

# BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



Miles Sports Photo

**JOE:** Hall of Fame coach seeking to breathe new life to a struggling program at SIAC member, Miles.

## FRESH START AT MILES

CLASSICS, BOWL AND TITLE GAME SCHEDULES; NEW ADs AT NC A&T, GSU

## UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

### BROWN GETS A&T AD POST:

North Carolina A&T State Chancellor **Stanley F. Battle** announced the hiring of **Wheeler Brown** as the school's new director of intercollegiate athletics at a press conference held at the Bryan Fitness and Wellness Center Monday afternoon.



BROWN

Brown had served as the interim director of athletics since last November. Before taking over the role of interim AD, he served as the department's associate athletics director for internal affairs and compliance for five years.

Brown graduated from N.C. A&T in 1979 with a degree in health and physical education. Before graduating, he competed for four years as an offensive tackle for the Aggies football team. He was a part of N.C. A&T's first MEAC football championship in 1975. The Baltimore native earned first-team All-MEAC honors in 1978. Twenty five years later, he was inducted into the N.C. A&T Hall of Fame.

"It is always an honor to come back and serve your alma mater in any capacity," said Brown. "To be named athletics director is a little more special because I am a product of North Carolina A&T athletics. I really want to build our future on the strong traditions of the past."

Brown began his professional career as a teacher and coach at C.L. Harper High School in Atlanta. Five years later he became the head men's basketball coach at Howard Community College in Columbia, Md. In 10 seasons, he compiled a 191-110 record.

The foundation for his ascension to director of athletics began in 1996 when he accepted a position as an assistant athletics director and assistant men's basketball coach at Wheeling and Jesuit University. He spent five years there before being hired as an associate athletics director at **Bowie State** University in 2001. A year later, he returned to his alma mater as an associate athletics director.

### PERKINS NAMED INTERIM AD:

Senior Woman Administrator and former long-time assistant basketball coach **Sharon Perkins** has been named interim director of athletics at **Grambling State University**, President **Dr. Horace A. Judson** announced Friday.



PERKINS

Perkins, named the department's SWA in the fall of 2007, will be responsible for overseeing sport management and the daily internal operation of the Grambling athletic department, which fields 18 varsity athletic programs. She succeeds **Troy Mathieu** who resigned to pursue other opportunities.

A veteran of more than 14 years in Division I athletics, Perkins began her athletic career on the administrative side as a graduate assistant women's golf coach at GSU from 1994-95. In 1996, she accepted a position at Grant Parish High School in Dry Prong, La. and wore several hats during her two-year stint at the school. Perkins returned to her alma mater in 1997 as an assistant coach for the Lady Tiger basketball team under former head women's basketball coach **David "Rusty" Ponton**.

Since returning to Grambling, Perkins was an invaluable member on the Lady Tiger coaching staff for the past 11 years as she was responsible for coordinating the team's day-to-day administrative duties off the court in addition to assisting the team with on-court instruction. During the offseason, Perkins also served as camp coordinator for Ponton's Girl's All-Star Basketball Camp.

A native of Lake Charles, La., Perkins graduated from Grambling in 1994 with a B.S. in Management in addition to receiving a M.S. in Sports Administration in 1995. Perkins also obtained a M.S. in Developmental Education with a concentration in Guidance and Counseling from GSU in 2004 and also holds a certification in Guidance Counseling on the elementary and secondary educational level in the state of Louisiana. She has a seven-year-old daughter, Alexia.

The university has begun the process of conducting a comprehensive national search to fill the Director of Athletics position.

## At Miles

# Turnaround's the thing for Joe

### ROSCOE NANCE

BCSP Contributing Writer

If you want an odd marriage, try **Billy Joe** coaching football at **Miles College**. Or upon further examination, perhaps it's not as odd as it appears.

Joe has won more games than any Black College coach except **Eddie Robinson** and is a member of the National Football Foundation College Hall of Fame with a 237-108-4 (.685) career record..

Miles, on the other hand, is synonymous with losing and is a study in futility. The Bears had just two winning seasons - 7-4 in 2003 and 2004 - in seven years under Joe's predecessor, **Wade Streeter**.

Their last and only SIAC championship was in 1977 when the conference had Division II and Division III titles, and they competed in the lower division.

The obvious question is why Joe, who has won seven Black College National Championships and two NAIA titles during stints at **Cheyney**, **Central State** and **Florida A&M**, would return to coaching at age 67 to guide the moribund Bears, who were 2-9 last season and winless in the SIAC?

"I got the itch and the excruciating passion to return to coaching," says Joe, who was out of coaching for three seasons after an interim president at Florida A&M fired him in a controversial move after the NCAA charged the Rattlers with 67 rules violations. Joe was cleared of any involvement and settled a wrongful dismissal lawsuit with the school.

