

# BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



File Photo  
**SWEET HONOR:** Labor Day weekend game to honor legendary Jackson State running back, Walter Payton.

## BEIJING BOUND

**HOWARD'S OLIVER WINS TRIALS, GETS OLYMPIC BERTH; EDWARDS TO ALCORN**

## UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

### NO SIAC KICKOFF LUNCHEON:

The President's Council of the **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC)** and its conference office has decided to cancel the 2008 SIAC Summer Meetings/Kick-Off Luncheon. The event will resume next summer at a date to be determined.

The event, which would have brought head football coaches to Atlanta to talk about their prospects for the 2008 season and announce their choices for SIAC honors, was scheduled for Friday, July 25 at the Holiday Inn Decatur. The SIAC will announce the preseason all-SIAC team, predicted order of finish and its national television coverage on that same date.

### VETERAN OFFICIAL PASSES:

One of HBCU basketball's most colorful and beloved officials, CIAA Hall of Famer, **Archie Lee Harris**, passed last week at the age of 83.

Before his longtime service as an official, Harris was a multi-sport performer in football, basketball, baseball and tennis. Upon graduation from Armstrong High School in Richmond, VA, he served as a Master Sergeant in the Army during World War II before earning his B.S. degree from **Virginia State College** (now University) where he was a member of championship football and basketball teams.



HARRIS

Following his graduation from VSU, he began working with Richmond (Va.) Public Schools (RPS). As one of the first African-American physical education teachers in the system, Harris brought disciplined athletic training methods to students in the school system. Famed tennis star and humanitarian, Arthur Ashe, Jr., a Richmond native, was one of many students who learned tennis under his tutelage.

Harris later served as a principal and then as an administrator in Richmond who would retire after 54 years of service as director of School Plant Services. During his tenure at RPS, Harris earned his Master's and professional degrees from Columbia University in New York.

He may best be remembered for his second career as a basketball official for various conferences including the Virginia High School League and the CIAA where he was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1992. A commanding presence on the court, the wily veteran was known for his ability to control and sometimes dictate play on the floor, often times raising the ire of players, coaches and fans. Despite sometimes being a flashpoint for fans and coaches, Harris was a beloved "character" in black college athletic annals.

In 1974, Harris was offered an opportunity to become one of the first African-American referees in the NBA but chose not to leave his family for the extensive travel required. A member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., he was an avid tennis player, winning several city and state championships. His funeral was held Tuesday at 12 noon at First Baptist Church of South Richmond.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Richmond Public Schools Education Foundation's Archie L. Harris Sr. Memorial Scholarship Fund, 301 North Ninth Street, Richmond, VA 23219. The scholarship benefits students who demonstrate athletic and academic excellence.

### STILLMAN HIRES PHILLIPS:

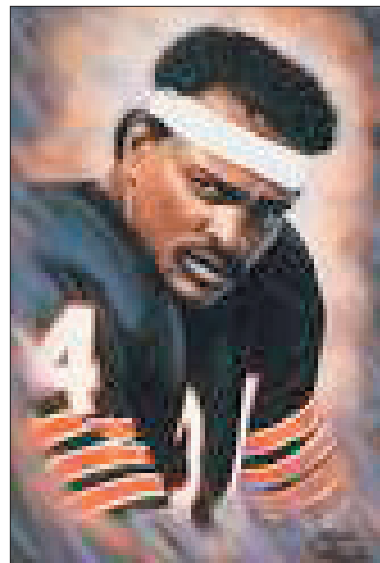
**Stillman College** Athletics Director **Curtis Campbell** has confirmed the hiring of **Pamela Phillips** as the school's new head volleyball and softball coach. Phillips comes to Stillman having worked at Lloyd Wood Middle School in Northport, Ala. for the past 26 years.

"I deeply appreciate [Campbell] for his faith in my ability to coach and lead the Lady Tigers," said Phillips. "My intentions are to build winning programs in both volleyball and softball, and my personal belief is in order to build championship programs, you must have players of championship character."

