

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



FAMU File Photo
GAITHER: Legendary former Florida A&M coach to be honored by AFCA with Trailblazer Award.

LATE SEASON MOVES

COMMISH FIRED AT SIAC; MEAC HOOPS TOURNAMENT GOES TO WINSTON-SALEM

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

NC A&T PLAYER FELLED:

North Carolina A&T student/athlete **Chad Wiley** died from complications of heat illness last week following a voluntary workout on campus. The 22-year-old Wiley, a business management major and native of Black Mountain, N.C., was a three-year letterman and two-year starter on the offensive line of the Aggies football team.



WILEY

"We lost a fine young man and a great teammate," said interim athletics director **Wheeler Brown**. "Our hearts go out to his family.

Head Coach **Lee Fobbs** and I have been in close contact with the family throughout this unfortunate incident. They have requested privacy during this time."

The Aggie family is deeply saddened by the death of this young athlete who had so much potential on and off the field," added Chancellor Stanley F. Battle.

Wiley collapsed Tuesday, May 27, after a supervised voluntary workout on the campus of N.C. A&T. An A&T athletic trainer was on site and took immediate action by stabilizing him and calling emergency services. He was immediately transported to Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital. A memorial service was held on Friday, May 30 at the A&T Student Union and funeral was Sunday, June 1 in his hometown.

AFCA HONORS GAITHER:

The American Football Coaches Association has announced that **Florida A&M's** Hall of Fame coaching legend **A.S. "Jake" Gaither** is the recipient of the 2008 AFCA Trailblazer Award.

The Trailblazer Award was created as a way for the AFCA to honor a historically significant minority coach who had a profound impact on his institution, the coaching profession, student-athletes and the game of football.

Gaither fashioned a scintillating 203-36-4 record in 25 seasons from 1945 to 1969, winning six Black College National titles, while producing 36 All-Americans. In 1975, Gaither was enshrined in the National Football Foundation College Football Hall of Fame, and was the recipient of the Amos Alonzo Stagg Award and the Walter Camp Foundation Award.

The AFCA Trailblazer Award is given to an individual who coached in a certain decade. The inaugural winner coached in the decade from 1920 to 1929, with the five-year cycle ending in 2009 and a winner coming from the 1960-1969 decade.

In 2010, the cycle will start over with a winner coming from the decade between 1920 and 1929.

Former **Hampton** coach **Charles Williams** was named the award's inaugural winner in 2004. Last year's winner, **Billy Nicks** of **Prairie View A&M** and **Morris Brown**, was honored at the 2008 AFCA Convention in Anaheim, California, in January 7 at the Kickoff Luncheon.

AFCA Trailblazer Honorees • 2004-2008
•2008: **Alonzo Smith "Jake" Gaither, Florida A&M**
•2007: **Billy Nicks, Prairie View A&M/Morris Brown**
•2006: **Arnett "Ace" Mumford, Southern**
•2005: **Cleveland "Cleve" Abbott, Tuskegee**
•2004: **Charles Williams, Hampton**

LANGSTON HIRES GREENE:

Langston University has promoted **Tony Greene** to head coach of the women's basketball team. Greene had spent the last 13 years as an assistant to departed head coach **Donnita Drain** and was considered a big part of the Lady Lions' success. Drain recently took the head coaching job at **Grambling State**.



GREENE

"We are very pleased to extend this opportunity to Coach Greene. We believe that he has the capability of not only continuing in a strong program, but enhancing it," said **Angela Watson**, Langston's vice president for Administrative and Fiscal Affairs.

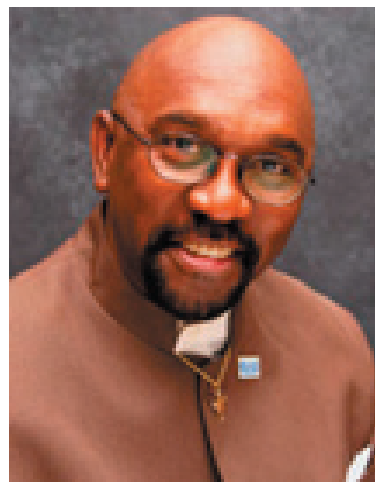
A native of Dallas, Tex. Greene played for Langston's men's team before graduating in 1995. As a player, he was selected as the DCCCD Conference Player of the Year. During his 13 years of coaching, he has been honored as the 2001-2002 AFLAC National Assistant Coach of the Year. "I think it's a great honor to have the opportunity to be the head coach of one of the elite NAIA women's basketball programs in the nation," said Greene.

Lide terminated as SIAC Commissioner

Tucker, GA – The **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference** Council of Presidents announced Monday the termination of **Dr. William Lide** as conference commissioner effective May 31, 2008.

The announcement was released by **Tuskegee University** President **Dr. Benjamin Payton**, who serves as Chairman of the Council.

