

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

DRAMA AT TEXAS SOUTHERN!

IS HEAD HOOPS COACH MIKE DAVIS STAYING OR LEAVING?

NEW ADS AT DELSTATE, MILES; NEW HOOPS COACH AT SCSU; MLB DRAFTEES & TRACK STARS



RAM READY: Talented WSSU junior Randy Norris, among national leaders, taken in 19th round of Major League Baseball Draft.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

RUFFIN NAMED NEW MILES AD:

Miles College has announced that head football coach **Reginald Ruffin** will take the helm of the Golden Bears athletic program.



Ruffin

Ruffin has spent the last seven years leading the Bears' football program and will remain in that position. The change is effective immediately. He replaces **Phillip Wallace, Jr.**, who served as Director of Athletics for the past eight years. Wallace will remain in his position as head women's basketball coach.

Ruffin has led one of the most successful eras in Miles College football history. He enters his eighth season as the head football coach for the Golden Bears with two **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference** championships as well as an additional SIAC Championship game appearance. Over seven seasons, Ruffin has won 60 percent of his games, going 45-30 overall.

"I am truly humbled and honored to have the opportunity to lead Miles College Athletics under the guidance and leadership of President **George T. French, Jr.**," Ruffin said. "This is a wonderful opportunity for my family. I understand the responsibility I now have to continue to uphold the high standards for excellence for our scholar athletes set by former Athletics Director Phillip Wallace, Jr. I'm looking forward to being part of the world-class tradition of excellence that characterizes the student-athlete experience at Miles College."

"It's a great day for the future of Miles College Athletics."

Miles is a member of NCAA Division II and the **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference**. As Director of Athletics, Ruffin will oversee a program that includes 10 varsity teams: baseball, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's cross country, football, men's golf, women's track and field, softball, and volleyball.

SMITH FROM CLEMSON TO SC STATE:

South Carolina State University officially introduced **Audra Smith** as its next women's basketball coach at a press briefing, Thursday.



Smith

Smith comes to Orangeburg following a five-year stint as head coach at Clemson.

She succeeds **Doug Robertson** whose contract was not renewed in March following a 10-year tenure and 112-175 overall record (61-99 MEAC). The Lady Bulldogs went 12-18 in his final season.

Ironically Smith was let go at Clemson in March following an 11-19 season (1-15 ACC). Her overall record for the Tigers was 52-99, 9-70 in the ACC.

This will be Smith's third head coaching position. Before Clemson, she spent nine years at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

A teammate of South Carolina head coach **Dawn Staley** when both were at Virginia, Smith said that the atmosphere and community helped her choose S.C. State as her next coaching opportunity.

"I'm excited to be here because all of the opportunities and the possibilities that are here," Smith said. "It will really be an exciting time for Bulldog women's basketball."

GINES NEW AD AT DELSTATE:

DOVER, Del. -- **Delaware State University** has announced the appointment of **Dr. David "Scott" Gines** as its new Director of Athletics.



Gines

Gines joins the Hornets after serving since 2013 as Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics and Campus Recreation at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, a member of the NCAA Div. II Lone Star Conference. Gines will assume his new position at Delaware State in mid-July.

He will oversee the DSU Department of Athletics, which includes 18 intercollegiate sports – basketball, bowling, cross country, equestrian, golf, indoor and outdoor track & field, lacrosse, soccer, softball and tennis for women; and baseball, cross country, basketball, football, indoor and outdoor track & field for men. DSU is a member of the Division I **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference**.

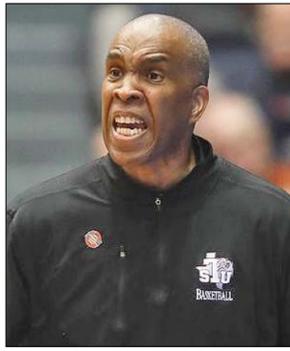
Gines succeeds interim Athletics Director **Mary Hill**, who has served in the post since last November.

Mike Davis leaving Texas Southern?

After six seasons at **Texas Southern**, head basketball coach **Mike Davis** reportedly informed Athletics Director **Charles McClelland** last Tuesday that he would be stepping down in order to become the next head coach at Detroit Mercy.

But Detroit Mercy Athletics Director **Robert C. Vowels Jr.** reportedly texted the *Detroit Free Press* newspaper last Wednesday that reports of Davis being hired were "erroneous" and he hadn't yet named a coach.

It's been a week later and neither athletics director has had more to say about the situation. TSU's athletics website has taken down its statement about Davis leaving and there's nothing on the UDM athletics website about his hiring.



DAVIS: Staying or going?

Efforts to reach Davis, McClelland or Vowels Tuesday were unsuccessful.

