

BLACK COLLEGE  
SPORTS™



SWAC photo

## FALL BACK, SPRING FORWARD

MEAC, SWAC SAY NO GO ON FALL SPORTS; TIM O'NEAL ON THE PROWL; ALLEN NEW TO D2

**SWAC DECISION:** Commish Charles McClelland announces no fall sports for SWAC, bold move to play fall sports in spring 2021.

## UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

### HARPER TO LEAD COPPIN WOMEN'S HOOPS:

BALTIMORE – **Coppin State Athletics** has named former WNBA player, **Laura Harper**, as its next women's basketball head coach. The announcement was made by Director of Athletics **Derek Carter** on Monday morning.



Harper

"Having a platform as a woman of color, while coaching at an HBCU during this racially sensitive time in our country, inspires me," said Harper. "And I am beyond ready to help lead this group of committed, young women into a new era of Eagles basketball."

Since the conclusion of her playing career, Harper has worked as an assistant coach at four NCAA Division I institutions as well as a season as head coach at a top collegiate preparatory school.

Harper most recently served as the head coach at Montverde Academy, one of the premier high school programs in the State of Florida. Harper guided the Eagles to an 18-6 mark this past season and helped all five of her seniors earn NCAA Division I scholarships.

Prior to her time at Montverde, Harper assisted the women's basketball team at the University of Florida for two seasons. Before moving to the Sunshine State, Harper spent the 2016-17 season at George Washington University under Women's Basketball Hall of Famer Jennifer Rizzotti. That season, the Colonials won an Atlantic 10 Regular Season Championship and advanced to the WNIT.

For two years, Harper also worked as an assistant coach at High Point University. Harper got her start in coaching as an assistant at Loyola University Maryland during the 2013-14 campaign where she was responsible for post player development, scouting, and served as an academic liaison for the Greyhounds.

A four-year standout at the University of Maryland, Harper was named the 2006 NCAA Final Four Most Outstanding Player after leading the Terrapins to a National Championship. Harper was also part of two Maryland teams that advanced to the Elite Eight, a 2007 Naismith Award Finalist and a two-time Naismith Award Preseason Candidate. As a senior, Harper was a Third Team All-ACC honoree and Associated Press Honorable Mention All-American. Harper still owns the Maryland record with 198 blocked shots while scoring 1,407 points and ranked seventh in rebounds upon graduation before being named to the 2014 ACC Legends Class.

### REED EXTENDED AT JACKSON STATE:

JACKSON, Miss. – **Jackson State University** is pleased to announce a four-year contract extension for head women's basketball coach **Tomekia Reed**.



Reed

"I am extremely thankful and honored that President **Thomas Hudson** and Vice President and Director of Athletics **Ashley Robinson** saw fit for me to remain at the helm of the JSU women's basketball program," Reed said. "I am thankful for AD Robinson's commitment to our program and we will have several more outstanding seasons to come."

The Lady Tigers won the 2019-20 SWAC regular season championship and qualified as the No. 1 seed in the 2020 SWAC Tournament before COVID-19 caused the cancellation of postseason play.

"Coach Reed has done a tremendous job and has elevated the program in her two short years on the job," Robinson said. "She led the program to its first SWAC regular-season championship in over 10 years and has set the foundation for continued success. Coach Reed and her staff have done a great job recruiting and I expect her to continue to raise the bar."

The 2019-20 JSU women's basketball season will go down in program history as one of the most dominant. The Lady Tigers opened conference play with a 12-0 start, which is the program best. The Blue and White finished conference play with a 16-2 mark which tied the program record.

This past season Reed was named SWAC Coach of the Year and **Ameshya Williams**, **Marneisha Hamer** and **Dayzsha Rogan** were named to the all-conference team. Williams was also named Defensive Player of the Year.

# Fall sports down the tubes for MEAC and SWAC

By **LUT WILLIAMS**

BCSP Editor

They happened several days apart but both the **Mid Eastern Athletic Conference** and the **Southwestern Athletic Conference**, the two NCAA Div. I HBCU athletic leagues, announced in the past week the suspension of all fall sports activities because of complications caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The MEAC announcement was made last Thursday, July 16 and followed it up with a Zoom conference call with the media on Friday, July 17. In the Zoom call, MEAC Commissioner **Dr. Dennis Thomas** and **Howard University** President **Dr. Wayne I. Frederick**, fielded questions and made remarks about the decision.

The SWAC made and announced its decision on Monday evening, July 20 after an emergency meeting of the league's presidents.

The press releases from both conferences indicated that the decisions were based on concerns for the safety as well as the physical and mental health of student-athletes, coaches, administrators, support staff, faculty and fans.

For the MEAC, the decision affects football, men's and women's cross country, women's volleyball and women's bowling.

The SWAC has fall competition in football, men's and women's cross country, women's soccer and women's volleyball.

Their announcements come on the heels of a plethora of conferences and individual institutions, inside and outside the HBCU arena, deciding to drop fall sports in response to the virus.

