

# BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



Claffin Sports Photo

## SETTING THE PACE

**WOODARD:** Has Claffin on top of the SIAC in its first year of eligibility.

**NEW FOOTBALL HEAD COACHES AT HAMPTON, NC A&T AND LINCOLN (MO)**

## UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

### ONE AND DONE FOR HOLMES:

**Lonza Hardy Jr.**, director of athletics at **Hampton University**, has terminated the employment of head football coach **Jerry Holmes**, effective February 27, 2009 and named **Donovan Rose**, an 18-year veteran of the coaching staff, as his replacement.



Hampton Sports Photo

**ROSE:** Longtime assistant to take over Pirates' program.

"Unfortunately, we were not on one accord as it related to the future direction of the football program," said Hardy of Holmes' dismissal. "I felt a dire need to have a head football coach whose commitment, loyalty and devotion to Hampton University were without question." Holmes finished 6-5 overall, 5-3 in MEAC play in his first year after replacing successful 15-year veteran Hampton head coach **Joe Taylor** last season. Holmes had been defensive coordinator under Taylor for three seasons.

Rose served as the Pirates' defensive coordinator and assistant head coach in 2008. Previously, he was the team's defensive backs coach. A 1979 graduate of Hampton, Rose was an all-CIAA performer who was named the conference's defensive player of the year during his senior season in 1978.

Following his college career, Rose signed with the Kansas City Chiefs of the NFL and also played in the Canadian Football League, earning a championship ring when the Winnipeg Blue Bombers won the Grey Cup in 1984. Later, as a member of the NFL's Miami Dolphins, Rose led the team in interceptions before retiring in 1988.

"With the tradition, the family atmosphere and the roots that I have here at Hampton University, I definitely consider this a great opportunity for me to be named head coach," said Rose. "Hampton has always been known for its academics and for its athletic achievements. With hard work and determination, and with having the players and coaches on one accord, we can make Hampton a force to be reckoned with again."

### COCHRAN IN AT LINCOLN:

**Lincoln University (MO.)** has announced the hiring of **Nathan Cochran** as head football coach for the Blue Tigers. He is the fourth head coach since the program was revived in 1999. He succeeds **Lemar Parrish** and becomes the first hire of new athletics director **Paula Jackson**. Parrish's 2008 team finished 1-8.



LU Sports Photo

**COCHRAN:** Takes over from Lemar Parrish.

Cochran most recently served as assistant head coach and offensive coordinator for Blackburn College in Carlinville, Illinois. During the 2007 season, Cochran's offense broke over 30 team and individual school records, achieving a ranking of 9th in the country for NCAA Division III rushing.

Cochran coached two seasons at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, first as the defensive line coach in 2004 and then as the running backs coach in 2005. Prior to that, he was the offensive line and running back coach at Allen University. He started his career as a high school coach in Greenville, South Carolina. Cochran spent part of the summer of 2007 as an intern with the Pittsburgh Steelers as part of the NFL Minority Internship Program.

Cochran has a Master of Arts in Management from Webster University in St. Louis, and a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics Education from **South Carolina State**.

### GOSIER IS NEW FVSU AD:

**Wilson Gosier**, a long time member of the athletics community and a graduate of **Fort Valley State** has been named director of athletics at FVSU. He will assume the duties of the office immediately.

As an administrator, Gosier formerly served as associate dean of students at FVSU in the 1970s and brings over 30 years of experience to the position. He recently served as director of football operations.

A former Wildcat student-athlete who lettered in three sports during the 1960s, Gosier is also in the **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference's** Hall of Fame. He is also a retired game official in basketball and football on the collegiate and professional levels. He is an avid golfer and has been featured in several golfing publications.

