

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



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MAKING THE GRADE?

FAMU IS BCSP PRESEASON NO. 1; NEW AD AT HOWARD, HOOPS COACH AT UDC

REDMAN: Rookie free agent opening eyes at Steelers' camp.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

NEW SIAC LOGOS: The Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) unveiled its



New SIAC Logos

new logos, in connection with the rebranding initiative that will begin this fall.

Created by Peralta Illustration & Design based in Huntington, Conn., the contemporary logos will be used on apparel, merchandise, marketing materials, website and digital applications.

"It is my sense that our new brand should aesthetically reflect the bright future of the SIAC while also keeping with the traditional color scheme of the conference," said Commissioner **Greg Moore**. "I truly believe that the SIAC is one of the best kept secrets in all of intercollegiate sports. The new logo will serve the SIAC well in connection with our rebranding efforts this upcoming year."

The thirteen member-institutions of the SIAC, in a five-state footprint which includes Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, South Carolina and Tennessee, are: **Albany State University, Benedict College, Claflin University, Clark Atlanta University, Fort Valley State University, Kentucky State University, Lane College, LeMoyne-Owen College, Miles College, Morehouse College, Paine College, Stillman College and Tuskegee University.**

UDC HOOPS CLAIMS RULAND:

After a season as a Philadelphia 76ers assistant, **Jeff Ruland** is returning to college basketball, agreeing to a multi-year contract as head coach of the University of the District of Columbia.

Ruland was a two-time All-Star during the five seasons he played for the Washington Bullets. He had a successful eight-year run as coach at Iona College where he led the Gaels to three NCAA tournament appearances. He will take over a Division II program with only two returning players and no conference affiliation.

New 76ers coach Eddie Jordan didn't retain Ruland for his staff after he was hired.

"The University of the District of Columbia wants to take this program to some new heights and really upgrade everything," Ruland said by phone Monday night. "I could have sat on my butt and collected another year of pay from the 76ers, but I really want to be a head coach again and this is a great opportunity for me."

Ruland was introduced at a news conference on Tuesday at the UDC campus

HOWARD DITCHES DATCHER:

Howard announced Tuesday the resignation of Athletic Director **Dwight Datcher** and the appointment of **Joseph Bell** as Interim AD.

Bell, in addition to having served as the head coach of the Howard swim team, also previously served as the head baseball and assistant football coach at **Hampton**. Bell was director of Howard's nationally recognized and federally-funded Upward Bound Program. For many years, he has been a major contributor to an array of academic and student development initiatives.

Howard also said it will conduct a national search for a permanent AD. A search advisory committee will be created and will include faculty, staff, student athletes, alumni and other key stakeholders. The University hopes to have a permanent Director by January 1, 2010.

Talent, coaching make FAMU No. 1

by **LUT WILLIAMS**
BCSP Editor

With the 2009 black college football season about to kick off with Saturday's match-up of three-time defending SIAC champion **Tuskegee** against conference-rival

GAMES THIS WEEK

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22
Benedict vs. Tuskegee in Columbia, SC 6

BCSP TOP TEN

- FLORIDA A&M** (9-3 last season) - Rattlers have enough talent in Joe Taylor's second season to unseat S.C. State in the MEAC and be the best team in black college football. QB Curtis Pulley is special. **OPENING GAME:** Sept. 5 vs. Delaware State.
- (TIE) **GRAMBLING STATE** (11-2) - SWAC defending champion and 2009 favorite returns QB Greg Dillon, two dynamic RBs and a stout defense. **OPENING GAME:** Sept. 6 vs. South Carolina State.
- SOUTH CAROLINA STATE** (10-3) - The defending MEAC champ Bulldogs return plenty, highlighted by RB Will Ford and QB Malcolm Long, but lost experience on the lines that may cost them. **OPENING GAME:** Sept. 6 vs. Grambling State.
- PRAIRIE VIEW A&M** (9-1) - Stinky defense and prolific offense propelled Henry Frazier's troops to near perfect record. Same combination needed to get past Grambling in SWAC. **OPENING GAME:** Sept. 5 vs. Texas Southern.
- SOUTHERN** (6-5) - Pete Richardson's Jaguars, one of three SWAC West teams in Top Ten, are always in the hunt. No different this year with QB Bryant Lee at the helm. **OPENING GAME:** Sept. 5 at Louisiana-Lafayette.
- NORFOLK STATE** (5-7) - Pete Adrian's Spartans loaded on both sides of the ball and ready to challenge FAMU and SC State for MEAC supremacy. **OPENING GAME:** Sept. 5 vs. Virginia State.
- BETHUNE-COOKMAN** (8-3) - Wildcats poised to build on last year's surprise finish. **OPENING GAME:** Sept. 5 vs. Shaw.
- SHAW** (8-3) - Back-to-back CIAA champs poised to three-peat. Big-time returnees on offense, most losses on defensive side. **OPENING GAME:** Aug. 29 vs. Elizabeth City State.
- ALBANY STATE** (7-4) - SIAC runners-up should once again challenge Tuskegee for league supremacy. **OPENING GAME:** Aug. 27 vs. Chowan.
- TUSKEGEE** (10-1) - Must break in QB to replace standout Jacary Atkinson. That may be enough to drop Golden Tigers down a notch. **OPENING GAME:** Aug. 22 at Benedict.

