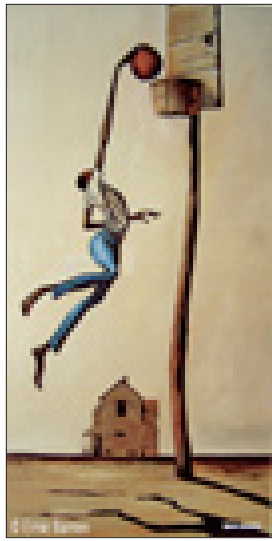


BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



High Aspirations by Ernie Barnes

A GIANT PASSES

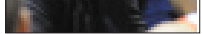
NOTED ARTIST, FORMER NCCU GRID STANDOUT ERNIE BARNES GONE AT 70

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

BOZEMAN RE-UPS AT MSU:

MEAC Men's Basketball Coach of the Year **Todd Bozeman** has signed a five-year contract to remain as **Morgan State University's** men's basketball head coach.



MSU Sports Photo
BOZEMAN: Signs on to continue resurgence at Morgan State.

Approximately a month after taking the Bears to their first MEAC championship in three decades and earning the program's second consecutive post-season appearance and the first-ever NCAA tournament appearance, Bozeman has signed a deal that gives him the second-highest annual salary in the MEAC.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to be a college basketball coach," Bozeman said. "I welcome the opportunity to continue to coach my guys."

Under Bozeman's guidance, Morgan State captured its second consecutive regular season title, won the MEAC Tournament, and finished with a 13-3 conference record and a 23-12 overall mark. In just three seasons, Bozeman has already won the most Division I games in school history.

Bozeman's Bears got wins over Marshall, DePaul, Maryland and defeated Towson in an ESPN BracketBusters matchup. Morgan State also completed the season ranked No. 23 in the Mid-Major Top 25, No. 6 in the Washington Post Atlantic 11 Poll, and No. 1 in the Sheridan Broadcasting Network (SBN) Black College Poll. Bozeman was also selected as the Mid-Major Coach of the Year this season.

KEE NEW FSU HOOPS COACH:

Fayetteville State has made an offer to alumnus **Alphonza Kee** as the 17th Head Men's Basketball Coach, pending Board of Trustees' approval, according to FSU Director of Athletics, **Dr. Edward McLean**.

"As a proud alumnus of Fayetteville State University, I have a passion and a love for this university which ignites my desire to serve as its Head Men's Basketball Coach," stated Coach Kee.

Kee will join the FSU staff after serving as an assistant men's basketball coach at **Grambling State**. Prior to the Tigers, Kee was an assistant and recruiting coordinator for **North Carolina A&T** from 2003 to 2008. He also has had coaching experiences at **Western Carolina**, **Winston-Salem State**, **Chowan** and **Fayetteville State**.

Kee, from New Bern, N.C., has an undergraduate degree from FSU a Masters from North Carolina A&T.

Playmakers make the grade in NFL Draft

LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

Four black college players known for their playmaking abilities were selected this past weekend on the second day of the 2009 NFL Draft.

First off the boards on Sunday's fourth round was run-stuffing Stillman defensive lineman Sammie Lee Hill, who emerged in the long evaluation process that followed the 2008 season as the consensus top player from the black college ranks. Hill went to Detroit with the 15th pick of the round, 115th overall.

Perhaps the biggest surprise of the draft came 16 picks later when Arizona, perhaps reaching for the same magic that produced star rookie first round pick Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie out of Tennessee State last year, grabbed St. Paul's defensive back Greg Toler, a three-time all-CIAA pick, with the 31st pick of the round. Toler was the 131st overall selection.

Norfolk State standout defensive back Don Carey, a four-year starter for the Spartans, was next to be selected, going to Cleveland with the fourth pick of the sixth round, 177th overall.

Record-setting Tennessee State running back Javarris Williams was the last of the black college quartet and the only offensive player selected, going to Kansas City with the third pick of the seventh and last round, 212th overall.

Hill is a versatile 6-4, 329-pound defensive end who also played as a tight end and on kickoff returns. He had 7 1/2 sacks last season and finished his career at Stillman setting school records for tackles for losses (44.5). He left scouts in awe after his workouts at the Senior Bowl, impressing with his quickness and athleticism. Still, he was surprised to be picked so early.

"I'm more than overwhelmed," Hill said on the Lions website. "I had in my mind second to sixth (round), but I had no idea. That's just what people were telling me." He's projected to play

more as a defensive tackle in the Lions' scheme.

A 4.35 time in the 40-yard dash during his pro day at the University of Richmond was more than enough to open scouts' eyes on Toler and make him the first St. Paul's player to ever make the NFL Draft. Unlike Hill, Toler, who stands 5-11, 191, was not invited to the Combine.

His speed and playmaking ability reminds many of Rodgers-Cromartie, who had six interceptions and started for the Cardinals during their run to the Super Bowl. Similar to DRC's TSU stats, Toler picked off a school-record 14 passes during his three years at St. Paul's, six last season, and also blocked three kicks, returning one blocked punt for a touchdown.

