.) leap and the high jump with a 2.19 (7-02.25 ft.) jump. He was second in the triple jump with a 15.47m (50-09.25 ft.) leap. Spartans' Head Coach **Kenneth Giles** earned Outstanding Coaching honors.

North Carolina A&T posted 95 points to finish second. Hampton (76), **Delaware State** (70) and Morgan State (68) completed the top five.

It was a record setting day for both the men and women. Hampton's **Francena McCorory** broke a meet record in the 400 meters with a time of 51.54. The previous record of 52.10 was set by **Michelle Felder** of Howard in 1989. Maryland Eastern Shore's **Peter Sang** set a new MEAC record in the 3,000 meter steeplechase with a time of 9:20.07. Sang held the previous record of 9:32.08 that he posted at last's year's championship.

T'BELLES TAKE OVC TRACK:

The **Tennessee State** Tigerbells surged from a fourth place first-day finish to overwhelm the field to win the 2008 Ohio Valley Conference Outdoor Track and Field title Saturday at Southeast Missouri State in Cape Girardeau, Mo. The Tigerbells won their third outdoor title, adding this title to their Indoor Championship in 2008.

TSU coach **Chandra Cheeseborough** was named 2008 OVC Female Coach of the Year, her third such title, which also adds to her 2008 OVC Indoor Coach of the Year designation. Senior **Dominique Ward-Holmes**, the 2008 OVC Female track Athlete of the Year, qualified for the NCAA Regional in the 200 meters (23.57) and the 400 meters (53.25) setting a new OVC record in the 400 meter event. She also anchored the first place finishing Tigerbelle 4x100 and 4x400 relay teams.

The anatomy of the Tigerbells' victory is as follows:

- 100 meter dash
- 1 - Martinique Guice (12.14)
- 2 - Tierra Boyd (12.17)
- 5 - Richesa McCaleb (12.25)
- 200 meter dash
- 1-Dom. Ward-Holmes (23.57)R
- 2 -Tierra Boyd (24.81)
- 4-Richesa McCaleb (24.95)
- 400 meter dash
- 1-Dom. Ward Holmes (53.25) Rc
- 4-Danielle Exum (57.61)
- 8-Brittanny Jackson (1:00.08)
- 800 meter run
- 2-Danielle Abraham (2:10.53)
- 4-Felicia Jeffers (2:16.36)
- 400 hurdles
- 1-Salisha Marryshow (1:01.16)
- 8-Gladys Williams (1:10.52)
- 4x100 relay
- 1-TSU - 45.96 (Richesa McCaleb,

- Tierra Boyd, Martinique Guice, Dom. Ward-Holmes)
- 4x400 relay
- 1-TSU - 3:45.10 (Salisha Marryshow, Tierra Boyd, Danielle Abraham, Dom. Ward-Holmes)
- High Jump
- 2-Lanika Horn (5-06.00 misses)
- 3-Gladys Williams (5-04.25)
- Long Jump
- 6-Martinique Guice (18-09.25)
- Triple Jump
- 2-Lanika Horn (41.00.50)
- 7-Toya Sessoms (38:06.00)
- Discus
- 4-Tanisha Campbell (135-07)
- 7-Ebonie Jackson (129-10)
- Shot Put
- 2-Tanisha Campbell (46-05.25)
- 3-Kathy Onwu (45-08.50)

BCSP Notes

Tough tasks in Div. II Softball

The three HBCUs invited to the NCAA Division II Softball Championship Tournament will each face the top seed in their respective region.

CIAA champion **Bowie State**, SIAC titleist **Albany State** and West Virginia Conference champion **West Virginia State** will begin their championship run against the No 1 seed in their region. Each team earned an automatic bid to the tournament by winning their conference championship.

BSU's Lady Bulldogs (25-12) seeded eighth in the Mid-Atlantic Region will meet No. 1 Lock Haven (43-6) Wednesday, May 7 at 11:30am in Kutztown, PA.

WVSU (41-14), also a #8 seed, will play host and top-seed Southern Illinois-Edwardsville (45-9), Wednesday at 5:00pm in Edwardsville, IL.

Albany State (33-20), also seeded eighth, will face top-seeded Barry University (40-6) on the Buccaneers home court, Wednesday in Miami Shores, FL. The Lady Rams and Bucs have already met earlier this season with Barry taking a 3-1 and 5-2 doubleheader win over ASU in Albany.

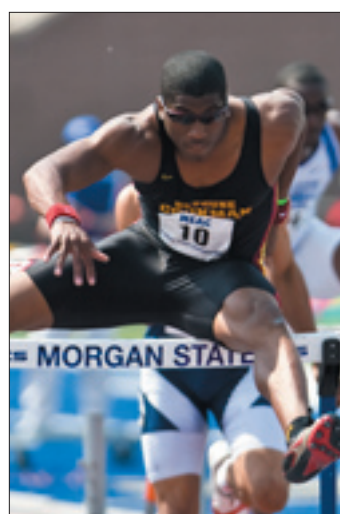
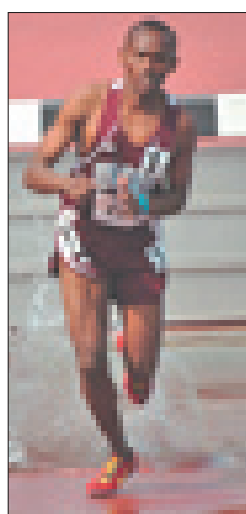
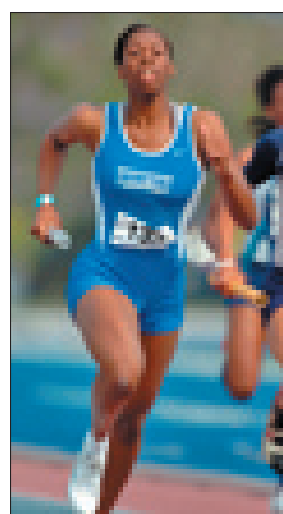
The NCAA Division II Softball Committee announced the 64 teams that will participate in the 2008 NCAA Division II Softball Regional Championships, Sunday evening. Eight teams will participate at each of eight regional sites in double-elimination tournaments to determine the final eight championship participants. Regional competition will be held May 7-11. Winners of each regional will advance to the finals May 14-17 in Houston, Texas, as part of the NCAA Division II National Championships Festival.

