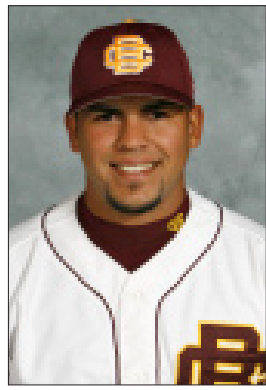


BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



B-CU Sports Photo

PICK OF THE LITTER

BUDDING GRIDIRON STAR AT NCCU; ST. PAUL'S TOLAR SIGNS WITH CARDINALS

TOP PICK: Bethune-Cookman hurler Hiram Burgos first black college player taken in Major League Baseball Draft.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

NSU AD GETS EXTENSION:

Norfolk State University Athletics Director **Marty L. Miller** has agreed to a four-year contract extension thru June 2014.



Norfolk State Sports Photo

MILLER: Ultra-successful baseball coach has continued that trend as Norfolk State's athletic director.

Miller's current contract was to expire in March of 2010.

He has served in his current position since December, 2004 when he was named interim AD following the reassignment of his predecessor, **Orby Moss**.

Prior to becoming AD, Miller had served 32 years as the Spartan's baseball coach and wore two hats for two months before stepping down as head coach. He was named permanent AD in March, 2005.

As baseball coach, Miller's teams compiled a record of 718-543-3. His teams won 17 CCAA championships, helping Miller become the winningest coach in CCAA history. He is a member of the CCAA's **John B. McLendon** Hall of Fame as well as the NSU Athletics Foundation Sports Hall of Fame.

During his tenure as AD, Miller has presided over a program which has won the last five MEAC men's all-sports awards, earning the department \$125,000 in the process. He has also overseen numerous administrative and facilities upgrades during his tenure.

"We have made significant accomplishments in enabling our athletic programs to become more competitive," Miller said. "But we are seeking to become major players on a national level."

KSU SETTLES ON AD:

President **Mary Evan Sias** has named **Denisha L. Hendricks**, Ed.D as the Director of Athletics at **Kentucky State University**, effective July 1, 2009.



JCSU Sports Photo

HENDRICKS: Moves from athletic administration at J. C. Smith to athletic director's position at Kentucky State.

Dr. Hendricks served as the Senior Woman Administrator (SWA) and Assistant Director of Athletics for Internal Operations at **Johnson C. Smith University**. She has been on the senior management team, assisting with the administration and governance of the Department of Athletics at JCSU.

"This is an extremely exciting opportunity and challenge that I am looking forward to at Kentucky State," said Dr. Hendricks.

"Dr. Hendricks has been an invaluable Senior Woman Administrator/Assistant Athletic Director here at Johnson C. Smith University for the past four years," said JCSU Director of Athletics **Stephen Joyner, Sr.** "Her passion for the education of student-athletes and concern for the quality of student-athlete welfare has been very evident and beneficial to the athletic departments' accomplishment of a consistent annual high graduation rate and athletic competition excellence".

In addition to serving as the SWA and Assistant AD, Dr. Hendricks has been an instructor and coordinator in the Health and Human Performance Program. Dr. Hendricks is the youngest Director of Athletics in the history of Kentucky State University at the age of 30. She brings to the University a wealth of knowledge in intercollegiate athletics, having also served at **Livingstone College** as the SWA and Dean of the Academic Village.

Hendricks holds a B.S. from the University of South Carolina and earned a Master's and Doctoral in Higher Education Administration from Auburn in 2001 and 2004, respectively. She is the daughter of **Dr. Constance Smith Hendricks**, Dean of the School of Nursing at **Hampton University** and **Mr. James L. Hendricks, Jr.**, retired band director with the Birmingham Board of Education.

Ten taken in MLB Draft

LUT WILLIAMS
BCSP Editor

Ten black college baseball players, led by MEAC champion **Bethune-Cookman** star pitcher **Hiram Burgos**, went off the boards in the recent Major League Baseball Draft of first-year players.

It took until the sixth round for Burgos, a redshirt-junior, to be selected with the 24th pick of the round, going to Milwaukee with the 196th overall pick.

Burgos, who was part of B-CU's four straight MEAC championships and four consecutive NCAA regional bids (2006, 2007, 2008, 2009), was 6-3 this past season striking out 94 batters in 79.1 innings with a 3.74 ERA. Burgos totaled 21 career wins and over 250 lifetime strikeouts with the 'Cats.

He also started and pitched thru seven innings of the Wildcats' first game in the NCAA playoffs this season, a tough last inning loss to the Regional's top seed, Florida. Burgos left with the 'Cats leading 5-3.

The right-hander got the news while with his family at their home in Cayey, Puerto Rico. He told the *Daytona Beach News-Journal* he was ecstatic but a little surprised.

"I'm definitely surprised," Burgos said in a story by staff writer Michael Lewis. "As soon as we saw my name (on the computer) everybody was screaming and jumping up and down and making all kinds of noise. I had a feeling it would be Milwaukee, but not that fast. It's incredible."

Burgos draft position is the highest a member of B-CU head coach **Mervyn Melendez's** team has been drafted since **Mark Woodyard** in 2000.