The comparison to the budding star is not lost on Toler.

"I'm taking that small-school route and, hopefully, I'll get the chance to prove that football is football on any level," Toler told Aaron Wilson of the Carroll County Times. "Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie took this route into the NFL, and I'm looking to do the same thing. All I want is a good shot."

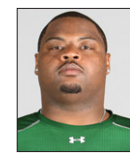
"What you saw on tape was a kid who had a lot of athletic ability, had good body movement, quick, good hands and had all the things you look for in a corner," said Teryl Austin, the Cardinals' defensive backs coach. "And he had good size."

"We think he's got an opportunity to be a good player."

Versatility was one of the traits that sold Cleveland on Carey, who played both safety and corner and excelled on special teams during his productive career at NSU. He tied for the MEAC lead with five interceptions last season. He returned a pick and a fumble for touchdowns.

"We're extremely excited for Don. He is very deserving of this opportunity," NSU head coach Pete Adrian said. "This just shows you what hard work can do for you. Don had a terrific four-year career at Norfolk State, and we knew he will represent the university very well."

2009 NFL DRAFTEES



FOURTH ROUND - 15th pick
SAMMIE LEE HILL
6-4, 329, DT
Stillman
115th overall to Detroit



FOURTH ROUND - 31st pick
GREG TOLER
5-11, 191, CB
St. Paul's
131st overall to Arizona



SIXTH ROUND - 4th pick
DON CAREY
5-11, 192, CB
Norfolk State
177th overall to Cleveland



SEVENTH ROUND - 3rd pick
JAVARRIS WILLIAMS
5-10, 223, RB
Tennessee State
212th overall to Kansas City

Carey is the first draft pick for the Spartans in their Div. I era (since 1998) and the first overall for NSU since 1996.

Williams was the Ohio Valley Conference offensive player of the year last season averaging conference-bests of 103.7 yards per game and 15 rushing touchdowns. At 5-10, 223 pounds, he fits well the mold of running backs in the Chiefs' stable. He finished his career as one of the top running backs in TSU history. He is the all-time leader in rushing TDs (42) and the second-leading rusher with 4,329 yards. He rushed for 1,000 yards in three consecutive seasons and had 20 100-yard rushing efforts in 43 total games.

As of Monday, April 27, another 13 black college products were signed as free agents (see STAT CORNER).

Spring Sports Roundup

JSU Lady Tigers in Golf East Regional

The SWAC champion Lady Tigers of **Jackson State** will compete in the NCAA Golf East Regional May 7-9 at the Mark Bostick Golf Course in Gainesville, Florida, hosted by the University of Florida. JSU won the 2009 SWAC title and secured the conference's automatic bid.

MVSU wins sixth straight SWAC Softball title

Mississippi Valley State breezed through **Southern** 16-5 in five innings to capture its sixth straight SWAC Softball Championship.

Rashundra Brass led the Devilettes in the game with three hits and four RBIs. **Angelia Jones**, who recorded two home runs in the tournament, was voted the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

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Miles takes SIAC Softball title

The **Miles College** Lady Bears finally got it done, knocking off two-time defending champion **Albany State** for the SIAC softball tournament title. The Lady Bears had lost to ASU in the two previous finals.

With the win, the Lady Bears improve to 24-19-1, earn their first SIAC Championship in any sport and the SIAC's automatic bid to the NCAA Division II Regionals scheduled for May 8-9.

The Lady Bears scored all of their runs in the first inning. The big blow came thanks to the bat of catcher **Valerie Pena**, who blasted a three run shot over

the left field fence. After that, the rest was left up to Lady Bear pitcher **Kayla Bowmaster**. Bowmaster gave up seven hits, but allowed only one run.

Bowmaster was named as the Tournament MVP. Miles' head coach **Patrick Peasant** was named as the Outstanding Tournament Coach.

SWAC Spring Championships

Texas Southern will be the site of the 2009 SWAC Men's and Women's Outdoor Track & Field Championship. The event will take place from Friday, May 1 - Sunday, May 3 at the Alexander Durlay Sports Complex.

The SWAC Baseball Championship Tournament will be held on May 20-24, at the Lee-Hines Field in Baton Rouge, La.

MEAC Spring Championships

The MEAC Men's and Women's Track and Field Championship will be held April 30-May 2 at the Irwin Belk Track at **North Carolina A&T**. The **Norfolk State** men and **Hampton** women are defending champions.

The MEAC Softball Championship will be held on May 7-9 at the Ormond Beach Sports Complex in Ormond Beach, Fl. **Delaware State** won last year's title.

The MEAC Baseball Championships will be held at Jackie Robinson Park in Daytona Beach, Fl., on May 14-17. **Bethune-Cookman** is the defending champion.

World-renowned artist Ernie Barnes passes

Ernie Barnes, a **North Carolina Central** grad and former professional football player who became one of the nation's foremost African American artists, has died after a brief illness, his personal assistant said Tuesday. He was 70.

Barnes, best known for a unique figurative style of painting exemplified by his celebrated "Sugar Shack" dance scene, died Monday night at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, said longtime personal assistant Luz Rodriguez.