During his six seasons at TSU, Davis, who previously held head coaching positions at Indiana and

Alabama-Birmingham, led the Tigers to four SWAC regular season titles, four SWAC tournament titles and four NCAA tournament appearances.

He got the program's first NCAA Tournament win this year over MEAC tournament champion **North Carolina Central** in the Big Dance's first round.

He has compiled a 115-89 record during his time at TSU while being noted for playing one of the toughest schedules in the nation.

Davis had just received a commitment from his son **Antoine**, a 6-3 high scoring guard, who de-committed from Houston and decided to play at TSU.

The younger Davis had been called "the best shooter I've seen in the state (of Texas)" by UH head

coach Kelvin Sampson.

UDM finished the 2017-18 season with an 8-24 record, going 4-14 in Horizon League play under second-year head coach Bacari Alexander who was released just after the season.

Just one of the team's top six scorers, guard Jermaine Jackson Jr., is currently still with the program. Jackson is the son of Jermaine Jackson Sr., who served as Detroit's interim head coach following the firing of Alexander.

Vowels, the former commissioner at both the SWAC and SIAC, in his fourth year as athletics director at Detroit Mercy.

McClelland, in his tenth year leading TSU athletics, is considered one of the finalists for the vacant SWAC commissioner's post.

BCSP Notes

Three MEAC runners earn Div. I all-American status at NCAA Outdoor Track championships

EUGENE, Ore. – The **Mid Eastern Athletic Conference** had three runners earn first team all-American honors as they finished in the top eight in their respective events at the 2018 NCAA Division I Outdoor Track and Field Championships here at historic Hayward Field at the University of Oregon.

After winning the third heat of the 200 meter semifinals, **North Carolina A&T** junior sprinter **Rodney Rowe** came in fifth in the event final Friday to earn his first team all-American honor. Rowe finished in a time of 20.52 to garner four points for the Aggies. Texas Tech's Divine Oduduru finished first at 20.28.

South Carolina State sprinter **Tyrell Richard** finished fifth in the men's 400 meter final Friday to earn first team status and earn four points for the Bulldogs. Running in lane 3, Richard finished the event in a time of 45.10. The event was won by Southern California's Michael Norman (43.61).

Norfolk State's **Martha Bissah's** stellar run through the NCAA track and field postseason culminated Saturday night with a sixth-place finish in the 800 meters. Bissah clocked a time of 2 minutes, 6.79 seconds in a steady downpour, finishing ahead of higher-seeded athletes Sabrina Southerland from Oregon and Jazmine Fray from Texas A&M to score three points for the Spartans and earn her first team designation.

Rowe joins **Chris Belcher** as the only two Aggies in history to be three-time first-team All-Americans after Rowe joined Belcher with first-team honors in the 4x100 last season.

Richard, a Georgetown, SC native became the second South Carolina State sprinter to medal at an NCAA track Championship this season. His teammate **Demek Kemp** earned a bronze medal in the 60 meters at the NCAA Indoor Championship with a third-place finish. Richard's showing on Friday assured him of All-America accolades.

Bissah becomes just the fourth Spartan women's track and field athlete to earn All-American honors at the Division I level. Long jumper **Tianna Goldring**, who placed fourth at the 2004 NCAA outdoor meet, was NSU's last first-team All-American prior to Bissah.

Bissah was the only MEAC women's track athlete to advance to an event final this week.

Albany State sweeps SIAC Commissioner's Cup

ALBANY- The **Albany State University** Athletics Department has officially closed the 2017-2018 academic year as the best in the **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference**.

The Golden Rams made it a clean sweep as they were announced as the winners of this year's *Commissioner's Cup* for the achievements of both their women's and men's athletic programs. This is the first time ASU has won both awards in the same year.

The Commissioner's Cup is an all-sports award presented at the end of each academic year to the league's top performing school in conference play and is based on a point system, reflecting the finish of each team in conference play. It is presented to the athletic department within the conference that has excelled in both men's and women's sports.

"I am beyond thrilled that the SIAC has honored Albany State with the esteemed Commissioner's Cup for both our men's and women's programs," stated Director of Athletics **Sherie Gordon**.

"It was a banner year for our institution and this award is a testament to the dedication of our student-athletes and staff. Our alumni, the Albany area community and fans should feel proud because each of our student-athletes are leading with pride, and they deserve to be recognized for their great work."

"It's a great day to be a Golden Ram!"

ASU claimed the Commissioner's Cup on the men's side for the second straight year, and was awarded the honor for their women's programs for the first time since 2013-2014.

The scoring system is as follows: 10 points for conference titles, seven points for runner-up championship titles, and four points for third place championship titles. This past season, the Golden Rams won conference championships in women's cross country, men's golf, baseball and softball and were runners-up for the title in men's cross country.

