

BLACK COLLEGE PAGE

SPORTS



JSU Sports Photo

GORDEN: Most successful Jackson State football coach to be inducted into Divisional College Hall of Fame.

FINAL TOUCHES

SWAC AND MEAC BASEBALL TOURNEYS WRAP UP SPRING SPORTS SEASONS

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

PORTER, GORDEN GET HOF NODS:

Former Jackson State coach **W.C. Gorden** and former Mississippi Valley State, **Howard** and Fort Valley State mentor **Doug Porter** are HBCU products included in this year's Divisional College Football Hall of Fame Class. The Class considers players and coaches from NCAA Football Championship Subdivision (formerly I-AA), NCAA Divisions II and III and the NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics) for induction. Four players and two coaches were selected for induction this year.

Gorden was the most successful football coach in Jackson State history over a 15-year span from 1976 to 1991 before moving on to become athletic director in 1992. He compiled an impressive 119-47-5 record winning eight **Southwestern Athletic Conference** championships. Gorden's Tigers won three straight SWAC titles twice (1980-82 and 1985-87). JSU went on to win the SWAC crown in 1988 and again in 1990.

Porter's most successful tenure as head coach was during two stints at FVSU (1979-85, 1987-96) amassing a record of 112-66-3, winning six **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference** (SIAC) football titles and earning two trips to the NCAA Division II playoffs. Porter was named SIAC Coach of the Year seven times and led Fort Valley to its highest ranking ever (#2 in Division II) during the 1985 season. In addition to his coaching duties, Porter also served as FVSU's director of athletics for 16 years, acted as chairman of the Division II Football Committee and was president of the National Athletic Steering Committee.

"I am very grateful to all of the coaches and players that helped me receive this honor, because without them this could not have happened," stated Porter. Porter, a native of Memphis, Tenn., began his head coaching career at MVSU in 1961 where he turned that program around. He then moved on to Grambling where he served as an assistant coach under **Eddie Robinson** for nine seasons. Porter also coached at **Howard** from 1974-78 compiling a record of 30-21-2.

The 2008 Class will be inducted into the Hall during the Enshrinement Festival, July 18-19, in South Bend, Ind.

"I am very grateful to all of the coaches and players that helped me receive this honor, because without them this could not have happened," stated Porter. Porter, a native of Memphis, Tenn., began his head coaching career at MVSU in 1961 where he turned that program around. He then moved on to Grambling where he served as an assistant coach under **Eddie Robinson** for nine seasons. Porter also coached at **Howard** from 1974-78 compiling a record of 30-21-2.

The 2008 Class will be inducted into the Hall during the Enshrinement Festival, July 18-19, in South Bend, Ind.

B-CU TAKES TWO PGA TITLES:

Bethune-Cookman swept both the Division I men's and women's titles Sunday at the **22nd PGA Minority Collegiate Golf Championship** at PGA Golf Club in Port St. Lucie, Fla.

In the men's division, B-CU carded a team-total of 8-over-par 872 to defeat **Jackson State** by 17 strokes. B-CU's **Carl Corbin** of won the Div. I men's individual title after carding a final-round 3-under-par 69. Corbin finished two strokes ahead of **Brett Benson** of JSU.

In the women's division, B-CU won for the third consecutive year after carding a team-total of 918 to defeat the University of Texas-Pan-American by 16 strokes. BCU's **Becky Dowell** claimed the women's individual medalist honors with a three-day-total of 225.

Fayetteville State took home the Division II title with a three-day total of 9-over-par 873. Lincoln (Mo.) finished in second place, nine strokes behind. **Ian Milne**, a senior from Deland, Fla., led the Broncos with a final-round even-par 72, concluding the Championship with a 12-foot putt for birdie.

Nearly 200 contestants from 47 colleges and universities, representing 14 countries comprised the field for the 2008 PGA Minority Collegiate Golf Championship.

JSU IN GOLF REGIONAL: SWAC

champion **Jackson State** is among the 27 teams selected to compete for the NCAA Div. I Men's Golf Championships. The Tigers will travel to Chattanooga, Tenn. this weekend for the NCAA East Regional tournament (May 15-17) hosted by the University of Tennessee Chattanooga.

The championships will be conducted May 28-31 on the Kampen Course at the Birk Boilermaker Golf Complex in West Lafayette, Indiana. Purdue is the host institution for this year's national championship.

BCSP Notes

New hoops coaches named

ALCORN STATE Athletic Director, **Dr. Darren J. Hamilton** introduced alumnus and veteran NBA player and coach **LARRY SMITH** as the new head men's basketball coach at a press conference last week.