Benedict (6 p.m., Columbia, S.C.), it's time for the BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE to unveil its preseason Top Ten.

The coaches have picked **Fayetteville State** in the CIAA, **South Carolina State** in the MEAC, **Grambling State** in the SWAC and **Albany State** in the SIAC to come away with conference titles. Two of those picks, Fayetteville State and Albany State did not win their conference titles a year ago. Grambling and South Carolina State did.

So, like the coaches in the CIAA and SIAC, the BCSP is going to go with someone other than a defending champion as the top team in 2009 black college football.

It should surprise no one that **Florida A&M**, in its second year under head coach **Joe Taylor**, previously of **Hampton University** fame, is our pick as this year's best team. After all, Taylor brought Hampton in a span of decade from a Div. II CIAA team to the cream of the crop in the MEAC, an FCS conference, and in all of black college football.

The fact that he, and former coaching rival **Bill Hayes** - now Taylor's AD at FAMU, have the Rattlers right back in the thick of things in the conference and maybe a challenger for an FCS title, should also be no surprise. After all, when the most successful coach over the last ten years in the MEAC goes to the talent-rich state of Florida, with a crafty former coach in tow, good things follow.

Even S. C. State head coach **Oliver "Buddy" Pough** is sold on the Rattlers, who he voted No. 1 in the MEAC preseason poll. He's also sold on FAMU QB **Curtis Pulley**.

"He's a player. It doesn't take a whole lot of figuring to see what this guy brings to the table. He's big, he's strong, he can run, he can throw. He's got all kinds of weapons around him. It's exciting to see him play. Hopefully, we can figure out some way to slow him down because he can beat us by himself."

While that's a stretch, Pulley is at the helm of an offense that includes eight other all-MEAC first teamers. South Carolina State and Grambling, who open the season in a Sunday, Sept. 6 showdown in Orlando, are tied for second in the early BCSP ranking.

Prairie View A&M, coming off a 9-1 2008 campaign under head coach **Henry Frazier** is picked fourth, ahead of fellow SWAC West Division member **Southern**.

Norfolk State (6th), **Bethune-Cookman**

(7th), **Shaw** (8th), **Albany State** (9th) and **Tuskegee** (10th) round out the Top Ten.

Among those at the top of the second Ten are **Hampton, Jackson State, Morgan State and Morehouse**.