"It didn't take much twisting of arms to get me back into it. It wasn't very difficult for me to say yes. I noticed I still have the passion; my health is still good. It was a no brainer to come back. Being around student athletes energizes me and fuels my engine."

It would seem that a school

with a higher profile than Miles could energize Joe and fuel his engine even more. He says several schools with bigger football names did contact him during his three-year absence from coaching, but he wasn't ready to return to the sidelines.

He says he prefers the challenge that comes with rejuvenating a program. Cheyney had won one game in five years and owned the nation's longest losing streak when he arrived. The Wolves won six games his first season. Central State had one winning record in five seasons before he took over. The Marauders played for the Division II championship in his third season. Florida A&M won five games the season before hiring him; the Rattlers won the MEAC crown his second year.

"I would have been a little bit reticent about accepting a job from an affluent program that has experienced a lot of success," Joe says. "I'm more excited about turning a program around. This would seem like an awesome task, based on Miles' previous and distant football history, a very daunting task. But I welcome that. That's what makes me want to coach."

"In our society you get your notoriety and people recognize your success by the obstacles you overcome. Without segregation, **Dr. (Martin Luther) King** would have been just another preacher. Colin Powell would have been just another soldier without the Gulf War. Abraham Lincoln would have been just another politician from Illinois without the Civil War. You've got to have a problem, an issue, and when you solve it and overcome it, that's when you get kudos. I'm happy to be at Miles."

Miles has its share of problems for Joe to overcome. He says the No.1 priority is improving the facilities and 8,500-seat Albert J. Sloan



Miles Sports Photo

**DONNING A DIFFERENT HAT:** After successful turnaround stints at Cheyney, Central State and Florida A&M, 67-year old head coach Billy Joe tries his hand at turning Miles into a consistent SIAC contender and winner.

Alumni Stadium. Another hurdle is increasing scholarships. The Bears currently offer about half of the 36 scholarships allowed for Division II schools.

"The administration, boosters and alums know the shortcoming we have," Joe says. "We know that in time we will get it done. Rome wasn't built in day. But it didn't take forever."

Joe, who turns 68 in October and has a five-year contract, knows he doesn't have forever. "It's hard to say how much longer I will coach," he says. "I'll let Good Lord and Father Time and Mother Nature take care of that. I would have to know I still have the passion to coach and that my health is still good. Those are things. If that's there, I want to continue indefinitely like Joe Paterno (81) and Bobby Bowden (78). They're still going strong and good programs. But I'll be the first to take this old body home if they aren't there."

Joe has installed the Gulf Coast Offense, the wide open attack that he used to win 86 games in 11 seasons at Florida A&M as the Rattlers reached the Football Championship

Subdivision playoffs seven times.

"We know you need a certain type personnel to execute it," Joe says. "Whether or not it will be a true Gulf Coast this year, we have to wait and see how players develop. You have to recruit players whose talent is congruent with it."

"I'm excited about the talent we have on campus. We have outstanding student athletes. The only issue is we don't have a plethora of quality athletes. We have some who can play for anybody, even Division I. We just don't have an abundance of them."

Joe has had a penchant for luring players transferring from bigger programs throughout his career to facilitate rebuilding. It's no different at Miles. He has brought in offensive linemen **Dan Henderson** and **Richard Koonce** from Florida A&M and quarterback **Carlton Hill** from the University of South Florida.

But in a conference dominated by **Tuskegee** and **Albany State**, he isn't promising a quick fix. "Wins and losses are difficult to assess," he says. "But we do expect to be successful."

## 2008 CLASSIC, BOWL AND CHAMPIONSHIP GAME SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 30

<i>Wade Wilson Classic</i> Cheyney vs. Bowie State in Cheyney, PA	1:00pm ET
<i>Palmetto Capital City Classic</i> Benedict vs. Morehouse in Columbia, SC	4:00pm ET
<i>Atlanta Labor Day Classic</i> Clark Atlanta vs. Fort Valley State in Atlanta, GA	6:00pm ET
<i>Virginia Lottery Labor Day Classic</i> Norfolk State vs. Virginia State in Norfolk, Va.	6:00pm ET
<i>Labor Day Classic</i> - ESPN - Delayed-10:30p ET Texas Southern vs. Prairie View A&M in Houston, TX	7:00pm CT
<i>Greenville HBCU Classic</i> Livingstone vs. Concordia in Greenville, SC	7:00pm ET

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

<i>MEAC-SWAC Challenge</i> - ESPN2 - Live Hampton vs. Jackson State in Orlando, FL	2:00pm ET
<i>Labor Day Classic</i> NC Central vs. Fayetteville State in Durham, NC	4:00pm ET
<i>Dayton Classic IV</i> Central State vs. Dayton in Dayton, OH	5:00pm CT
<i>2nd Labor Day Classic</i> Miles vs. Stillman in Birmingham, AL	6:00pm CT