"I am extremely proud of the achievements of our student-athletes, both on and off the field," said ASU Interim President **Marion Fedrick**. "This accomplishment speaks volumes to the commitment of our men's and women's teams, as well as their coaches, throughout the year. They have represented our university well, and it is an honor to celebrate this win with them."

Alabama State captures fifth consecutive SWAC Commissioner's Cup

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. | The **Alabama State University** Department of Intercollegiate Athletics was awarded the **James Frank Award** from the **Southwestern Athletic Conference** (SWAC) as the top athletic department conference-wide at the annual conference meetings last Thursday.

Alabama State claimed the award with 182 points, finishing 17 points ahead of **Prairie View A&M** (165) in second place and 51 points ahead of third place **Texas Southern** (131).

"The James Frank Award culminates the year for Alabama State athletics," Alabama State Interim Director of Athletics **Jennifer Lynne Williams** said. "This award puts an exclamation mark on what we, as a department, have been able to accomplish this season. It speaks volumes



Bissah



Rowe



Richard

for the work our student-athletes, coaches and staff have put in throughout the year."

Alabama State was able to pull away for the award after winning eight conference championships throughout the season. The Hornets claimed conference tournament/championship titles in soccer, volleyball, indoor track and field (men and women), women's golf, tennis (men and women), and outdoor track and field (women).

For the sixth consecutive time, Alabama State also won the **Magee/Jacket Award**, presented to the top women's athletics program in the conference. Named after **Sadie Magee** who was the first women's basketball coach at **Jackson State** and **Barbara Jacket** who led **Prairie View A&M** and the 1992 U.S. Women's Olympic Track Team as the head coach, ASU ran away from the competition, accumulating 109 points – 19.5 points ahead of second place **Prairie View A&M**.

Alabama State was able to win six conference titles on the women's side and reached the finals or the championship in two others.

The **Prairie View A&M** men's sports program won the **C.D. Henry Award** for the best overall men's program in the SWAC for the 2017-18 season. League championships in men's golf and men's track sparked the Panthers to win the award.

The award is named for **C. D. Henry**, former **Grambling State** chairman of the College of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Department from 1958-74, as well as serving as the executive officer and secretary-statistician for the SWAC in 1968-73.

Henry became the first African American assistant commissioner of any conference office when he joined the Big Ten Conference in June of 1974.

Jackson State finished fourth in the overall standings for the James Frank Award with 100.5 points, followed by **Alcorn State** (106.5), **UAPB** (97.5), **Grambling State** (95), **Mississippi Valley State** (76.5), **Southern** (70.5) and **Alabama A&M** (66.5).



Norris



Williams



Taylor



Hernandez

Three SWAC players and one from the CIAA taken in Major League Baseball Draft

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) provided four draftees in rounds 19-29 of last week's 2018 Major League Baseball First Year Player Draft.

Winston-Salem State junior outfielder **Randy Norris** led the group with his selection by the San Francisco Giants in the 19th round.

Prairie View A&M senior pitcher **Darrien Williams** was picked in the 26th round by the Los Angeles Angels.

The Arizona Diamondbacks selected **Grambling State** senior shortstop **Marshawn Taylor** in the 28th round.

Alabama State senior third baseman **Ray Hernandez** closed out the HBCU draftees with his selection by the Atlanta Braves in the 29th round.

Norris has had a historic career at Winston-Salem State. He played three years with the Rams and is currently the team's career leader in hits (231), at-bats (608), and stolen bases (92).

He is coming off of a stellar junior season that including finishing the season ranked fourth in the nation with a .437 batting average. He is also tied for ninth in the nation in stolen bases with 34. Last season, Norris led the nation with 47 stolen bases.

Williams is the first PVAMU baseball player since 2009 to be selected in the draft. He was a four-year player for the Panthers, and began his career as an outfielder. He became a pitcher in year two before solely focusing on the mound during his final two years.

Taylor, who spent two seasons in the GSU Black and Gold, earned several accolades, including being named the **Southwestern Athletic Conference** (SWAC) Player of the Year, Hitter of the Year and Newcomer of the Year in 2017.

He is a two-time All-SWAC First Team shortstop and earned All-SWAC Tournament Team honors after Grambling State finished runner-up to **Texas Southern** in the 2018 Baseball Tournament.

Hernandez was among the nation's best in several categories as he led Alabama State to the East Division championship in the SWAC this season. He finished the season hitting .379 with 11 home runs – both team highs for the Hornets – and finished with 45 runs batted in and 46 runs scored. He also connected on 12 doubles and led the team with a .601 slugging percentage as the Hornets made the semifinals of the conference tournament.