"The Council of Presidents regrets very much the necessity to take this action with respect to Dr. William E. Lide," said Payton. "He has brought new energy and imagination to the Conference and we certainly wish that we could continue this statement on that note. Unfortunately, the recent findings of the SIAC Audit Committee and the results of an external review do not make it possible for our



SIAC Photo

LIDE: Operations and financial mismanagement leads to firing after five years as SIAC commissioner.

statement to end merely on that theme." According to Payton, the audits, examination and review of

operations of the SIAC produced a number of findings which compelled the Council of Presidents to act, first by suspending Dr. Lide (with pay) on April 15, 2008, and then subsequently voting to terminate Dr. Lide as the external review neared completion.

The action resulted from findings of mishandling of information and resources from the NCAA, the mismanagement of the finances of the Conference, and a failure to properly inform the Conference members and leadership of the real financial challenges that had developed in the Conference.

George Mategakis, a current member of the staff, has been named Interim SIAC Commissioner as of April 16, 2008, and will continue in that capacity until the Council of Presidents decides on a successor. The Executive Committee of the

Council will be meeting over the next few weeks to establish future directions for the Conference, the search process, and the agenda for its summer meeting, which will be held in July.

Lide became SIAC commissioner in 2003. Prior to his appointment, he served as Athletic Director at the University of Central Arkansas. He received his bachelor's degree from **Johnson C. Smith University** in 1973 and a master's from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 1976. He earned his doctorate in physical education and administration from The Ohio State University in 1980.

He is a member of the Johnson C. Smith Sports Hall of Fame and a member of the All Pro Countdown Team of the CFL as a former player for the Calgary Stampeders.

Winston-Salem to host MEAC hoops tourneys

After months of speculation, the **Mid Eastern Athletic Conference** announced last week that its growing men's and women's basketball tournaments will be played in Winston-Salem, N.C. at the city's 15,000-seat Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum for the next three years.

Mayor Allen Joines of the City of Winston-Salem, MEAC Commissioner **Dr. Dennis Thomas** and Bob McCoy from Visit Winston-Salem made the official announcement during a press conference held in the main lobby of the Coliseum last Tuesday.

"We are extremely excited that the basketball tournament is coming to a progressive city such as Winston-Salem," said Thomas. "We look forward to growing the tournament

here and know that this city of Winston-Salem's great infrastructure, its citizens, hotels and arena will prove to be a win-win for both sides."

"We feel that the MEAC Basketball Tournament will be a tremendous success and are committed 100-percent to its growth," said Joines. "The MEAC Basketball Tournament and the City of Winston-Salem are moving together in the right direction. We know that what's great for the Tournament is great for the city of Winston-Salem."

"A lot of hard work has gone into the bid for the tournament and we are pleased with this unique partnership," said Bob McCoy. "We are eager with the potential economic growth of the MEAC Tournament and will work jointly to make this tournament be the best it can be."

The decision ends months of speculation that had swirled about the tournament's new home after the city of Raleigh, N.C. in January informed the commissioner that the city and its RBC Center did not want to renew a three-year deal hosting the tournament which ended in March of this year.

The move to Winston-Salem marks the third different host city in the new millennium. The tournament had a five-year run in Richmond, Va. at that city's Coliseum that ended in 2005. Raleigh's RBC Center has been the host for the past three years. This will be the second



MEAC Photo

DEAL DONE: Winston-Salem Mayor Allen Joines (l.) with MEAC Commissioner Dr. Dennis Thomas and Visit Winston-Salem official Bob McCoy

time that Winston-Salem has played host to the MEAC. The tournament had a three-year run at the city's old Coliseum from 1980-82. Another HBCU conference, the **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association** held its popular tournament in Winston-Salem at the Joel Coliseum for six years from 1994-99.

The 2009 MEAC Tournament is scheduled for March 9-14. Tickets for the 2009 tournament will go on sale at a later date.

BCSP Notes

Jackson State sweeps SWAC All-Sports awards

The **Jackson State** athletic department captured the 2007 - 2008 **Southwestern Athletic Conference Commissioner's Cup** – the **James Frank Award** – as they amassed the most points in the all-sports competition.

"Winning the Commissioner's Cup is a testament to our university as a whole," said JSU Director of Athletics **Robert Braddy**. "It all starts with our president, **Dr. Ronald Mason**. His support of the athletics department has given our sports the opportunity to be successful."

Jackson State earned 164 total points as they won the award for the second consecutive year. The Lady Tigers claimed championships in track and field (indoor and outdoor) and golf while finishing second during the basketball regular season and third in cross country and bowling. The Tigers won the football and golf championships while finishing second in indoor track and field and third in tennis and outdoor track.