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

<i>Chicago Football Classic</i> Central State vs. West Virginia State in Chicago, IL	4:00pm CT
<i>Willie Gary Classic</i> Edward Waters vs. Shaw in Jacksonville, FL	5:00pm ET
<i>McGee Classic</i> Langston vs. Lincoln (MO) in Tulsa, OK	5:30pm CT
<i>John Merritt Classic</i> Tennessee State vs. Southern in Nashville, TN	6:00pm CT
<i>Battle of I-40 Football Classic</i> NC A&T vs. Winston-Salem State in Greensboro, NC	6:00pm ET

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

<i>Low Country Classic</i> SC State vs. Bethune-Cookman in Charleston, SC	4:00pm ET
<i>Capital City Classic</i> - Comcast Sports Net Texas Southern vs. Shaw in Sacramento, CA	4:05pm PT
<i>Southern Heritage Classic</i> - SportSouth Jackson State vs. Tennessee State in Memphis, TN	6:00pm CT

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

<i>Western Virginia Education Classic</i> Virginia Union vs. Johnson C. Smith in Salem, VA	2:00pm ET
<i>Southern Alabama Heritage Classic</i> Concordia vs. Edward Waters in Dothan, AL	3:00pm CT
<i>Rose City Classic</i> Texas College vs. Texas Southern in Tyler, TX	5:00pm CT

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

<i>Angel City Classic</i> Prairie View A&M vs. Morehouse in Los Angeles, CA	2:30pm PT
<i>17th Gateway Classic</i> Stillman vs. Kentucky State in St. Louis, MO	3:00pm CT
<i>11th Down East Viking Football Classic</i> Elizabeth City St. vs. St. Augustine's in Rocky Mount, NC	4:00pm ET
<i>20th Atlanta Football Classic</i> - Fox Sports South Florida A&M vs. Tennessee State in Atlanta, GA	4:00pm ET

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

<i>5th Prince George's Classic</i> Bowie State vs. Lincoln (PA) in Bowie, MD	1:00pm ET
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<i>The Commemorative Classic</i> Johnson C. Smith vs. Livingstone in Charlotte, NC	1:00pm ET
<i>7th Annual Lucille M. Brown Community Youth Bowl</i> Virginia Union vs. Saint Paul's in Richmond, VA	1:00pm ET
<i>25th Circle City Classic</i> Alabama A&M vs. Tuskegee in Indianapolis, IN	4:00pm ET
<i>State Fair Classic</i> Grambling State vs. Prairie View A&M in Dallas, TX	6:00pm CT

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

<i>73rd Morehouse-Tuskegee Classic</i> - ESPN - Delayed-10:30p ET Morehouse vs. Tuskegee in Columbus, GA	2:00pm ET
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### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

<i>Battle of the Bay</i> Hampton vs. Norfolk State in Hampton, Va.	1:00pm ET
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### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

<i>67th Magic City Classic</i> - ESPN - Delayed-10:30p ET Alabama A&M vs. Alabama State in Birmingham, AL	2:30pm CT
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### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

<i>19th Fountain City Classic</i> Fort Valley State vs. Albany State in Columbus, GA	2:00pm ET
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### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

<i>Literacy Classic</i> Arkansas-Pine Bluff vs. Grambling State in Little Rock, AR	4:00pm CT
<i>R.J. Bunche Classic</i> Edward Waters vs. Savannah State in Kingsland, Ga.	5:00pm ET
<i>CIAA Championship</i> - CIAA Network CIAA West Champ vs. CIAA East Champ in Durham, NC	TBA
<i>16th CSRA Classic</i> Clark Atlanta vs. Benedict in Augusta, GA	TBA

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

<i>35th Gulf Coast Classic</i> Southern vs. Alabama State in Mobile, AL	6:00pm CT
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### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

<i>Capital City Classic</i> - ESPN - Delayed-10:30p ET Alcorn State vs. Jackson State in Jackson, MS	1:00pm CT
<i>Florida Classic XXIX</i> - ESPN Classic - Live Bethune-Cookman vs. Florida A&M in Orlando, FL	2:00pm ET

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27

<i>85th Turkey Day Classic</i> Alabama State vs. Tuskegee in Montgomery, AL	1:00pm CT
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### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

<i>Bayou Classic XXXV</i> - NBC Southern vs. Grambling State in New Orleans, LA	1:00pm CT
<i>Dallas Lonestar Classic</i> Texas Southern vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff in Dallas, TX	2:30pm CT

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

<i>Pioneer Bowl XI</i> CIAA Rep vs. SIAC Rep in TBA	2:00pm ET
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### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

<i>SWAC Championship</i> - ESPN Classic SWAC East Champ vs. SWAC West Champ in B'ham, AL	1:00pm CT
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