Thunderous applause rang throughout the room when Smith took his place behind the podium to address the audience. "It feels good to come back home," Smith said

Dubbed "Mr. Mean" for his rebounding style, Smith, 50, stated his first priority would be recruiting "because there are good players out there. We just have to find them." He signed a four-year contract for a reported \$125,000.

A four-year letterman at Alcorn State, Smith was part of the undefeated 1979-80 basketball team coached by the legendary **Davey L. Whitney**. He led all Division I players in rebounding as a senior with a 15.1 average and also averaged 20.1 points per game. Smith was the **Southwest Athletic Conference** (SWAC) Player and Athlete of the Year in his final two seasons, as ASU went 56-3 over that period and 24-0 in the league. He scored 1,852 points (16.7 ppg) and pulled down 1,234 rebounds (11.1 rpg) in his four years.

In 1980, he was selected as a 2nd round pick in the NBA draft by the Golden State Warriors. In an NBA career that spanned 13 years, he played for the Golden State Warriors, Houston Rockets, and San Antonio Spurs.

During his rookie year, Smith received NBA All-Rookie First Team Honors and became the first rookie since Kareem Abdul-Jabbar to finish among the top three rebounders in one season, when he averaged 12.1 boards a game. At the end of his NBA playing career, Smith had posted 5,904 points, 8,125 rebounds (3,401 offensive and 4,724 defensive), 457 blocks, 941 assists and 699 steals.

As an assistant coach, he was a part of back-to-back championships with the Houston Rockets during the 1993-1994 and 1994-1995 seasons. In his last coaching job, he was an assistant coach for the WNBA's L.A. Sparks.

SAINT AUGUSTINE'S has named **LONNIE BLOW JR.** as its new head men's basketball coach. The announcement came during a press conference last week on campus.

Blow comes to the Falcon program from **Norfolk State** where he was an assistant coach from 2006-08 following a brief stint at **Hampton** from 2005-06. While at Hampton, Blow helped direct the Pirates to the **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** championship and to the NCAA Tournament during the 2005-06 season.

Blow's coaching philosophy places emphasis on playing hard, smart and together while setting high standards for academics. He was highly recommended for the Falcon coaching position by such notables as former University of Maryland coach **Charles "Lefty" Driesell** and renowned AAU coach "Boo" Williams.

Prior to coaching college, Blow was the head basketball coach at Granby (Va.) High School from 1995 to 2005, and the men's assistant coach at Maury (Va.) High School from 1984-1995. At Granby, he coached



SMITH



BLOW

the boys' team to a state title and was named AAA state coach of the year in 2000.

Before entering the coaching profession, Blow was an outstanding college basketball player from 1979-1982 at Virginia Wesleyan College. He was named Dixie Conference Player of the Year during the 1980-81 season. Blow was also a two-time All-American and All-South Atlantic Region player, and a three-time All-Dixie Conference player, including two selections to the first team.

Blow received his undergraduate degree from Virginia Wesleyan College and is currently pursuing his master's in counseling/higher education from Old Dominion University.

FLORIDA A&M announced last week that **LEDAWN S. GIBSON**, the former head girls basketball coach at nationally-regarded Winter Haven (Fla.) High School, had been appointed the school's new women's basketball coach replacing **Debra Clark**.

"We are pleased that we found someone that we believe is a good fit for our program," said Athletic Director **Bill Hayes**. "She is a talented coach who has demonstrated from year-to-year that she has what it takes to lead us to a championship." The FAMU Board of Trustees on Wednesday approved a three-year contract for Gibson with an annual salary of \$90,000.

Gibson, 39, who led Winter Haven High for 12 seasons, elevated the Blue Devils' program to a perennial contender for the state honors and vaulted them to Top 25 status in the USA Today National High School rankings.

The Blue Devils were ranked No.1 in the State of Florida for nine straight seasons (2000-08), while finishing in the USA TODAY Top 10 High School National rankings this past season (2007-08).

Winter Haven's clubs were ranked in the USA TODAY Girls High School Basketball Top 15 in both 2004-05 and 2006-07. The 2006-07 Class 5A Coach of the Year, Gibson was a six-time Lakeland Ledger Coach of the Year and was cited by the Winter Haven News Chief as its' Girls Coach of the Year from 1999 through 2008.

