

# BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



USATF Photos

**TICKETS PUNCHED:** 400-meter hurdler Bershawn Jackson (top) and long jumper Brian Johnson (bottom) prevail at U.S. Trials to earn Olympic team berths.

## ON TO BEIJING

EX-BLACK COLLEGE TRACKSTERS KEEP OLYMPIC MEDAL DREAMS ALIVE

## UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

### BASEBALL SHAKE-UPS:

Texas Southern University completed a reorganization of its baseball coaching staff last week with the announcement that former **Prairie View** coach **Michael Robertson** will become the head coach at TSU.



ROBERTSON

Robertson will succeed **Candy Robinson** who resigned on June 17 to become director of baseball and softball operations at the Houston institution.

Texas Southern Athletic Director **Charles McClelland** made the announcement Friday (6/27).

"I'm pleased to have a coach with the caliber of Michael Robertson to join the Texas Southern University family," said McClelland. "He has a history of winning at all levels that he has participated in, and we're going to look for him to propel our baseball program into one of the nation's elite."

Robertson, who went 163-171 with the Panthers and led them to back-to-back **Southwestern Athletic Conference** tournament championships in 2006-07, said it was tough to leave Prairie View for TSU, but he considers it a move up.

"(I know) in the back of my mind that I probably could have retired at Prairie View A&M University, because obviously it was a good marriage," said Robertson, whose contract ran through 2010. Robinson finished his 19-year coaching tenure at TSU with a 332-571-2 record. He directed the Tigers to their first SWAC tournament title and NCAA Tournament appearance in 2004.

McClelland was excited to have Robinson remain on board.



ROBINSON

"What we want to do is to try to build a program that will be able to compete nationally," McClelland said. "To be able to do that, you need people and resources, and Candy has the contacts. He's going to be able to spend 100 percent of his time in helping to generate those contacts and dollars for the program."

Over at Prairie View, where McClelland was AD for eight years before taking the TSU job in April, assistant coach **Waskyla Cullivan** has been named interim head baseball coach.

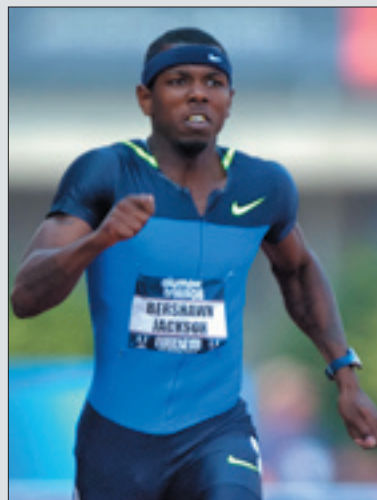
"Prairie View A&M University and the Athletics department is extremely thankful for the contributions Michael Robertson has made to our program over the past six seasons," said Interim Athletics Director **Fred Washington**. "Our baseball program has enjoyed a lot of success under his direction and we're excited about the opportunity to build upon those successes with Coach Cullivan at the helm of our program this year."

Cullivan takes over the Panthers baseball program after serving eight years as an assistant coach at the high school and collegiate levels. He arrived at Prairie View A&M in 2003 with former Coach Robertson and was a major part of the development of the teams that won titles in 2006 and 2007. As the primary recruiting liaison his efforts brought to Panther baseball three players that were subsequently drafted into Major League Baseball's First-Year Player Draft.

"I've learned a lot serving as an assistant coach under Coach Robertson over the past eight years," said Cullivan. "I feel my prior coaching experience will ease my transition into becoming a head coach. Overall I'm extremely excited about the opportunity Mr. Washington has given me."



CULLIVAN

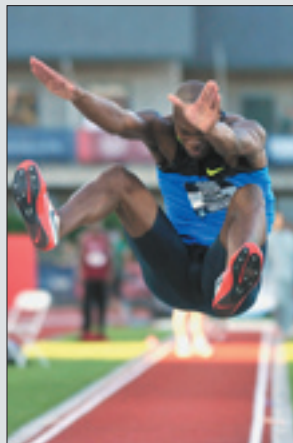
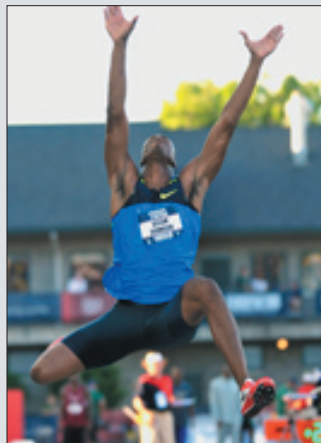


**EMOTIONAL VICTORY:** Former St. Augustine's hurdler and current SAC student Bershawn Jackson shows his determination and elation while running to the title in the 400 meter hurdles at the U.S. Olympic Trials Saturday in Eugene, Oregon.