Jackson State also swept the **C.D. Henry** (men's sports) and **Magee/Jacket** (women's sports) awards. JSU garnered 73.5 men's sports points and 90.5 women's sports points.

Southern finished second in the all-sports tally with 142.5 points while **Grambling State** and **Prairie View A&M** each accumulated 142 points for third place.

Bethune-Cookman, Texas Southern bow out in NCAA baseball regionals

MEAC champion **Bethune-Cookman** (36-22) lost the second game in the NCAA Baseball Coral Gables Regional Saturday 14-1 to Mississippi eliminating the Wildcats from the double-elimination competition. The 'Cats lost Friday's opening game to Miami, 7-4.

SWAC champion **Texas Southern** also dropped its second game to New Orleans 18-5 Saturday and was eliminated from the Baton Rouge Regional Saturday. TSU (16-34) lost to LSU 12-1 in Friday's opening game.

For B-CU, it was the second time in three years that it hooked up with Ole Miss in an NCAA Regional. The Rebels defeated the 'Cats 3-2 in 2006 in the first round of the Oxford (Miss.) Regional when Mississippi was the host team.

The Wildcats scored their only run in the second inning of Saturday's loss on **Jose Ortiz's** RBI single. Ortiz finished with three hits to lead B-CU. Senior **Osvaldo Torres**, playing in his last game as a Wildcat, had two hits. B-CU finishes the year with the second-best record in school history.

"I guess we came here thinking we had a very good chance based on our pitching," said B-CU head coach **Mervyl Melendez**. "Our pitching had done a good job all year. But today and yesterday there was a little let down. We've been here for a long time in this conference and this is the best pitching we've had and they've pitched well against good teams. We had opportunities to get back in the ball game today but we wasted those opportunities. We had a good season and I told my guys that I was very proud of them. We just need to regroup, come back next year and understand what we need to do better."

Texas Southern starter **Rashad Ford** (3-6) was touched for seven runs

– six earned – on five hits in four innings. He fell into trouble with six walks but struck out four the elimination game loss to New Orleans. The Tigers closed only trailed 3-2 in the third but were outscored 15-3 over the final six innings.

"I enjoyed the [NCAA] tournament," said TSU head coach **Candy Robinson**. "It was a nice day here and I feel like the tournament was well organized. We didn't play as well as I expected to play, but we hung in there and played hard each game. Hopefully, we will be back here next year."

Board changes name on ASU's Acadome

The **Alabama State University** Board of Trustees has voted to remove Joe L. Reed's name from the Acadome, the arena on the school's campus, and to enshrine the names of two legendary coaches in the school's arena. The motion stated "the ASU Acadome is hereby immediately and forever affectionately referred to as the "ASU Sting Dome".

University staffers moved immediately following the approval of the resolution to take away all references to Reed at the facility including removing the letters of his name and the commemorative markers both inside and outside the Dome.

The facility, which seats 7,400 and opened in 1992, has been one of the top indoor venues in the area, serving as home to Alabama State basketball, high school regional basketball tournaments, the SWAC basketball tournament, concerts and various ceremonies including graduation at ASU.

The Acadome court will be named in honor of former head coach **James V. Oliver**, a 1996 alum who is the Homet's second winningest basketball coach. From 1978-1995, Oliver was 291-191, a run that featured back-to-back SWAC championships. His overall career record was 360-209. Off the court, Oliver served as mentor to his players, including current ASU head coach **Lewis Jackson**.

The arena's concourse will bear the name of **C.J. Dunn**, ASU's first and all-time winningest basketball coach. Dunn coached at ASU from 1934-1963, and retired just short of 300 wins with a 298-209 record. Previously, Dunn's name was on the building that preceded the Acadome as the home of the Hornets basketball teams. In its heyday, C.J. Dunn arena was home to raucous, standing room only crowds and many of the most memorable wins in ASU history.

Below is part of the statement from the ASU Board which prompted the decision.

Statement from the Alabama State University Board of Trustees

Whereas, Joe L. Reed has completely and utterly destroyed any and all confidence in his commitment to positively represent the University and its legacy; and

Whereas, Joe L. Reed continues to generate negative publicity for Alabama State University through media interviews and authoring article in news publication that are factually incorrect and unsubstantiated; and

Whereas, Joe L. Reed has on several occasions in recent years abused the tax payers dollars with frivolous litigations costing the University thousands of dollars, and

Whereas, Joe L. Reed, through multiple court litigations in opposition to the ASU Board of Trustees majority vote, and any matter he deems adverse to his will, continues to present a conflict of interest and opposition to basic democratic concepts such as majority rules and one-man-one-vote;

Now, Therefore, be it resolved, that the name Joe L. Reed is hereby immediately and forever disassociated with and permanently removed from the structure now known as the Joe L. Reed Acadome multipurpose academic and physical education complex located on the campus of Alabama State University, Montgomery, Alabama. . .