In her 12 seasons at Winter Haven, the Blue Devils compiled a scintillating 331-48 record, highlighted by two state championships in 2005 (Class 4A) and 2007 (Class 5A), seven Finals appearances, eight Final Four appearances overall, plus nine district and eight regional titles.

This past March, Winter Haven finished 30-3 overall, reaching the State finals for the fifth consecutive season, dropping a hard-fought decision to Naples Barron Collier High, just a year after winning the state title.

Twenty-seven (27) of her players advanced to collegiate basketball careers, twelve (12) playing on the NCAA Division One level for such programs as Connecticut, Kentucky, Memphis, South Florida and Indiana. Two of her players - LaQwasha Gamble (2005) and Tiffany Hayes (2008) were named Florida Miss Basketball.

Gibson is a graduate of Winter Haven High School and she holds an A.A. in Elementary Education from Polk Community College, a B.S. degree in Organizational Management from Warner Southern College in Lakeland, and an M.S. in Educational Leadership from Argosy University in Tampa.

PHOTOS: Larry Smith, Alcorn State Sports Info; Lonnie Blow, Onnidan Sports; LaDawn Gibson, FAMU Sports Info

Spring Sports Championships

DelState takes first softball title

Brittney Ruark tossed a two-hit shut-out and **Aisha Holloman** smacked a three-run homer in the fourth inning to lift **Delaware State** to a 3-0 win over **Norfolk State** and give the Hornets their first MEAC Softball Championship last weekend in Ormond Beach, Fla.

DSU completed a four-game tournament sweep to capture the 2008 MEAC title and the league's automatic berth to the NCAA tournament.

"This is such a thrill for the team and the university," said Delaware State's **Jeff Savage**, who was named Most Outstanding Tournament Coach.

In the title clinching contest, Ruark allowed just two sixth inning singles. She struck out eight and walked three. Ruark was the winning pitcher in all four tournament wins to improve to 15-10 on the season.

The title game was scoreless until the fourth inning when Holloman delivered her big blow. **Andrea Waters** singled to lead off the inning and advanced to second on a one-out single by **Sha Tabor**. Two batters later, Holloman blasted a shot over the fence in right center to give the Hornets a 3-0 lead.

Holloman was named the Most Outstanding Performer of the tournament. She was 4-for-12 with six RBI in four games.

Ruark joined Holloman on the All-Tournament Team. She struck out 19 batters,

while allowing just six runs and 16 hits in 26 tournament innings (2.07 ERA).

2008 MEAC ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

- Ky Brown, NSU
- Melissa Oliphant, FAMU
- Aisha Holloman, DSU
- Brittney Ruark, DSU
- Megan Johnson, MSU
- Brianna Guiterez, Howard
- Holly Bussey, BCU
- Rebecca Barnes, NSU
- Brianeisha Eure, NSU
- Brittany Davis, Hampton
- Kristina Cordova, Howard

MEAC baseball tourney set

The defending **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** (MEAC) champion **Bethune-Cookman** Wildcats earned the top seed in the 2008 MEAC Baseball Championship. The tournament began Thursday, May 15 and runs thru Sunday 18 at the Marty L. Miller Baseball Field on the campus of **Norfolk State**.

The Wildcats dominated conference play en route to the 2008 MEAC regular season title with a 17-1 conference record, 33-20 overall. Winners of 11 MEAC baseball crowns, Bethune-Cookman will compete for their third consecutive title.

North Carolina A&T tallied a 11-6 conference mark, 27-27 overall to secure the second seed. **Florida A&M** and **Delaware State** finished the regular season tied at 11-7 in conference play. The Rattlers of FAMU secured the number three seed while the Delaware State Hornets claimed

the four seed following the conference tie-breaker.

Norfolk State finished fifth and the Hawks of **Maryland Eastern Shore** finished in the sixth and final position for the second straight year. **Coppin State** (0-18) was eliminated from tournament play based on their conference finish.

Only the top six teams qualify to compete for the MEAC tournament title. The winner will earn an automatic berth to the NCAA Division I Baseball Regional scheduled for May 30- June 2.

SWAC baseball gets under way

Jackson State (35-20, 18-5) from the East Division and **Southern** (18-6, 26-16) from the West are the top seeds as the **SWAC** Championship Baseball Tournament got under way Wednesday, May 14 thru Sunday, May 18 at Southern University's Lee Hines Stadium.

Only the top four teams in each division earned their way to the tournament. **Alabama A&M** of the East and **Arkansas-Pine Bluff** of the West were eliminated from tournament play.