2009 HOMECOMINGS

SEPTEMBER 26		
ALABAMA A&M vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff		3
ALBANY STATE vs. Benedict		2
OCTOBER 3		
CLARK ATLANTA vs. Kentucky State	1:30	
CONCORDIA vs. New Orleans		2
EDWARD WATERS vs. North Greenville		3
MILES vs. Fort Valley State		1
MISS VALLEY STATE vs. Texas College		2
WEST VIRGINIA STATE vs. Seton Hill	1:30	
OCTOBER 10		
CENTRAL STATE vs. Kentucky State	1:30	
CHEYNEY vs. Millersville		1
LINCOLN (MO) vs. Peru State		2
LINCOLN (PA) vs. Virginia Union		1
LIVINGSTONE vs. Chowan	1:30	
MORGAN STATE vs. NC A&T		1
OCTOBER 17		
ALCORN STATE vs. Alabama A&M		2
BOWIE STATE vs. Saint Paul's		1
ELIZABETH CITY STATE vs. Lincoln (PA)	1:30	
JOHNSON C. SMITH vs. Fayetteville State		1
KENTUCKY STATE vs. Benedict	1:45	
LANE vs. Morehouse		2
LANGSTON vs. Texas College		2
PRAIRIE VIEW A&M vs. Miss Valley State		1
SAINT AUGUSTINE'S vs. Livingstone	1:30	
SOUTHERN vs. Fort Valley State		5:30
OCTOBER 24		
ARK.-PINE BLUFF vs. Edward Waters	2:30	
BENEDICT vs. Fort Valley State		2
BETHUNE-COOKMAN vs. W-Salem State		4
CHOWAN vs. Johnson C. Smith		6
DELAWARE STATE vs. Morgan State		1
FAYETTEVILLE STATE vs. St. Augustine's		2
FLORIDA A&M vs. Norfolk State		3
HAMPTON vs. SC State		2
HOWARD vs. NC A&T		1
MOREHOUSE vs. Clark Atlanta		2
SHAW vs. Livingstone		4
TEXAS COLLEGE vs. Panhandle State		1
VIRGINIA UNION vs. Bowie State		1
OCTOBER 31		
FORT VALLEY STATE vs. Kentucky State		1
GRAMBLING STATE vs. Miss Valley State		1
NC A&T vs. Bethune-Cookman	1:30	
NC CENTRAL vs. Central State	1:30	
NORFOLK STATE vs. Howard		1
SAINT PAUL'S vs. Lincoln (PA)		1
SAVANNAH STATE vs. Edward Waters		2
SC STATE vs. Delaware State	1:30	
TEXAS SOUTHERN vs. Alcorn State		2
VIRGINIA STATE vs. Bowie State	1:30	
W-SALEM STATE vs. Hampton		2
NOVEMBER 7		
JACKSON STATE vs. Alabama State		1
TENNESSEE STATE vs. Tenn.-Martin		5
TUSKEGEE vs. Stillman		1
NOVEMBER 14		
STILLMAN vs. Concordia	1:30	
NOVEMBER 26		
ALABAMA STATE vs. Tuskegee		3

BCSP Notes

Redman turning heads at Steelers' camp

Former **Bowie State** and CIAA standout **Isaac Redman** is making a strong bid to earn a spot on the Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh Steelers' roster. In fact, word is, he's gaining a nickname among fans.

Redman, an undrafted rookie free agent, has been impressive in the Steelers' preseason camp and scored the team's only two touchdowns in last Thursday's preseason opener, a 20-10 win over the Arizona Cardinals in a rematch of Super Bowl XLIII.

Redman's game heroics came a few days after a stint in Steelers' camp last week where he scored twice on the team's goal line drill when other running backs in the Steelers' stable could not get in. The 6-foot, 230-pound back followed that up this week with another performance in the goal line drill got the attention of Steelers' head coach Mike Tomlin.

According to a story in Tuesday's on-line edition of the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, Steelers' beat writer Ed Bouchette says as a result of his latest exploits the kid is now being called Isaac "Redzone" Redman.

Working to earn his spot at the Steelers' camp at Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, Pa., Bouchette reports Redman scored three straight times on the goal-line drill against the first-team defense Sunday. And in an unprecedented move, Tomlin had him carry the ball on each of the seven live plays run from the 1 in that drill. Redman scored on five of those runs, came close on a disputed call on another and was stopped once. Normally two or three backs get to carry the ball in the drill.

"You guys saw what I saw, he got in the end zone a bunch," Tomlin reportedly said. "He's still got a ways to go. That's the process. No question he represented himself pretty well."

"It gives me a bit of a confidence booster," Redman, who finished his college career as Bowie State's all-time leading rusher, was quoted as saying of his first three scores Monday. "They told me I was going to get in with the first team to see if I could repeat the same thing. The offensive line had some great blocks. The fullback had a great block and I basically walked in on a couple of them."

Bouchette reports that Redman said the Steelers were the only team that really wanted to sign him after he went undrafted in April. If he makes it, he would become the first player from Bowie State to play in the NFL.