## 2008-09 BLACK COLLEGE BASKETBALL (Men's Results, Standings and Weekly Honors)

CIAA	CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION			
	DIV	ALL	CONF	ALL
EAST	W	L	W	L
Virginia Union	5	0	12	3
Bowie State	2	2	9	8
Elizabeth City State	1	2	13	4
Virginia State	1	2	8	11
St. Paul's	0	3	4	11
WEST	W	L	W	L
Johnson C. Smith	3	0	13	4
St. Augustine's	3	2	13	6
Shaw	3	3	7	11
Fayetteville State	1	2	11	6
Livingstone	0	3	7	8

CIAA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK	PLAYER
ROOKIE	NA

MEAC	MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE			
	CONF	ALL	CONF	ALL
Morgan State	5	2	10	10
Bethune-Cookman	5	2	11	9
Hampton	4	2	10	9
Norfolk State	4	2	7	11
Florida A&M	4	3	6	12
Delaware State	3	3	5	16
Md.-E. Shore	3	4	5	12
Coppin State	3	4	5	15
SC State	2	4	7	11
NC A&T State	2	4	8	12
Howard	1	5	3	16

MEAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK	PLAYER
ROOKIE	DEFENSE

SIAC	SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE			
	CONF	ALL	CONF	ALL
Claffin	14	1	15	1
Benedict	10	1	12	2
Lane	8	4	10	5
Clark Atlanta	7	4	9	5
LeMoyne-Owen	8	7	8	9
Miles	7	7	7	10
Fort Valley State	6	6	6	9
Albany State	4	7	5	9
Paine	5	9	6	11
Kentucky State	4	9	5	10
Tuskegee	3	7	3	10
Morehouse	2	9	4	10
Stillman	2	9	3	10

SIAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK	PLAYER

SWAC	SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE			
	CONF	ALL	CONF	ALL
E. DIVISION	W	L	W	L
Alabama State	6	1	9	8
Prairie View A&M	5	2	9	11
Ark. Pine Bluff	5	2	6	12
Jackson State	5	2	6	13
Alabama A&M	3	4	5	10
Grambling State	3	4	5	13
Miss. Valley St.	3	4	3	17
Southern	3	5	3	17
Alcorn State	2	6	4	17
Texas Southern	1	6	1	19

SWAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK	PLAYER

INDEPENDENTS	W	L	W	L
Cheyney	13	7	13	7
Central State	10	9	10	9
Edward Waters	9	11	9	11
Savannah State	6	12	6	12
UDC	5	11	5	11
Lincoln (Pa.)	5	11	5	11
Tennessee State	5	11	5	11
Lincoln (Mo.)	4	12	4	12
Florida Memorial	4	12	4	12
Winston-Salem State	4	14	4	14
N. C. Central	2	21	2	21

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK	PLAYER
ROOKIE	DEFENSE

## Similar formula working for VUU, Claffin and Benedict

**LUT WILLIAMS**  
BCSP Editor

### GAMES THIS WEEK

SATURDAY, JAN. 31	
CIAA	St. Paul's vs. Virginia State in Lawrenceville, VA 4
	Bowie State vs. Fayetteville St. in Bowie, MD 7:30
	Eliz. City State vs. Shaw in Elizabeth City, NC 7:30
	Livingstone vs. J. C. Smith in Salisbury, NC 7:30
	Virginia Union vs. St. Augustine's in Richmond, VA 7:30
MEAC	B-Cookman vs. SC State in Daytona Beach, FL 4
	Delaware State vs. Coppin State in Dover, DE 4
	Howard vs. NC A&T in Washington, DC 4
	Hampton vs. Norfolk State in Hampton, VA 6
	Florida A&M vs. W-Salem State in Tallahassee, FL TBA
	UMES vs. Morgan State in Princess Anne, MD TBA
SIAC	Benedict vs. Tuskegee in Columbia, SC 3
	Morehouse vs. Albany State in Atlanta, GA 3
	Paine vs. Stillman in Augusta, GA 3
	LeMoyne-Owen vs. Kentucky State in Memphis, TN 5
	Clark Atlanta vs. Fort Valley State in Atlanta, GA 8
SWAC	Jackson St. vs. Miss Valley St. in Jackson, MS ESPN2 1
	Grambling State vs. Ark.-Pine Bluff in Grambling, LA 7
	Alcorn State vs. Southern in Lorman, MS 7:30
	Prairie View A&M vs. Alabama State in Prairie View, TX 7:30
	Southern vs. Alcorn State in Alcorn State, MS 7:30
	Texas Southern vs. Alabama A&M in Houston, TX 7:30
INDEPENDENTS	Cheyney vs. Shippensburg in Cheyney, PA 3
	E. Kentucky vs. Tenn. State in Richmond, KY 6
	NC Central vs. Savannah State in Durham, NC 7:30
MONDAY, FEB. 2	
MEAC	B-Cookman vs. W-Salem State in Daytona Beach, FL 5:30
	UMES vs. Coppin State in Princess Anne, MD TV Game 7
	Delaware State vs. Morgan State in Dover, DE 7:30
	Florida A&M vs. SC State in Tallahassee, FL 7:30
	Hampton vs. NC A&T in Hampton, VA 8
	Howard vs. Norfolk State in Washington, DC 8
SIAC	Benedict vs. Stillman in Columbia, SC 7:30
	Paine vs. Tuskegee in Augusta, GA 7:30
SWAC	Grambling St. vs. Miss Valley St. in Grambling, LA 7:30
	Jackson State vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff in Jackson, MS 7:30
	Texas Southern vs. Alabama State in Houston, TX 7:30
	Pr. View A&M vs. Alabama A&M in Pr. View, TX ESPNU 8
INDEPENDENTS	UDC vs. Pitt-Johnstown in Washington, DC TBA
	Lincoln (PA) vs. Fayetteville State in Lincoln, PA 7:30
	Texas-PA vs. Savannah State in Edinburg, TX TBA
TUESDAY, FEB. 3	
CIAA	Eliz. City State vs. Livingston in Elizabeth City, NC 7:30
	Shaw vs. St. Paul's in Raleigh, NC 7:30
	Virginia State vs. J. C. Smith in Ettrick, VA 7:30
SIAC	Clark Atlanta vs. Albany State in Atlanta, GA 7:30
	Lane vs. Claffin in Jackson, TN 7:30
	Morehouse vs. Fort Valley State in Atlanta, GA 7:30
INDEPENDENTS	NC State vs. NC Central in Raleigh, NC 7