Six HBCUs vie for Div. II Tennis titles

Tuskegee's men and women, **Benedict's** women, **Shaw's** men, **Virginia State's** women and **West Virginia State's** women have all been awarded berths in NCAA Division II Tennis Championship Tournaments.

The championships consist of a 16-team single elimination tournament. Each of the eight regions will conduct two first- and second-round tournaments: East, Mid-Atlantic, Southeast, South, Great Lakes, Central, North Central and West. The winner of each first- and second-round tournament advances to the finals in Houston, Texas, with the Harris County-Houston Sports Authority and Rice University serving as co-hosts, May 14-17.

Tuskegee's men will face Ouachita Baptist (14-4) on the campus of the University of West Florida in Pensacola, FL on Thursday, May 9



WINNERS AND RECORD BREAKERS: Hampton quarter-miler Francena McCorory (far left), UMES steeplechaser Peter Sang (center left) and Bethune-Cookman freshman hurdler Ronnie Ashe (left) set meet records at last weekend's MEAC Outdoor Track and Field Championships at Morgan State. McCorory ran a 51:54 in the 400 meters to break Howard's Michelle Felder's 1989 mark of 52:10. Sang set a new record of 9:20.07 breaking his own 3,000 meter steeplechase mark set last year of 9:32.08. Ashe, a freshman sensation from Raleigh, N.C., blazed to a time of 13.59 in the 110-meter high hurdles to shatter the MEAC record of 13.72 set by John Branch of Howard in 1989. Ashe's time is the sixth best in the nation among NCAA hurdlers and represents the first time a B-CU athlete has held a MEAC record.

PHOTO CREDITS: Raquel Vassell, Marlon Woods, Francena McCorory and Peter Sang by Lawrence Johnson, All Pro Sports Photography; Ronnie Ashe by Mark Sutton; Maurice Pierce from Hampton Sports Information; Kenneth Giles, Norfolk State Sports info, Dominique Ward-Holmes, TSU Sports Info; Matthew Pilgrim, Hampton Sports Info.

Spring Sports Championships

MEAC

SOFTBALL - The **Bethune-Cookman** Lady Wildcats and the **Hampton** Lady Pirates earned the top seeds in the northern and southern divisions of the 2008 **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** (MEAC) Softball Championship Tournament which gets underway May 8-10 at the Ormond Beach Sports Complex, 700 Hull Road, in Ormond Beach, Florida.

Bethune-Cookman secured the number one seed in the south with a 9-3 divisional finish, 19-34 overall. The Lady Wildcats tied **North Carolina A&T** (9-3) in the division but obtained the top honor due to conference tiebreaking procedures. The Lady Aggies, who finished with the best overall record this season at 31-15, will be the number two seed in the south. **Florida A&M** (5-7) claimed the third spot while Norfolk State (4-8) is slated fourth.

Defending regular season champion Hampton (12-2, 31-16) clinched the number one seed in the north. The Lady Pirates, under the direction of new head coach **Regina Gibbons**, dominated conference play most of the season, losing their first of only two MEAC games to Howard on April 13.

The 2007 MEAC Tournament Champion

Howard Lady Bison claimed the number two seed in the north with a 12-3 conference mark. Delaware State (10-5) and Morgan State (7-7) wraps up the third and fourth place positions in the north.

Only the top four teams in each division can compete for the conference title.

The 2008 MEAC Softball Championship Tournament begins at 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 8 with Bethune-Cookman against Morgan State and Hampton facing interstate rival Norfolk State in games one and two. Howard drew Florida A&M for game three while North Carolina A&T will take on Delaware State in game four beginning at 1:30 p.m. The championship finale is set for Saturday, May 10 at 1 p.m. Admission is \$3 for children, students and seniors and \$5 for adults.

SWAC

BASEBALL (men) - The **Southwestern Athletic Conference** will host its 2008 Baseball Tournament at Lee-Hines Field on the campus of **Southern University** in Baton Rouge, La. from Wed., May 14 to Thurs., May 18. The May 19 championship game will be televised live on ESPN at 1:00 p.m.

There is a new format this year as the top

four teams from the Eastern Division along with the top four teams from the Western Division will participate in the five-day event. It is a double-elimination tournament with the exception of the championship game.

Jackson State has clinched the top seed in the Eastern Division with a 18-5 conference record (34-18 overall). **Alcorn State** is currently in second place with a 13-8 conference record (26-12). The Braves will look to maintain that position as they face **Alabama A&M** this weekend. **Mississippi Valley State** is third with a 17-23, 13-10 conference record. **Alabama State** claims the fourth seed with a 13-20, 8-14 SWAC record.

In the Western Division, Southern captured top seed with an 18-6 conference record (26-15 overall). **Grambling State** (21-23, 15-9 SWAC) is the number two seed followed by 2007 defending SWAC champion **Prairie View A&M** (21-24, 14-10). **Texas Southern** defeated Arkansas-Pine Bluff two games to one over the weekend to eliminate the Lions and advance to the tournament.

Play will begin on Wednesday, May 14 at 10:00 a.m. Tickets will be on sale for \$10.00 per day and \$40.00 for a tournament book. Student tickets are available for \$3.00 with valid ID.