

# BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE

## OLD FACES IN NEW PLACES

FOOTBALL PREVIEWS SET; BIBBS GETS NEW CONTRACT, CREWS GETS NEW HOME



FAMU & Miles Sports Photos  
**OLD JOES:** Joe Taylor (l.) and Billy Joe (r.) preparing to lead new teams into battle on the gridiron.

# Conferences to give early look at 2008 Football Season

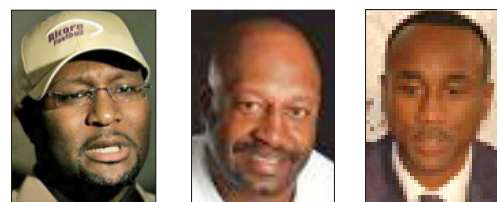
With the start of the 2008 football season about six weeks away, three of the four black college athletic conferences get things started by holding their annual football Kickoff Luncheons and Media Days next week.

And all four conferences have plenty to report.

The **Southwestern Athletic Conference** gets things started Tuesday, July 22 with its annual SWAC Media Day and Kickoff Luncheon in Birmingham.

The day starts with head coaches and selected players from the league's ten teams available for one-on-one interviews beginning at 9 a.m. at the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame. Each coach will also talk about their prospects for the coming season after lunch is served at the nearby Jefferson Convention Complex at 11 a.m.

The SWAC has three new head coaches debuting this season, all with local ties to their new positions. Former **Alcorn State** player and Cincinnati assistant **Ernest Jones** is the new head man at his alma mater replacing **Johnny Thomas**. Fifteen-year NFL veteran and Arkansas product **Monte Coleman** takes over at **Arkansas-Pine Bluff** from **Mo Forte**. At **Texas Southern**, former **Lane** head coach and former TSU quarterback **Johnny Cole** is expected to ratchet up the Tiger offense as he replaces **Steve Wilson**. **Southern** Head Coach **Pete Richardson** is the dean of SWAC coaches entering his 16th season leading the Jaguars. **Jackson State** under second-year head coach



**JONES** **COLEMAN** **COLE**

**Rick Comey** defeated new **Grambling State** head coach **Rod Broadway's** squad in last year's SWAC Championship Game.

The **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association** is next up, holding its annual Football Media Luncheon on Thursday, July 24 at the Jones Dining Hall on the campus of **Virginia State University** in

Ettrick, Va. beginning at 11 a.m. Head coaches will breakdown their chances in 2008.

Joining the conference this year as a football-playing member of the Western Division is **Chowan College** of Murfreesboro, N. C. New **Chowan** Head Coach **Tim Place** will join his coaching colleagues in analyzing the 2008 season.

The only coaching change is at **Virginia Union**, where former defensive **Greg Richardson** moves up after the resignation of **Arrington Jones**. **Shaw**, under head coach **Darrell Asberry**, won last year's CIAA Championship Game over Jones's **VUU** squad.

The **Mid Eastern Athletic Conference** wraps up preview week with its Football Press Luncheon Friday, July 25 at the Norfolk (Va.) Waterside Hotel. Standout players from each of the conference's ten football teams start one-on-one interviews at 9:30 a.m. and will be joined by the coaches at 10:30 a.m. The luncheon will follow at approximately 11:30.

The MEAC witnessed perhaps the biggest coaching move of the post season when 16-year **Hampton** head coach **Joe Taylor** departed to become head man at **Florida A&M** replacing **Rubin Carter**. Former Hampton defensive coordinator **Jerry Holmes** has replaced Taylor as head coach of the Pirates.

Head Coach **Al Lavan** guided **Delaware State** to last year's MEAC title and NCAA FCS playoff berth.

The **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference** decided last week not to hold its preseason event. Among the biggest changes in the SIAC is former

**Florida A&M** head coach and MEAC Hall of Famer **Billy Joe** taking over at **Miles** from **Wade Streeter**. **Dearrison Snead** has replaced **Johnny Cole** at **Lane**.

**Tuskegee** is the defending champion.



**HOLMES**



**PLACE**



**RICHARDSON**



**SNEAD**

## UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

### FLORIDA CLASSIC ON CLASSIC:

This year's Sunshine State gridiron showdown between **Florida A&M** and **Bethune-Cookman** in *Florida Classic XXIX*, presented by State Farm, will be televised live nationally on ESPN Classic, the **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** announced last week.

The annual contest, which has been the single-game attendance leader for NCAA Division I FCS (Football Championship Subdivision, formerly I-AA) the past five years, will be played at the Florida Citrus Bowl Stadium in Orlando, Florida.

Because of the game airing on ESPN Classic, the kickoff time of the November 22 game has been moved from 3:15 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

### JCSU LOSES TRACK COACH:

The **Johnson C. Smith University** Athletics Department is saddened to learn of the passing of **Trenton Guy, Sr.** He was the assistant men's and women's track and field coach and received his undergraduate degree from JCSU in May.