Bouchette's story goes on, "The Steelers have been looking for a short-yardage back, unsuccessfully, since Jerome Bettis retired after the 2005 season. They drafted Frank "The Tank" Summers (5 feet 10, 240 pounds) to possibly handle that role. Redman (6-0, 230) is giving him a run for it."

In his best season at Bowie State (2004), Redman rushed 281 times for 1,512 yards and 12 TDs. He finished his career with 3,300 rushing yards and 35 rushing TDs.

HSRN teams with Sirius/XM

The Heritage Sports Radio Network (HSRN) and Sirius/XM Satellite Radio have partnered to deliver Historically Black College and University (HBCU) sports on national radio to the millions of black college sports fans.

"This is an unprecedented partnership that brings us closer to fulfilling our mission which is to be the 'Voice of HBCU sports,'" said HSRN CEO, **Omar Bashir**. "With this deal, HBCU sports fans finally have a place to call home and the new address is Sirius/XM."

HSRN will broadcast the "Game of the Week" each Saturday starting August 29, 2009. The broadcasts will include pregame, halftime and post-

game analysis as well as updates of all of the sports action across the country.

"Every season, our goal at SIRIUS XM Radio is to deliver fans the best college football games," said Steve Cohen, SIRIUS XM's Senior Vice President of Sports Programming. "Our agreement with HRSN is another excellent step in that direction. HBCU sports features some of college football's best teams and most historic rivalries and we're thrilled to be able to give millions of sports fans around the country access to these great events."

Founded in 2006, HSRN was created to provide a voice for the HBCU community. The company is committed to using new technologies to present nationwide broadcasts of athletic events of Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Radio Network set to begin second year

Classics Sports Radio Network (CSRN) has announced its 2009 radio broadcast schedule.

Beginning its second season, CSRN will broadcast 10 - 12 games. The schedule is highlighted by the broadcast of the *MEAC-SWAC Challenge* presented by Disney, the *Southern Heritage Classic*, the *Atlanta Football Classic* and the *Southwest Airlines State Fair Classic*, all of which CSRN will broadcast for the second-straight year.

"We felt like last year we really established a foundation and look to grow even more this year," said **Donal Ware**, CEO of DWCommunications, LLC (DWC), parent company of CSRN. "This year we are going to take it to a new level where we will continue to establish ourselves as the leader in radio broadcasts of HBCU Sports."

The *MEAC-SWAC challenge* this year pits MEAC champion **South Carolina State** against SWAC champion **Grambling State** in Orlando, Fla. on Sunday, September 6. The Challenge is in its fifth season and is an ESPN Regional Television owned and operated event. DWCommunications, LLC partnered with ESPN RT to promote the event. The promotion included DWC giving a Disney Grand Prize Pack.

Stations around the country carrying CSRN include WGBN-AM 1150 in Pittsburgh, WBOK-AM 1230 in New Orleans, WAUG-AM 750 in Raleigh, ESPN 1080 in Orlando, WJSU-FM 88.5 in Jackson, Ms., WELE-AM 1380 in Daytona Beach, FL, WKRA-AM 1110 in Holly Springs, Ms., and WHPR-FM 88.1 in Detroit. All games can also be heard online at www.classicsportsradio.com. Broadcasts will include a pre-game, halftime and post game show.

CSRN will kick the season off on August 29 by broadcasting a rematch of last year's CIAA Championship Game as **Elizabeth City State** will take on **Shaw** in Raleigh, NC. On September 5, CSRN will broadcast *The Battle of I-40* as **Winston-Salem State** will host **North Carolina A&T** followed by the broadcast of the MEAC/SWAC Challenge on Sept. 6. On September 12 CSRN will broadcast the *Southern Heritage Classic* from Memphis and on October 3 the *Southwest Airlines State Fair Classic* from Dallas. CSRN will announce its remaining broadcast schedule later.

The website, www.classicsportsradio.com, will also be an information source where fans can get updated HBCU football scores every 30 minutes, information about the CSRN Game of the Week, and football game stories as well as the opportunity to listen to archived games.



Pittsburgh Steelers' photo

REDMAN: Making serious bid for Steelers' squad.

Howard Sports Photo

DATCHER: Resigns as Howard AD, replaced on an interim basis by Joe Bell.