Exclusive Photos by KEN SHIPP

# Jackson, Johnson run, jump to first Olympic berths



Exclusive Photos by KEN SHIPP

**REACH FOR AND GET IT:** Former Southern long jumper Brian Johnson's efforts had him leading the long jump competition at the Olympic Trials in Eugene, Oregon before claiming his Olympic team berth with a second-place finish Saturday.

## Jackson soars to 400 meter hurdles title

Former **Saint Augustine's College** hurdler and current Falcon student **Bershawn Jackson** gained a berth to the 2008 Beijing Olympics with a convincing victory in the 400-meter hurdles final on Sunday (June 29) at the U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials at Hayward Field.

This is the first Olympic berth for Jackson, a Miami, Fla., native who lives and trains in Raleigh, N.C., under **George Williams**, the legendary Saint Augustine's College track and field coach and 2004 U.S. Olympic team coach.

Jackson blitzed the field in the finals, crossing the finish line in 48.17 seconds to beat **Kerron Clement** (48.36) and **Angelo Taylor** (48.42), who both are going to the 2008 Olympics as well. The top three finishers advance to the Beijing Games.

Jackson, who won his heat in the quarterfinals and semifinals, entered the finals with the fourth-best semifinal time but made an adjustment.

"I got out very hard," said Jackson, the 2005 world outdoor 400-meter hurdles champion. "The wind played a big factor in the race today. I just wanted to relax as much as possible and not fight the wind and conserve as much energy as possible. The main thing was to come home strong and have a kick because I knew it was going to be a tight race."

"I really came on. I felt pretty sluggish today but when the race came, the adrenaline put me through the race. I had a hurdle-free day."

Williams said Jackson ran a smart race.

"By him being small, (Jackson) let the wind help him on the backside," Williams said.

As a result, Jackson attained his life-long goal of making the Olympics.

"My main thing was to make the team," Jackson said. "I was very nervous. If I didn't make the team, I think I would have given up track and field, I was feeling so much pressure."

Jackson, scheduled to graduate from Saint Augustine's College in the fall semester of 2008, is the latest runner under Coach Williams headed to the Olympics.

"He is a great individual to support our country," Williams said. "I am thrilled these kind of students come to Saint Augustine's College."

## Johnson's vaults to second in long jump

**Brian Johnson** solidified his name in **Southern University** athletic lore by finishing second in the long jump at the U.S. Olympic Trials in Eugene, Ore. Saturday and earning a spot on the 2008 U. S. Olympic team that competes this summer in Beijing, China.

Johnson joins outstanding former hurdlers **Willie Davenport** and **Rodney Milburn** as Jaguars to earn Olympic berths.

Johnson had the leading jump on the trials heading into the long jump finals. On Friday, Brian leaped 8.09 meters (26-06.50 feet), outdistancing eventual winner, **Travell Quinley**, by three inches.

On Sunday, Quinley leapt 8.36 meters (27-05.25 feet) to take the win over Johnson, who had a second place jump of 8.30 meters (27-02.75 feet), while **Miguel Pate** finished third.

"I felt pretty good today," said Johnson. "I felt okay. A little jittery at first but it is kind of the biggest meet of your life so you just try to keep your composure. Once I started to feel it, I started getting where I needed to be. So overall I felt good. I am on the team. I wanted to win, but I let it slip away from me, but I guess the biggest thing is I am on the team and I live to go to Beijing."

Johnson is a former Southern two-sport athlete (basketball and track), and is the USA's number-one ranked long jumper. Johnson is also an assistant coach for the Southern Jaguars Track team.

Johnson has three of the top seven jumps in the world this year and entered the US Olympic Trials with the top wind-legal mark of 27-2 3/4 feet. He was the 2006 USA Outdoor champion and was part of the 2005 World Championships team. He currently ranks fourth in the world.