Even with the absence of retired head coach **Dave Robbins**, the **Virginia Union** Panthers keep rolling along.

Under first-year head coach **Willard Coker**, VUU (12-3, 5-0) has a 10-game win streak, is undefeated in division play and sits atop the CIAA East, three games ahead of its nearest pursuer, headed toward the season's final month.

The Panthers host **St. Augustine's** Saturday (7:30 p.m.) in a CIAA non-divisional match-up.

Coker lost three of his first five games to begin the season after taking over from the 30-year coaching icon who took home a record 15 CIAA championships. But Robbins' longtime assistant has since righted the ship getting double-figure scoring from a trio of stars.

Six-six senior forward **Greg Thondique** leads the scoring parade at 16 points per game and is ably aided by the **Byerson** brothers, sophomore guard **Braxton** (15.5 ppg.) and junior guard **Brandon** (13.1 ppg.). All three are among the top ten scorers in the CIAA.

And Coker is following the same pattern that Robbins used so successfully - stingy zone defense and a patient, efficient offense. The Panthers are sixth in scoring (69.6 ppg.) in the CIAA but are second in scoring defense (66.0 ppg.). They win the close games.

Despite their recent run, VUU has yet to break into the NABC Div. II Top 25, though they may nudge their way in this week.

That distinction currently belongs to two SIAC programs, **Claffin** and **Benedict**.

The two league favorites are ranked 20th (Claffin) and 25th (Benedict) in last week's poll. Claffin (15-1, 14-1) has not lost in 2009 and now has six straight wins after its December 30 loss to Miles. Benedict (12-2, 10-1) also has won its last six since dropping a Jan. 7 home date to Claffin.

Claffin is at **Lane** Tuesday (7:30 p.m.) while Benedict hosts **Tuskegee** Saturday (3 p.m.) and **Stillman** Monday (7:30 p.m.).

Claffin sports three double-figure scorers in 6-3 senior swingman **Ernest Sinkfield** (12.8 ppg.), senior guard **Phillip Brown** (12.5) and sophomore guard **Ernest Salley** (11.3). Claffin's seventh-year head coach **Ron Woodard**, who served stints under successful former head coaches **Charles Christian** at **Norfolk State** and **Mike Bernard** at **North Carolina Central**,



VUU Sports Photo

**COKER:** Ably following in mentor's shoes.

has employed much of their philosophy in getting the Panthers to the top of the SIAC in their first year of eligibility.