Two more black college standouts would go thru the first ten rounds of a draft that covered 50 rounds and involved teams drafting over 1,500 players (1,521 to be exact).

Prairie View A&M center fielder **Myrio Richard**, also a redshirt junior, was next off the boards going to Oakland with the 12th pick of the 9th round, 273rd overall.

The 6-foot, 185-pounder, a native of Lake Charles, La., earned 2009 All-SWAC Second Team honors in addition to being named as the SWAC's Preseason Player of the Year.

He finished the 2009 campaign with a .315 batting average, 33 RBIs, nine doubles and six home runs.

Unlike most draft picks at the beginning of their professional career, Richard will have a leg up on most of his peers as he's the second member of his family to play professional baseball. Richard's brother, Michael, was also selected by the A's in the 11th round of the 2007 draft and is currently playing with the Stockton Ports on the Class A level.

Edward Waters third baseman **Joseph Thomas**, another junior, was next snapped up



BCU Sports Photo

BURGOS: B-CU ace was first off MLB draft boards.

hail from SWAC schools with four coming from the MEAC.

Below are brief profiles of the other selectees:

MICHAEL THOMAS

6-4, 220, Jr., Catcher, **SOUTHERN BOSTON** 12th Round - 27th pick, 378th Overall

Thomas led the Jags in hitting in 2009, with a .365 batting average. Thomas missed a portion of the 2009 season with a broken hand, suffered in his first at-bat versus New Orleans on March 24th. In his SU career, Thomas hit 15 home runs and had 71RBIs. The electrical engineering major played in the prestigious Cape Cod summer League in 2008.

He is the 29th Southern player to be drafted since the 2000 season.

JEFFREY SQUIER

6-3, 180, Jr., Shortstop, **MISS. VALLEY ST. COLORADO** 14th Round - 10th pick, 421st Overall

A team leader who started all 50 games for the Delta Devils this season, Squier concluded his season with a .347 batting average, a .593 slugging percentage (8th in SWAC) and a .429 on-base mark. Squier scored 39 runs, collected 58 hits including five triples (2nd in SWAC) and eight home runs (t-4th in SWAC), drove in 26 runs and had a league-leading 41 stolen bases.

ERIC THOMAS

5-11, 180, Jr., RHP, **MISS. B-COOKMAN OAKLAND** 19th Round - 2nd pick, 563rd Overall

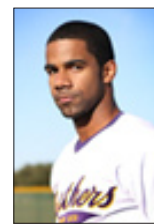
Thomas appeared in 18 games for the Wildcats, 13 as a starter and led the team with three complete games. He posted a 7-6 mark with a 4.98 ERA and 83 strikeouts.

CHRISTIAN BEATTY

5-10, 190, Jr., Center Fielder, **NC A&T ST. LOUIS** 26th Round - 18th pick, 789th Overall

Beatty earned first-team All-MEAC honors three consecutive seasons. In 2007, he was named MEAC Rookie of the Year after hitting .313 with 38 RBIs and a league-leading 10 home runs. A season later, he led the MEAC in home runs again as he finished the season with 13.

In April at N.C. A&T's annual All-Sports Banquet, Beatty was named N.C. A&T Male Athlete of the Year for the second straight year. He finishes his career as a .339 hitter with 31 home runs and 135 RBIs. Beatty also



RICHARD



J. THOMAS



M. THOMAS



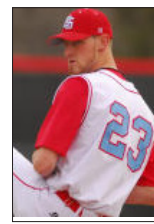
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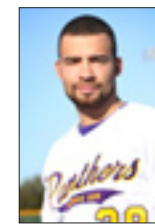
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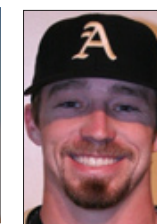
BEATTY



PERKINS



WHITBY



VARNELL

recorded 47 doubles and scored 145 runs and walked 89 times during his three-year career.

DANIEL PERKINS

6-4, 200, Jr., RHP, **DELAWARE STATE COLORADO** 27th Round - 10th pick, 811th Overall

The Mid-Eastern Athletic Pitcher of the Year finished the 2009 season with a 5-5 record and a 2.65 ERA in 85 innings of action. The Newark, Del., native struck out 86 batters and held the opposition to a .201 batting average.

Perkins started in 12 contests, including five complete games and two complete-game shutouts, helping DSU to a second-place finish in this year's MEAC Standings. The five-time MEAC Pitcher of the Week posted a 4-2 record against conference opponents and tallied a 1.17 ERA.

Perkins becomes the first DSU player drafted since 2004 and the sixth since 1991.

BRANDON WHITBY

6-2, 205, Sr., Catcher, **PRAIRIE VIEW A&M COLORADO** 34th Round - 10th pick, 1021st Overall

A senior from Phoenix, Ariz., Whitby was a four-year starter at catcher and capped off his career with a spot on the 2009 All-SWAC First Team after batting .375 with 57 hits, 38 RBIs and 12 doubles. A valuable asset to Prairie View's pitching staff over the course of his career; Whitby helped several former Panther pitchers earn All-SWAC honors due to his ability to call pitches from behind the plate.