Phillips brings over 28 years of coaching experience to Stillman, including 20 seasons as a head volleyball coach and 11 seasons in softball. She boasted a career volleyball record of 248-21 at LWMS, claiming 17 county championships during her tenure. Phillips also held a .795 winning percentage in softball, with more than 100 victories in her 11 seasons as coach.

# Award to honor Walter Payton

*Jackson State's Smith, Hampton's Teel first recipients*



**WALTER PAYTON:** Beloved former Jackson State and NFL star honored with an award that recognizes award winners in the classroom and on the football field.



**AWARD WINNERS:** Kevin Teel (l.), a Hampton wide receiver/kick returner and Jackson State linebacker Marcus Smith (r.) have lived up to the ideals that governed the life of the former JSU legend.



The **MEAC/SWAC Challenge**, an ESPN Regional Television (ERT) owned-and-operated event, announced last week the creation of the **Walter Payton Achievement Award** in honor of the former **Jackson State** and NFL football legend known as "Sweetness."

Like Payton, who starred at Jackson State from 1971 to '74 and earned his bachelor's degree in communications, award winners are high achievers in the classroom and on the football field.

The award will be given annually to a player from each of the schools participating in the MEAC/SWAC Challenge presented by Disney at the event's Kick-Off Banquet, which this year, will take place in Orlando on Friday, Aug. 29. **Doug Williams**, former Washington Redskins quarterback and Super Bowl MVP, will be the banquet's keynote speaker.

This year, The MEAC/SWAC Challenge will pit **Hampton University** from the MEAC against **Jackson State** of the SWAC. The game will be played Labor Day Weekend, Sunday, Aug. 31, at 2 p.m. ET, telecast live on ESPN2 from the Florida Citrus Bowl.

The inaugural award recipients

are Jackson State linebacker **Marcus Smith** and Hampton wide receiver **Kevin Teel**, who are both entering their senior year. Walter Payton's son, **Jarrett Payton**, a running back for the Canadian Football League's Montreal Alouettes, will present the award to Smith and Teel, who were selected by a committee consisting of academic advisers and coaches.

"This award is special," said Payton, who was drafted in 2005 by the Tennessee Titans. "When you think about awards being named after someone, you had to have done something significant. My dad finished his degree in three years, which shows that he was a student first and an athlete second. He really showed that if you work hard it doesn't matter where you're from."

"We are proud to present this honor that symbolizes the great legacy of Walter Payton," said Pete Derzis, senior vice president and general manager, ERT. "This award further personifies his good character through student-athletes that are successful academically and in the sport of football."

"Walter Payton was one of the greatest of all time," said Teel, an aviation electronics systems major,

who excels as a wide receiver and kick returner for the Pirates. "This is as big an honor I could ever imagine."

"This is a great honor to receive in the name of Payton who came from Jackson State and did great things on the field, as well as being an incredible role model off the field," said Smith, a criminal justice major. "Receiving awards like this continues to motivate me to strive for higher and higher goals."

Payton, who was 45 when he was felled in 1999 by a rare liver disease, was an outstanding performer for Jackson State as a running back, kick returner and placekicker for coach **Bob Hill's** Blue Tiger squads in the mid-'70s.

A nine-time NFL Pro Bowl selection, Payton made his mark with the Chicago Bears from 1975 to 1987, high-stepping and stiff-arming defenders to retire then as the league's all-time leader with 16,726 rushing yards. In his 13-year NFL career, Payton topped the 1,000-yard mark in ten seasons, posted 77 games with 100 rushing yards, scored 110 rushing touchdowns, missed one game as a rookie year and then played in 186 consecutive games.

## BCSP Notes

### Edwards to head Alcorn State women's basketball program

**Alcorn State University** Director of Athletics, **Dr. Darren J. Hamilton**, has announced that decorated former player **Tonya Edwards** will be the Braves' new head women's basketball coach. The appointment is pending approval by the Board of Trustees.

Edwards was introduced at a press conference on Tuesday morning, July 1 at the University Club in Jackson, Mississippi.