These Panthers are also big on taking care of the ball and being stingy on defense. Like VUU, Claffin is sixth in scoring in the conference (69.2 ppg.) but tops defensively giving up just 58.6 points per game.

Benedict head coach **Fred Watson** also has three double-figure scorers in 6-7 senior scoring leader **Bennie Lewis** (13.1 ppg.), a 40% 3-point shooter, 6-9 human eraser **Martinez Woody**, (11.4 ppg.) who also leads the league in rebounds (11.1 rpg.) and blocks (3.1 bpg.) and rugged 6-5 soph **Michael Holmes** (11.0 ppg.). Senior point guard **Darius Lane** (9.5 ppg.) is second in the league in assists (5.4), steals (2.0) and free throw percentage (84.4%).

Benedict is the highest scoring team of the three, putting up 75.7 points per game, second highest in the SIAC, but also clamps down defensively giving up just 61.7 per game, trailing only Claffin in that category.

Of the three, Benedict and Claffin appear to have more depth with nine players getting double-figure minutes per game. Four VUU starters, the three scoring leaders and point guard **Brandon McDonald**, average over 30 minutes per night. Only two others play double-figure minutes.

While Benedict and Claffin appear headed for a finals showdown in the SIAC, VUU can look for challenges in the CIAA for Johnson C. Smith (13-4, 3-0) and **Elizabeth City State** (13-4, 1-2) who both have a trio of double-figure scorers.

In the wide open MEAC, four teams are tied at the top of the standings with two conference losses. Most surprising among them is **Bethune-Cookman** (11-9, 5-2), who has caught favorite **Morgan State** (10-10, 5-2) and has the best overall record in the league. Behind BCU head coach **Clifford Reed's** son, freshman point guard **B. J. Reed**, who is averaging a team-best 14.8 ppg. and is among the league leaders in assists (3.8 app.), the Wildcats have moved into a tie with the Bears despite taking a 78-44 drubbing from MSU last week. BCU hosts **S. C. State** Saturday (4 p.m.).

In the SWAC, despite dropping its first conference game, **Alabama State** (9-8, 6-1) still holds down the top spot. The Hornets play at **Prairie View A&M** Saturday and at **Texas Southern** Monday. Both games are at 7:30

## BCSP Notes

### Top assistant gets his shot at NC A&T

One of the MEAC's premier assistant coaches will get his first head coaching assignment at **North Carolina A&T**. Aggies Director of Athletics **Wheeler Brown** announced last week the hiring of **Alonzo Lee Sr.** as the school's new head football coach.

MEAC sidelines have been graced by Lee's presence over the past 25 years. In seven of those seasons, Lee was a part of an MEAC championship team. At three of the universities where he won championships - **Howard**, **Hampton** and **A&T** - Lee was the assistant head coach. He served as A&T's defensive coordinator and linebackers coach during the 2003-05 seasons.

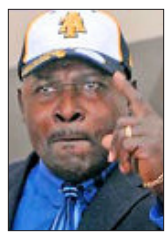
Lee comes to A&T after spending three seasons as **Morgan State's** defensive coordinator. Over the past two seasons, Lee's defenses have ranked among the top two in the Division I Football Championship Subdivision (formerly known as Division I-AA). In 2008, the Bears led the nation in total defense.

"Alonzo Lee has been an accomplished coordinator and assistant in the **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** for many years," said Brown. "Lee

has proven that he has the ability to win as a head coach. He knows this conference, what it will take to win in the conference, and will bring the needed toughness and discipline our football program has lacked over the past few years."

The Aggies turn to Lee after a disastrous nearly three-year run under **Lee Fobbs** who was let go midway thru the 2008 season after compiling a dismal 2-28 mark. Former running backs coach **George Ragsdale** led the team for the remainder of the season and was reportedly a finalist for the head job.

Prior to coaching at A&T, Lee also served as an assistant at **Howard**, **Florida A&M** and **Hampton**. He won his first MEAC championship as an assistant head coach at **Howard** in 1987. Florida A&M won three MEAC titles during Lee's tenure (1990, 1995, 1996), and Hampton won two (1997, 1998). In 1998 as the defensive coordinator at Hampton, Lee was honored as the National Assistant Coach of the Year for NCAA Division I-AA. Three seasons later, he was honored by the All-America Football Foundation as an Outstanding Assistant Coach.



LEE

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