The "Sugar Shack" scene appeared on a Marvin Gaye album and the closing credits of the "Good Times" television show, influencing aspiring artists and giving rise to widespread imitation.

Paul Von Blum, a senior lecturer in African American studies, communication studies and art history at UCLA said, "Ernie Barnes is one of the premier figurative artists of the late 20th and early 21st centuries. His richly detailed paintings and drawings chronicling the lives of people have made a profound contribution to the contemporary history of American art."

Von Blum said the works that Barnes produced over 40 years "elevated him to the top rank of African American artists in the United States" and "solidified his stature in the grand tradition of visual art, a reputation that will serve as a model for younger artists for generations to come."

Barnes' work relied on elongation and distortion to create a sense of energy, power, grace, intensity and fluidity. His art also features people with closed eyes, reflecting his sense, as he once expressed it, that "we are blind to one another's humanity."

Ernest Barnes Jr. was born in Durham, N.C., on July 15, 1938, during the Jim Crow era. As a child, he would accompany his mother, Fannie Mae Geer Barnes, to her place of work, where she oversaw a prominent attorney's household staff at a home where he was allowed to peruse an extensive collection of art books. It was then that his love of art began.

As a junior high school student, Barnes was overweight and introverted, spending time drawing in a notebook while hiding from the bullies who constantly taunted him, Rodriguez said.

But a sympathetic teacher put him on a weightlifting program, which enabled him to excel in both football and track and field once he got to high school. When he graduated, he was awarded 26 college scholarships.

Because of segregation, he could not consider the nearby University of North Carolina or Duke University, so he attended **North Carolina College** -- now **NC Central University** -- on a football scholarship and majored in art.

He was drafted in 1959 by the Washington Redskins, who, on discovering he was black, traded him to the then-world champion Baltimore Colts, according to Rodriguez. He later became an offensive lineman for the San Diego Chargers and Denver Broncos.

In 1965, New York Jets owner Sonny Werblin recognized Barnes' potential as an artist and paid him his salary of \$13,500 for one season but freed him to devote himself exclusively to painting, according to Rodriguez.



BARNES: At work (l.) and his most celebrated work, "Sugar Shack" (below) which appeared on a Marvin Gaye album cover and on the closing credits for the "Good Times" television show. Barnes played football at NC College before a pro football career.



Sugar Shack by Ernie Barnes

One year later, Barnes made his debut in a critically acclaimed solo exhibition at Grand Central Art Galleries in Manhattan and officially retired from football.

"Throughout my five seasons in the arena of professional football, I remained at the deepest level of my being an artist," Barnes wrote in his 1995 autobiography, "From Pads to Palette."

In 1984, Barnes was commissioned by the Los Angeles Olympic Committee to create five paintings for the Games of the XXIII Olympiad. His other notable sports commissions include "A Dream Unfolds" for the National Basketball Association to commemorate its 50th anniversary; "Fastbreak" for Los Angeles Lakers owner Jerry Buss, and paintings for the owners of the New Orleans Saints, Oakland Raiders and Boston Patriots football teams.

One of his teammates on the Baltimore Colts -- Jerry Richardson, now owner of the Carolina Panthers -- commissioned Barnes to create a large painting, "Victory in Overtime," which is on permanent display at the football stadium in Charlotte.

But his work extended beyond the sports world, Rodriguez said, adding that his collectors range from Ethel Kennedy to Kanye West, and from Seton Hall University to the California African American Museum.

"My aim is to refresh the heart, to put people in touch with themselves," Barnes explained in a New York Times interview. "I look at every individual with the hope of finding their basic dignity, humor, kindness and humanity." Plans for a "highly anticipated traveling exhibition" titled "Liberating Humanity From Within," are continuing.

Barnes is survived by his wife, Bernie; brother James of Durham; sons Michael and Sean; and daughters Deirdre, Erin and Paige. Rodriguez said a private memorial is pending. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in his name to Hillside Home For Children in Pasadena.

THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

NUMBER OF BLACK COLLEGE PLAYERS TAKEN IN NFL DRAFT

2009	4	2004	2
2008	5	2003	8
2007	5	2002	5
2006	3	2001	4
2005	6	2000	13

UNDRAFTED ROOKIE FREE AGENT SIGNINGS

ARIZONA

DE Jason Banks (Grambling State)
WR Justin Brown (Hampton)
OT Thaddeus Coleman (Miss. Valley St.)

CAROLINA

DT Lonnie Harvey (Morgan State)

CHICAGO

OL Dennis Conley (Hampton)

DENVER

CB Dominique Johnson (Jackson St.)
DT Chris Baker (Hampton)
LB Lee Robinson (Alcorn State)

INDIANAPOLIS

OT Cornelius Lewis (Tenn. State)

JACKSONVILLE

C Cecil Newton (Tenn. State)
WR Jason English (Tuskegee)

PITTSBURGH

Isaac Redman (Bowie State)

TENNESSEE

WR Phillip Morris (SC State)