ZACHARY VANELL

6-1, 200, Jr., Catcher, **ARK.-PINE BLUFF ARIZONA** 44th Round - 15th pick, 1326th Overall

Pine Bluff native Varnell played in 39 games for the Golden Lions hitting .202 with four home runs and 11 RBI. He helped the team to a school-record in conference (13) and overall (21) wins.

BCSP Football Notes

SIAC Kickoff Luncheon set

Tucker, GA - **The Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC)** will host its annual Football Kick-Off Luncheon on Friday, July 24, 2009 at the Holiday Inn Atlanta-Northeast (2001 Clearview Ave., Atlanta, GA 30340). The time is set for 12:30 pm.

The luncheon will feature head football coaches, players and athletic directors from all ten SIAC football playing institutions. The coaches will provide insight on the 2009 football season including expectations, key acquisitions, and returning impact players. Each team's coach and players will be available for one-on-one interviews following the luncheon.

In addition to the luncheon, the 2009 Preseason SIAC All Conference Football team and predicted order of finish will be announced. The SIAC television schedule will also be announced during the luncheon.

Media members may obtain a credential for the luncheon and/or one-on-one interview sessions by contacting Harry Stinson III at hstinson@thesiac.com or by calling (770) 908-0482.

The 2009 SIAC football season will once again mark the start of college football beginning on August 22, 2009 featuring **Tuskegee University vs. Benedict**.

The conference will continue to operate on a nine game conference schedule. Highlighting the early part of the season is a match-up between **Fort Valley State** and **Clark Atlanta** which will mark the unveiling of the Wildcats new stadium and will commemorate the 1972 FVSU football squad.

For those interested in staying at the Holiday Inn Atlanta Northeast please call 877-863-4780 and mention the SIAC to receive the \$69.00 a night room rate.

For more information on the SIAC please visit www.thesiac.com or follow us on twitter at www.twitter.com/thesiac

St. Paul's Toler inks deal with Arizona Cardinals

Former **Saint Paul's** standout **Greg Toler** signed a three-year contract with the Arizona Cardinals Friday.



TOLER: Rookie from St. Paul's signs and looks to break into Cardinals' defensive backfield.

Toler becomes the fifth of Arizona's eight draft choices that are now under contract. Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed, although Toler will reportedly receive a \$316,000 signing bonus.

To make room on the roster for Toler, the Cardinals released wide receiver **Justin Brown**, an undrafted rookie out of **Hampton**.

Toler made a surprise climb up draft boards in April after playing at tiny Saint Paul's College in Virginia. The 5-foot-11, 191-pounder has drawn comparisons to Cards starting cornerback **Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie**, the team's top pick in 2008 out of **Tennessee State**, because both are from small schools.

Toler, however, is a bit older than Rodgers-Cromartie. He ended up without a major scholarship because of poor grades, eventually finding his way to Saint Paul's. There, Toler had 14 interceptions, 36 pass breakups and 50 passes defended in 40 games.

He is trying to battle his way up the depth chart. Behind starters DRC and Bryant McFadden at cornerback, the Cards also have veterans Ralph Brown and Michael Adams and have used free safety Antrel Rolle as a nickel cornerback.

Lindy's names NC Central recruit top FCS newcomer

DURHAM, N.C.- **North Carolina Central University's** highly touted transfer linebacker, **Michael Baker**, was named Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) "Preseason Newcomer of the Year" according to *Lindy's Football 2009 College Football Preview* maga-



BAKER: Highly touted former Miami recruit could be difference maker for struggling NCCU Eagles.

zine.

The signing of Baker made waves across the nation back in February, simply because the former All-State linebacker from Cardinal Ritter High School in St. Louis, Mo, was rated as the No. 18 outside linebacker prospect in the nation by ESPN.com out of high school in 2007. When he decided to transfer from Miami University, the school he originally signed with, many schools were after the young prospect.

"Michael is a legitimate Division I football player," NCCU head coach **Mose Rison** said.

"He had several Division I scholarship offers, but we had a long relationship with him and his family, so he felt most comfortable with NCCU. We are pleased to have him in our program.

"He will make a significant impact on our defense with his size, athletic ability and aggressive attitude," Rison said.

At 6-0, 210 pounds, Baker definitely put up the numbers to deserve the praise in high school.

In three seasons with the Lions, he amassed 357 tackles, including 192 solo stops, and seven interceptions, along with being named to the Missouri All-State team his junior and senior campaign.

During his senior season, the All-Metro athlete showed his versatility by also playing quarterback and running back, piling up 726 yards on the ground, while reaching paydirt eight times.

Under center, the three-time All-Conference athlete threw for 236 yards and three touchdowns. Baker also was a two-time team captain, and led Cardinal Ritter High School to a 26-17 record.

NCCU is coming off a 4-7 campaign in 2008 and return 18 starters for Rison's third squad. The 2009 season kicks off on September 5 at 6:00 p.m. when the Eagles travel to Hampton, Va. to take on the Pirates of **Hampton University** at Armstrong Stadium.