"One of the things we looked for is name recognition, which she has," Hamilton told the *Natchez (Ms.) Democrat* newspaper. "We were also looking for someone with Mississippi ties. She has ties in Hernandeville. She understands how to win and recruit and values education. She is exactly what we were looking for."

Edwards comes to Alcorn State from the University of Detroit-Mercy, where she spent the last two seasons as assistant women's basketball coach. During her tenure she oversaw the budget, scheduling of non-conference games, team travel, served as recruiting coordinator, and coached the guards.

But Edwards left a greater mark as a player. As a 5-10 guard, she won two high school state championships in her native Flint, Michigan, two national championships as an NCAA Division I player at Tennessee and two world championships as a professional athlete with the Columbus Quest of the old ABL. She was also named the Most Valuable Player of the NCAA Women's

Basketball Tournament in 1987.

She was coached by the legendary Tennessee Head Coach Pat Summit, who has accrued the most career wins in NCAA history.

Coach Edwards has also received her share of accolades. In 2006 she was inducted into the University of Tennessee's and the Greater Flint Afro-American Halls of Fame. In 1997 and 1998 she was named to the ABL's all-star team, in 1999 she was named to the WNBA all-star team, in 1990 she was named to the Kodak Women's Basketball Team, as well as playing professionally in the ABL and WNBA, in Turkey, Italy, and Israel.

She won a high school state championship as a head coach at her alma mater, Northwestern Community High School in Flint, whom she led to an undefeated 28-0 mark in 1993, and also served as interim coach in the ABL with the Quest.

In 1990, Ms. Edwards received her B.S. degree in Sports Management with a minor in Business from the University of Tennessee. Her duties commenced on July 7, 2008.

Hamilton said he is looking forward to Edwards building on the foundation laid by her predecessor, legendary coach **Shirley Walker**.

"One of the things we have is a solid foundation in terms of championships," Hamilton said. "We have a historic program that was led by the legendary coach Walker. (Edwards) has to instill a winning attitude and build the program based on a strong foundation."



**EDWARDS:** During her playing days with the Quest.

## Howard's Oliver hurdles to Olympic berth

**Howard University** alum **David Oliver** set a Hayward Track record, running to a winning time of 12.95 seconds in the 110 meter hurdles Sunday at the U.S. Olympic Trials to earn a berth to the XXIX Summer Games in Beijing, China in August.

"I really don't know what happened," Oliver said after the race. "The gun went off and I just started running. I haven't seen the replay even and I don't even know where I was at."

Oliver, one of the favorites to win the event, had the best mark of the quarterfinals at 13.07 and was the top seed in the first of two semifinals.

His most impressive showing was in the semifinal race, where he crossed the line .01 of a second under the American record, in 12.89. But he was aided in that race by an illegal wind of 3.2mps. It was the fourth-fastest time ever run under any conditions. Terrence Trammell won the second semifinal in 13.08 (+2.0mps). Oliver sped to a time of 13.24 seconds



Ken Shipp Photo

**OLIVER:** Former Howard track star powers over hurdles (above and top right) and claims victory (bottom right) Sunday in the 110 meter hurdles at the U. S. Olympic Trials in Eugene, Oregon.

to post the best mark in the first round.

"I just wanted to make the top-three in the finals," Oliver added. "I am just happy that I was able to do that and get the win."

Oliver has posted three of the world's top five times in the event this season, including 12.95 seconds in May. That's second to the world record of 12.87 run by Dayron Robles. He also won the U.S. indoor title in February before posting his sub-13 time in Doha, Qatar.

Though slow out of the blocks in the final, Oliver rallied past Trammell, the two-time Olympic silver medalist, defending Olympic Trials champion and 2007 World Outdoor silver medalist, to win the hurdles final.

Trammell was second in 13.00 and World Outdoor bronze medalist David Payne third in 13.25.

Payne was the beneficiary of an untimely fall by former **St. Augustine's** hurdler **Anwar Moore**, who was in third but fell over the final hurdle and finished eighth in 16.64.



Ken Shipp Photos

