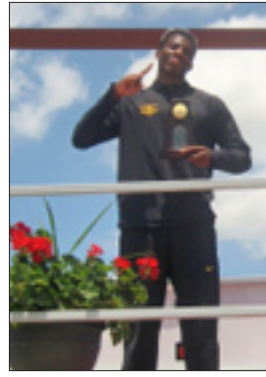


BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



EGSU Sports Photo
TOP 'O THE WORLD: Bethune-Cookman sophomore takes NCAA title winning 110-meter hurdles at NCAA championships.

NATIONAL CHAMP

SEVEN ALL-AMERICANS IN DIV. I TRACK; SWAC TRACK LEGEND THOMAS PASSES

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

SOUTHERN'S THOMAS MOURNED:

The Southern University Department of Athletics announced last week the passing of longtime track and field/cross-country coach, **Johnny Thomas**.



Southern Sports Photo

THOMAS: Garnered 45 championships during legendary tenure at Southern.

"Coach T", as he was called, succumbed after battling cancer for the past two years.

Johnny L. Thomas Sr. was born in 1940 in Baton Rouge, LA, and graduated from McKinley Sr. High School in 1959. Thomas, a Southern alum, received his B.A. in 1963 and received his master's degree in 1973 from

SU.

Thomas was his high school's record holder in the 100, 220 and 440 yard dashes, and upon his graduation from McKinley, earned a scholarship in track & field to Southern.

During his professional career, Thomas served the community as a teacher, coach and guidance counselor.

Thomas started his coaching career in 1978 as a volunteer coach that lasted until 1984. In 1987 he was named head track & field coach at SU. He moved the women's program through the transition from NAIA to AIAW and on to the NCAA in 1982.

Although the honors have been numerous, some of the more important honors include High School Coach of the Year, Louisiana Track Coach of the Year and SWAC Coach of the Year. Thomas amassed 45 SWAC Championships in cross-country, indoor and outdoor track & field for both the women's and men's programs.

Thomas was also the creator of the Track Club for Girls and later the Baton Rouge Express Track Club for ages 7-18. He is also the only African-American to win Louisiana State Singles Championship in Bowling in addition to publishing an article in Coaches Magazine on hurdling.

He was inducted into the Southern University Sports Hall of Fame and the Southwestern Athletic Conference Sports Hall of Fame in 2007.

He is survived by his wife of many years, Lula, along with one son, Johnny Thomas, Jr. of Baton Rouge and his brother, Donald Thomas of Baton Rouge.

"Our program has suffered a great loss in the passing of Coach Johnny Thomas. He served this department in a first-class manner. He was also one of the most respected track coaches in the nation. His coaching style and the way he was able to get the very best out of his athletes was uncanny," said **Greg LaFleur**, Director of Athletics.

The funeral for Thomas will be held on Sat., June 20 at 11 a.m. at the Living Faith Christian Center in Baton Rouge, La.

Ash wins hurdles; Six others make All-American

From Onnidan.com

Bethune-Cookman hurdler **Ronnie Ash** won the men's 110-meter national title at the 2009 NCAA Div. I Outdoor Track & Field Championships in Fayetteville, Arkansas over the weekend.

Ash fought off a challenge from South Carolina's Jason Richardson, the No. 1 ranked hurdler in the country, to take the title in a career-best time of 13.27 seconds.

"I knew Jason [Richardson] was going to come out hard," commented Ash following the race. "I think he may have slipped out of the blocks a little bit, and that was the only window I needed. It feels good to defend my indoor title against a field like this. I knew I had to bring my A-game, and I did."

Ash won the indoor title in the 60-meter hurdles earlier this year.

Teammate **Joel Redhead** finished eighth in the 200-meter dash to earn All-American status and give the Wildcats 11 overall point to place 23rd overall.

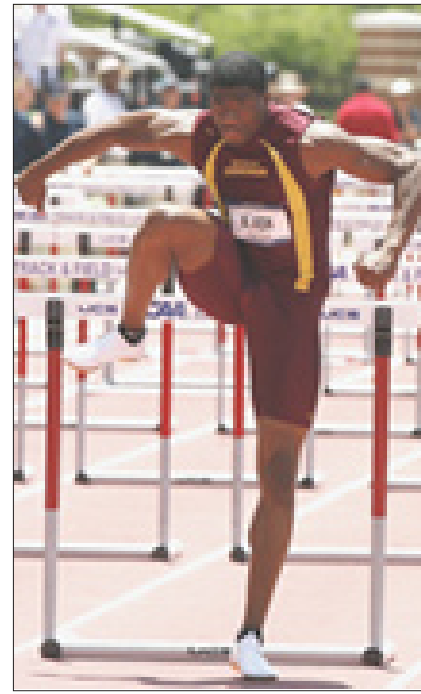
NC A&T and Hampton also produced two All-Americans.