"My main thing is staying healthy. The distances will get further and further if I stay healthy," replied Johnson.

Although Johnson trains with former LSU assistant **Boo Schexnayder**, he dedicated his performance to Southern Head Track Coach, **Johnny Thomas**. Thomas has been ill for some time now, and has taken a leave of absence from school.

The Beijing (China) 2008 Olympic Games are August 8-24, 2008.

## BCSP Notes

### VSU's Davis elected new president of CIAA

**Peggy Davis**, athletic director at **Virginia State University**, has been elected President of the **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association**. Davis becomes the third female president in the 96-year history of the CIAA.

Davis succeeds **Shaw Athletic Director Al Carter** as president for the two-year term.

Davis served as vice-president in 2007-08 and was named CIAA Athletic Director of the Year in May for the second consecutive year. Under Davis' leadership the VSU Athletics Department was honored by the university and awarded the Governor's Excellence Outstanding Team award. In 2005 she received the Jeannette A. Lee Athletic Administrator Achievement Award. Davis has overseen the Trojan athletic program since July 10, 2003.

Prior to her current position of athletic director, Davis served as the women's head basketball coach, associate athletic director and senior woman administrator.

Davis has been at the helm of a VSU sports program which has won seven CIAA Conference Championships and four NCAA Tournament bids in five years. Six head coaches have been awarded the CIAA Coach of the Year during her tenure.



DAVIS

### Langston student/athlete felled

**Tim Dorsey**, a redshirt sophomore on the **Langston University** track & field team, passed away from injuries in a car wreck on Friday evening in New Boston, Tex. He was 22 years old.

Dorsey was set to compete in the long jump and triple jump for the Lions next spring. He was majoring in Organizational Management at Langston. The 2004 graduate of New Boston High School (Tex.) enjoyed is survived by his two-year old daughter, Kiana; parents Rick and Debra; brothers, Andre and Rick, Jr.; sisters, Ebony, Tomeka, and Andrea.

### Lincoln (Mo.) gets new AD

The midwestern **Lincoln University** has found a new Director of Athletics.

WSAV in Savannah reported that **Savannah State** assistant AD **Paula Jackson** has announced her resignation to become athletics director at Lincoln University of Missouri. Jackson had been director of compliance and senior woman administrator at SSU since May, 2005. She has served as interim athletics director from October, 2007 until **Bart Bellairs** was named AD in May of this year.

"I want to thank Paula for all her hard work and dedicated service in a variety of roles at SSU," said SSU athletic director **Bart Bellairs**. "She is going to be a big asset at Lincoln University and will be missed by many people at SSU. I appreciate what she has done during my brief time as athletics director."

Jackson came to SSU from **Morehead State University** where she served as assistant athletic director and senior woman administrator. Prior to that, she held the same positions at **Clark Atlanta University**.

Jackson joins **Diantha JACOBSON Ford-Kee** as the new athletics director at a **Lincoln University of Pennsylvania** last week.

### O'Neal fades in the stretch

Former **Jackson State** golfer **Tim O'Neal** played himself into contention in the early rounds but closed with a final-round 76 Sunday to finish tied for 58th at the Nationwide Tour's **Ford Wayne Gretzky Classic** presented by Samsung in **Clarksburg, Ontario, Canada**.

O'Neal opened with a brilliant bogey-free round of five-under 66 and added two-under middle rounds of 70 and 69 to enter Sunday's final round tied for 21st. He could get nothing going however on the last round, carding five bogeys and one loan birdie on the day.

His four-round total of four-under 281 left him 12 strokes behind eventual winner **Justin Hicks** who defeated **Casey Wittenberg** in the first hole of a sudden death playoff. Hicks pocketed \$144,017.82 in his first Tour win. O'Neal won only \$2,460.30 but had his second good showing after struggling earlier this year on the tour.



JACOBSON

## THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

### SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY OLYMPIANS

#### WILLIE DAVENPORT

Track & Field - 110 meter hurdles - '64, '68 (Gold), '72, '76 (Bronze)  
Bobsledding - 1980

#### RODNEY MILBURN

Track & Field - 110 meter hurdles - 1972 (Gold w/world record)

#### BRIAN JOHNSON

Track & Field - Long Jump - 2008