Defending SWAC champion **Prairie View** (21-24, 14-10) enters the tournament as the West's third seed just ahead of **Texas Southern** (12-32, 7-17). **Grambling State** (21-25, 15-9) is seeded second in the West.

Alcorn State (28-14, 15-9), **Mississippi Valley State** (17-23, 13-10) and **Alabama State** (13-20, 8-14) are seeded 2-4 in the East.

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

DIV. I TENNIS PLAYOFFS

- 1ST & 2ND ROUND IN ATLANTA, GA
- May 9 - Ga Tech women 4, **Alcorn State** 0 (ASU eliminated)
- 1ST & 2ND ROUND IN CHAPEL HILL, NC
- May 9 - UNC women 4, **SC State** 0 (SCSU eliminated)
- May 10 - UNC men 4, **SC State** 0 (SCSU eliminated)
- 1ST & 2ND ROUND IN LOS ANGELES, CA
- May 10 - Southern California men 4, **Southern** 0 (Southern eliminated)

DIV. II TENNIS PLAYOFFS

- SOUTH REGION IN VALDOSTA, GA
- May 8 - N. Alabama 5, **Tuskegee** women 0 (TU eliminated)
- SOUTH REGION IN PENSACOLA, FL
- May 8 - West Fla 5, **Benedict** women 0 (BC eliminated)
- May 8 - Ouachita Baptist 5, **Tuskegee** men 0 (TU eliminated)
- MID-ATLANTIC REGION IN AUGUSTA, GA
- May 8 - Armstrong Atlantic (W) 5, **Virginia State** women 0 (VUSU eliminated)
- May 8 - Armstrong Atlantic 6, **Shaw** men 0 (SU eliminated)
- GREAT LAKES REGION IN MIDLAND, MI
- May 8 - Northwood 5, **West Va. State** women 0 (WVSU eliminated)

DIV. II SOFTBALL PLAYOFFS

- MID-ATLANTIC REGION IN KUTZTOWN, PA
- May 7 - Lock Haven 1, **Bowie State** 0
- May 8 - West Chester 4, **Bowie State** 0 (BSU eliminated)
- GREAT LAKES REGION IN EDWARDSVILLE, IL
- May 8 - SIU-Edwardsville 6, **West Va. State** 5
- May 8 - Indianapolis 3, **West Va. State** 1 (WVSU eliminated)
- SOUTH REGION IN MIAMI SHORES, FL
- May 7 - Barry 8, **Albany State** 0
- May 8 - Tampa 5, **Albany State** 0 (ASU eliminated)

MEAC

BASEBALL	MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE			
	CONF	ALL	W	L
Bethune-Cookman	17	1	33	20
NC A&T State	11	6	27	27
Florida A&M	11	7	19	20
Delaware State	11	7	16	31
Norfolk State	7	10	21	22
Md.-Eastern Shore	4	12	6	48
x Coppin State	0	18	4	52
x - Did not make Tournament				

MEAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

- PLAYER
- JEREMY JONES, Sr., DH, NC A&T, Fayetteville, NC** - Hit .461 (9-for-17) with 4 home runs, 9 runs and 11 RBI to help the Aggies to a 3-1 week.
- ROOKIE
- CHRIS JOYCE, So., 3B, NSU, Chesapeake, VA** - Drove in a run in all four Spartan games last week while hitting .267 (4-for-16) with 2 doubles and 6 RBI. Also did not commit an error in four games..
- PITCHER
- JOEY SEAL, Sr., P, NSU, Newport News, VA** - Earned a win in relief vs. Gardner-Webb. Pitched 6.1 innings while striking out 10 of the 27 batters he faced and recording a 1.42 ERA.

SWAC

BASEBALL	SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE				
	DIV	ALL	W	L	
Jackson State	W	18	5	35	20
Alcorn State	15	9	28	14	
Miss. Valley State	13	10	17	23	
Alabama State	8	14	13	20	
Alabama A&M	4	20	7	36	
WEST					
Southern	18	6	26	16	
Grambling State	15	9	21	25	
Prairie View A&M	14	10	21	24	
Texas Southern	7	17	12	32	
Arkansas Pine Bluff	6	18	10	33	

SWAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

- PLAYER
- JEFF JONES, Jr., 1B, ALCORN STATE, Greenville, MS** - Hit .444 (8-for-18) with 6 RBI, 4 runs scored and 40 putouts as the Braves won three of their finalfour games of the regular season.
- PITCHER
- TONY GONZALES, Jr., P, ALCORN STATE, Littleton, CO** - Scattered seven hits over six innings giving up five runs while striking out two to