A&T's All-Americans were **Alexandria Spruiel** and **Loreal Smith**. The two All-American finishes marked the first time in school history two Aggies running in individual events became All-Americans in the same meet.

They are also the first two females to become outdoor All-Americans in school history. Spruiel finished sixth in the women's 400 meter finals with a school-record time of 51.59. Saturday marked the third time she has broken the 400 meter record this season.

Smith earned All-American status by finishing seventh in the women's 100 meter hurdles with a time of 13.43.

"I'm elated," said **Roy Thompson**, N.C. A&T's director of track and field programs. "These are monumental accomplishments. The performances Alex and Loreal have been able



ALL-AMERICANS: Bethune-Cookman hurdler Ronnie Ash (above) was the only black college winner at the NCAA Div. I Track and Field championships, taking the 110-meter hurdles title. Others who finished in the top eight and received all-American status include (top row, l. to r.) Bethune-Cookman's Joel Redhead (8th - 200 meters), Maryland-Eastern Shore's Allodin Fothergill (6th - 400 meters), N. C. A&T teammates Alexandria Spruiel (6th - 400 meters) and (bottom row, l. to

NCAA DIV. I TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Fayetteville, Arkansas



r.) Loreal Smith (7th - 100 meter hurdles) and Hampton teammates Francena McCorory (3rd - 400 meters) and Reggie Dixon (8th - 100 meters).

to render throughout their careers have been tremendous, and they have put our program on another level."

Thompson, who is in his 28th season as the leader of the Aggies track and program, went on to say that Spruiel and Smith's careers rank among the top five careers he has witnessed over the last 20 years of Aggies track and field - men

and women.

Hampton's **Francena McCorory** finished third in the 400-meter dash while fellow Pirate **Reggie Dixon** was 8th in the 100-meter finals.

Maryland-Eastern Shore's **Allodin Fothergill** finished 6th in the men's 400m dash to round out the HBCU All-American roster for this year's national meet.

BCSP Football Notes

CIAA announces 2009 football TV games

The **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association** has selected its featured games for this season's CIAA Television Package, produced by Urban Sports and Entertainment Group. Station specific information will be released closer to game day.

The 2009 syndicated schedule features the 2009 CIAA Football champions, **Shaw University**, as they face-off against yearly powerhouse, **Fayetteville State**. That game will be played on Saturday, Oct. 10 in Fayetteville, N.C. in Nick Jeralds Stadium at 1 p.m.

Game two pits first-year head coach **Damon Wilson** and the **Bowie State** Bulldogs against **Virginia Union** in the Panthers' homecoming on Saturday, Oct. 24 at Hovey Field in Richmond. Game times is at 1 p.m.

To close out the season, the **CIAA Championship** (East champion vs. West champion) will be broadcast from Durham County Stadium in Durham, N.C. on Saturday, Nov. 7. Game time is also set for 1 p.m.

MEAC announces Thursday night football schedule

The **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** (MEAC) has announced its 2009 Thursday night television football slate featuring three matchups scheduled to broadcast live on ESPN2 and ESPN HD. The nationally televised matchups are a part of the MEAC's seven-year partnership with ESPN.

The Thursday night lineup begins with **Florida A&M** playing at **Winston-Salem State** on September 10 beginning at 7:30 p.m. WSSU defeated the Rattlers in Tallahassee, Florida for the first-time in school history in 2007 but the Rattlers returned the favor last year with a 23-0 shutout victory.

The Rattlers will host **Howard University** the following week, September 17 beginning at 7:30 p.m. at Bragg Memorial Stadium. The

FAMU-Howard matchup will be the first of two Thursday night television games for the Bison who will also face local-rival **Morgan State** on October 15 at Hughes Stadium and Earl C. Banks Field in Baltimore.

The 2009 television schedule kicks off with the **MEAC/SWAC Challenge** presented by Disney featuring MEAC champion **South Carolina State** vs. SWAC champion **Grambling State** on Sunday, September 6 in Orlando, Florida beginning at 2 p.m. The game will air on ESPN2 HD and ESPN360.com. This is the first time the game will be offered in high definition and on ESPN's broadband digital sports television network.

The complete 2009 MEAC televised football schedule will be announced at a later date.

The 2009 MEAC football season kicks off on Saturday, September 5 featuring six MEAC football teams in action including the first conference matchup of the season featuring **Delaware State** and **Florida A&M**.