"We are extremely shocked and deeply saddened," said JCSU Athletics Director, **Steve Joyner, Sr.** "It's very hard to put into words the sense of loss that those of us who worked with him feel right now. Trent was someone for whom I had a great deal of respect."

Services for Guy were held July 17, 2008 at First Baptist Church-West in Charlotte, NC.

### AN INTERVIEW WITH WC GORDEN:

Former **Jackson State** head football coach **W.C. Gorden** was one of the most successful coaches in NCAA Division I-AA history with a 119-48-5 career record over 15 years. Gorden's Tigers won an unprecedented 28 straight SWAC games from 1985-1989. Gorden will be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame this Saturday in South Bend, Indiana.

During his 24-year coaching affiliation (he served nine years as an assistant) with the Tiger program, 65 JSU players were drafted into the NFL; 22 were selected as All Americans, including first round draft picks **Walter Payton**, **Robert Brazile**, **Donald Reese** and **Jerome Barkhum**; and seven of his assistant coaches moved on to head football coaching jobs. Days before his induction into the 2008 class that includes former **Mississippi Valley State**, **Howard and Fort Valley State** head coach **Doug Porter**, JSU's winningest football coach sat down with the JSU Athletic Media Relations office for an informal interview that the BCSP excerpts here. The full interview is on the JSU athletics website.



**GORDEN**

**JSU:** What was your initial reaction when it was first brought to your attention about being inducted into the football college hall of fame?

**W.C. Gorden:** It was humbling to be selected among the greatest coaches in America and to be enshrined into the prestigious College Hall of Fame. In the words of one of the great American musical composers of our time, James Brown "It feels Good."

**JSU:** How do you feel about representing JSU in the College Football Hall of Fame? What about representing the SWAC?

**W.C. Gorden:** I coached in what has been referred to as the "Golden Era." JSU players were big stuff, they were cracking skulls and scoring sixes! Spectators liked the big linemen, elusive running backs and world class sprinters playing wide receiver and defensive back. SWAC coaches were the forces of innovation, scoffed at repetition, embraced unpredictability and unconventional. They believed in developing freedom within a structure.

**JSU:** On a national scale, what do you think this honor you are receiving says about the program that you helped build?

**W.C. Gorden:** The national print media, radio, television interviews will be instrumental in exposing sports fans nationwide to the drama of the powerful football team and players that have matriculated through JSU.

**JSU:** There are some prestigious men (Joe Paterno, Doug Flutie, Ahmad Rashad) being inducted in your class. How do you feel about being in the same class?

**W.C. Gorden:** I am elated to be inducted into the 2008 class with such illustrious men however, I was given the opportunity to coach super stars like **Walter Payton**, **Harold Jackson**, **Robert Brazile**, **Jackie Slater**, **Kevin Dent** and **Jimmy Smith**.

**JSU:** How do you feel about the direction that the program is going in now?

**W.C. Gorden:** Observing the organization and planning that Coach **Comey** and his staff has implemented into the JSU football program, I feel they will elevate the program to a new level. In addition, the public relations established with the alumni and business community will hopefully increase revenues to make the program financially prominent and self sustaining.

**JSU:** Do you think this honor is over due?

**W.C. Gorden:** No, I do not think that this honor is over due. My maturity now has moved me from an attitude of freedom, from selfishness to selflessness, now I have moved from competition to compassion.

## BCSP Notes

### NC A&T gives Bibbs new contract

**North Carolina A&T** has announced a four-year contract extension for women's basketball coach **Patricia Cage Bibbs**. Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed.

Bibbs will begin working under her new contract immediately which means the terms of her old deal have been voided in place of her new arrangement. Bibbs' new contract extends into the 2011-2012 season.

"Patricia was brought in to do what she has done so many times in her career - elevate a program to the top of the conference," said interim athletics director **Wheeler Brown**. "She certainly has not disappointed. She has taken the women's basketball program from the middle of the pack in the conference and made us the team to beat in the MEAC. We are excited about where she can take our program not only in the MEAC, but nationally."

"This is a joyous day for me," said Bibbs. "The opportunity to coach at an institution like North Carolina A&T is a privilege because the Aggie family has been so gracious to me, my family and our program. I said when I came here I was going to take this program to the NCAA Tournament and this gives me the opportunity to do that many times over."

Bibbs had the Aggies on the brink of the NCAA Tournament in March. The Aggies lost to **Coppin State** in the MEAC Championship Game 72-70. Despite the title-game loss, the Aggies put together the best regular-season in school history.

The Aggies won a school-record 25 games, won the MEAC regular-season title with a 15-1 record and earned the program's first national postseason appearance in 14 years when they earned an automatic bid to the WNIT. For her efforts Bibbs was named MEAC Coach of the Year, marking the ninth time she has earned a conference coach of the year honor.

Bibbs enters her 24th season as a collegiate coach. She has a career record of 422-246 and 51-40 in three seasons as the Aggies head coach. In her career, she has won 11 regular-season titles, nine conference tournaments and has led a team to the NCAA Tournament six times.

### Sharp announces additions, promotions in SWAC office

**Southwestern Athletic Conference** Commissioner **Duer Sharp** has announced three new hires and one promotion in the conference office. **Kelly Brooks** has been named Associate Commissioner, **Ashley Robinson** was named Assistant Commissioner for Compliance, and **Duane Lewis** was named Assistant Commissioner for Communications.

Additionally, **Jennifer Huggins** has been promoted to Assistant Commissioner for Championships.

**Brooks** comes to the SWAC following a three-year stint on the Membership Services staff of the NCAA, where his responsibilities included student-athlete reinstatement, Division I athletics certification and the membership services hiring team. Prior to the NCAA, he served two years as the director of student-athlete development at Xavier University. Brooks previously served four years as an assistant coach on the women's basketball staff at the University of Alabama. He additionally spent two years as an academic programs advisor for the Crimson Tide athletics department. A native of Starkville, MS, Brooks earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the Mississippi University for Women in 1997 and a Master's degree in education with a concentration in athletic administration from Alabama in 1999.

**Robinson** comes to the conference office after a one-year stint as Director of Compliance at **Mississippi Valley State**, where he was responsible for monitoring the academic process and eligibility for student-athletes in the Delta Devil athletic program. Prior to MVSU, he was assistant compliance officer at **Jackson State** and formerly



**ROBINSON**



**LEWIS**



**HUGGINS**

an academic coordinator at **Delaware State**. A native of Jackson, Ms., Robinson received a bachelor's degree in physical education with a minor in business administration in 2003 from Mississippi Valley State. During his time at MVSU, he was a member of the Delta Devils' men's basketball team, where he finished his career as the school's single season and career assist leader.

**Lewis** comes to the conference office after one year as Director of Communications for the Allstate Sugar Bowl in New Orleans, where he served as the media director for the double hosting of the Sugar Bowl and the Allstate BCS National Championship Game. Prior to the Sugar Bowl, Lewis spent ten years on the media relations staff of the NFL's St. Louis Rams, including serving as Director of Football Media (2003-05) and as Director of New Media (2006-07). Lewis earned his bachelor's degree in broadcasting from **Southern** in 1995. He also has worked as a sports correspondent for both the **Baton Rouge Advocate** and **New Orleans Times-Picayune**.

**Huggins** becomes assistant commissioner for championships at the Southwestern Athletic Conference after serving as assistant director for championships for the past three years. A native of Birmingham, Ala., she began with the SWAC in 2002 as an intern and then Media Relations Assistant, where she served as the primary media liaison for women's and Olympic sports. Huggins is a 1999 graduate of the University of Alabama where she earned a B.A. degree in Communications and Information Sciences.

### Duke Crews to transfer from Tennessee to Bowie State

**Willard Duke Crews**, a key cog in the University of Tennessee's run to the Sweet 16 in the men's NCAA Basketball Tournament this past season, has decided to transfer to **CIAA** member **Bowie State**.

**Crews**, a 6-7, 233-pound forward, was a high-profile McDonald's All-American before enrolling at the University of Tennessee. He made an official announcement of his transfer on Friday, July 11 during the Allen Iverson Celebrity Summer Classic press conference at the ESPN Zone in Washington, D.C.

During the event, he was presented with the Allen Iverson Scholarship that the NBA superstar and Crossover Promotions began in 2006. Scholarships are awarded to students from Iverson's hometown of Hampton, Virginia and surrounding areas that exemplify academic and athletic excellence. Crews will also receive a full-athletic scholarship from BSU.

"We are very excited to have Willard Crews as part of the BSU program," says BSU Men's Head Basketball Coach **Luke D'Alessio**. "Willard is an excellent student-athlete that we have great faith in and he will be an excellent addition to our institution. We've had three All-Americans to play at BSU and we expect Willard to be the fourth."

In addition to BSU, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and the University of Pittsburgh heavily recruited Crews. His decision to attend BSU was influenced by the historic representation of the CIAA and its basketball legacy. Crews, who is from the Hampton, Va. area where the CIAA is very popular, felt that BSU and the CIAA was the best fit for him. He expressed being very comfortable with the players and the University.

**Crews**, who is expected to play power forward or center at BSU, started two games and averaged 5 points and 4 rebounds for the Vols. He exhibits tremendous athletic ability and toughness on both ends of the floor.



**CREWS**



**BROOKS**