2009 MEAC THURSDAY NIGHT TV SCHEDULE

DATE	GAME	NETWORK	TIME	BROADCAST TIME
Thur. Sept. 10	Florida A&M at Winston-Salem State	ESPNU/ESPN HD	7:30 pm	Live
Thur. Sept. 17	Howard at Florida A&M	ESPNU/ESPN HD	7:30 pm	Live
Thur. Oct. 15	Howard at Morgan State	ESPNU/ESPN HD	7:30 pm	Live

CIAA pre-season football event

The **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association** will hold its annual season opening football press conference on July 23, 2009 in Jones Dining Hall on the campus of **Virginia State University** at 11 a.m.

Traditionally, the conference announces the Predicted Order of Finish, as voted on by the CIAA Football Coaches Association. Each coach will also participate in a brief interview session where they are welcomed to give their outlook and anticipation for the upcoming season.

For football schedule and conference information, please visit www.TheCIAA.com.

BCSP Notes

Three graduate from NCAA Leadership Institute

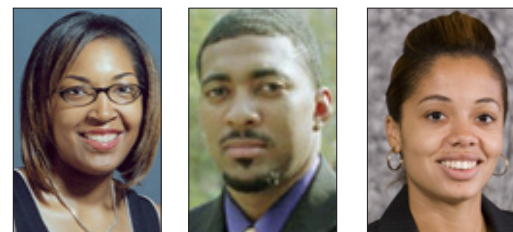
CIAA Director of Public Relations, **Shera White**, SIAC Director of Championships, Communications and Marketing, **Harry "Trae" Stinson III** and **Howard University** Assistant Sports Information Director, **Chevonne Mansfield**, will be among 22 graduates next week of the NCAA's Leadership Institute for Ethnic Minority Males and Females.

The Leadership Institute is designed to address the critical shortage of senior-level professionals of color in athletics administrative staff at NCAA member institutions and within conference offices. The Institute prepares diverse leaders through a 12-month leadership training and skills development experience and enhanced job-related competencies in selected areas through completion of four professional development sessions, practical work and a week-long intensive workshop.

The Institute is led by a diverse group of consultants and leaders in business, higher education and intercollegiate athletics.

White is a ten-year veteran in the public relations field who received her Bachelor's degree in Mass Media Arts from **Hampton University** and a Masters of Education with an emphasis in Sports Management from Old Dominion University. She is the primary contact for all media inquiries and operations out of the NCAA-Division II athletic conference, hosting 12 institutions in three states.

Stinson, who received his undergraduate degree from Florida State and Master's in Sports



WHITE STINSON MANSFIELD

Administration from Georgia State, graduate, is entering his fifth year with the SIAC. He promotes, through the media, the conference and all of its 13-member institutions and student athletes. He is also responsible for increasing the marketability and image of the SIAC by developing marketing strategies, community initiatives and branding of the SIAC.

Mansfield has been at Howard two years after serving as a grad assistant at Maryland-Eastern Shore. She earned her undergraduate degree in Communications at St. John's and a Master's degree from UMES.

Cynthia Cooper gets Hall of Fame induction

Cynthia Lynn Cooper-Dyke, **Prairie View A&M's** head women's basketball coach, was officially inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall Of Fame this past weekend in Knoxville, Tenn. She was joined in the honor with fellow inductees Jennifer Azzi, Jennifer Gillom, Sonja Hogg, Jill Hutchison, and Ora Washington.

In a weekend full of festivities, the Class of 2009 was lauded for a lifetime of achievements



LEGENDARY STATUS: Prairie View A&M coach, two-time WNBA MVP, four-time WNBA champ and two-time NCAA champ, two-time Olympian gets deserved place in Hall of Fame.

and received the coveted "Eastman" award as the newest group of inductees into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame.

Cooper-Dyke is arguably the greatest women's basketball player of all-time. She is a two-time NCAA champion with USC in 1982-83 and 1983-84, followed up by a 1985-86 finals appearance where she was named to the All-Tournament team. Cooper went on to play internationally, and won a gold medal in 1988 and bronze medal in 1992 representing the United States in the Olympics.

Cooper-Dyke is most known for putting the WNBA on the map. She was a four-time champion with the Houston Comets and named regular season league MVP twice.

2008 HBCU Preseason Football Events

SWAC Football Kickoff Luncheon and Media Day

Tuesday, July 21, 2009
Hoover, AL - Winfrey Hotel
9-11 am (Interview Sessions)
(Luncheon to follow)

CIAA Football Media Luncheon

Thursday, July 23, 2009
Ettrick, VA - Virginia State University
Jones Dining Hall - 11 am

SIAC Football Kickoff Luncheon

Friday, July 24, 2009
Atlanta, GA - Holiday Inn Atlanta Northeast
12:30 pm

MEAC Football Press Luncheon

Friday, July 31, 2009
Newports News, VA
Newport News Marriott at City Center
10:30 am (1-on-1 interviews)
Luncheon to follow