The two HBCU NCAA Div. II conferences, the **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA)** and the **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC)** as well as the HBCU NAIA league, the **Gulf Coast Athletic Conference (GCAC)**, are among those who had earlier announced suspension of all

FROM MEAC COMMISSIONER

**DR. DENNIS THOMAS**

"Obviously this is an arduous decision because everyone wants to have a fall season for student-athletes, fans and others. Part of our responsibility is to ensure the mental and physical health and safety of our student-athletes, coaches, and staff is paramount. It is imperative that everyone recognize that is our first and foremost responsibility."



FROM THE SWAC

"The SWAC shares in the disappointment that will undoubtedly be felt by student-athletes, fans, and supporters impacted by the postponement of fall sports competition. The league will continue to review appropriate measures to ensure the health, safety and well-being of student-athletes, coaches, administrators and the local community which continues to be the primary responsibility of the Southwestern Athletic Conference and its member institutions."



athletics activities during the 2020 Fall semester.

**Hampton University**, that now competes in the Big South Conference, **Langston University**, **Wiley College** and others have also suspended fall athletics. **Hampton** and **Morehouse**, who competes in the SIAC, made their moves before their leagues announced decisions. The Big South has not yet suspended fall sports.

As it appears now, the only HBCU that has not suspended fall sports is **Tennessee State University**, part of the Ohio Valley Conference.

### FALL SPORTS IN THE SPRING

In its press release, the MEAC only said that it had not made a decision about trying to play fall sports in the spring.

The SWAC, on the other hand, unveiled a somewhat aggressive intention and plan to play fall sports in the spring, with particular details about plans for football.

Its release said, "The conference has started the process of formalizing plans to conduct a competitive schedule for the fall sports during

the 2021 spring semester.

"Specifically, in the sport of football the plan includes a seven-game conference schedule beginning with an eight-week training period in January 2021. Each member institution will play a total of six conference games (four divisional/two non-divisional) with the option to play one non-conference game."

Details regarding the other SWAC spring sports and the league's championship football game "will be released at a later date," the release said.

Several conferences – the Pennsylvania Athletic Conference (PSAC) for example – have decided to suspend all athletics activities, both fall and winter sports, until January of 2021.

The MEAC release did highlight that the conference currently plans to proceed with winter sports competitions (men's and women's basketball, men's and women's indoor track and field), unless health and medical professionals advise otherwise. "We will apprise the public on further decisions," it said. There have been no final decisions made regarding competitive schedules

## BCSP Notes



**KEEPIN' ON:** Former Jackson State golfer Tim O'Neal shot a 10-under 130 to win his second APGA title of the year. The APGA will hold a black college-themed event in California in October. (Keyur Khamar/PGA TOUR)

### Golfer Tim O'Neal wins again

By Staff, *PGATOUR.COM*

ORLANDO, Fla. – Former **Jackson State**, **SWAC** and **NCAA** standout golfer **Tim O'Neal** won the APGA Tour at Dubsdread tournament last week, securing his second title of the year as the diversity-focused mini-tour staged its second Florida event in five days.

O'Neal, 46, shot a 10-under 130 over the two days, including a 6-under 64 Tuesday at renowned Dubsdread Golf Course, the oldest public facility in Central Florida. O'Neal's round included an eagle and six birdies after starting the round tied for the lead with Marcus Manley.

"It was a hard battle with so many strong players close to the lead," said O'Neal, the 1997 Georgia Amateur champion and winner of 16 college tournaments at Jackson State. "Every year it gets harder out here. We all appreciate the APGA Tour providing opportunities for minorities in professional golf."

O'Neal made history in January by winning the APGA Tour at the Farmers Insurance Open at Torrey Pines as the PGA TOUR and Farmers Insurance hosted a 27-hole APGA competition on Torrey Pines North while the best golfers in the world played the third round of the PGA TOUR's Farmers Insurance Open on Torrey Pines South.

O'Neal's other accomplishments include qualifying for and playing in the 2015 U.S. Open, competing in the 2019 Genesis Open as the Charlie Sifford Memorial Exemption recipient, winning three times on PGA TOUR Latinoamerica and starting multiple Korn Ferry Tour events.

The fifth event of the APGA season was conducted under social-distancing and health/safety guidelines in conjunction with regional authorities. It was the third tournament following the coronavirus pandemic lockdown.

The APGA Tour heads to Illinois for its next event on Aug. 16-17, with the site still to be announced because of pandemic-related circumstances. The tour then moves to California for three more events, culminating in the APGA Tour Championship on Sept. 1-2 and the **APGA Tour Black College Classic** on Oct. 13-14, both at Pacific Palms Resort in Southern California.

The APGA Tour Presented by Lexus is a nonprofit organization with the mission of bringing greater diversity to the game of golf. Now in its 11th year, the tour consists of nine events offering more than \$250,000 in prize money.

### Allen University moving to NCAA Div. II

(Columbia, S.C.) – **Allen University** athletics is the newest provisional member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II effective for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Currently, a Division I member of the National Association of In-

tercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), Allen sponsors nine intercollegiate programs. Yellow Jacket student-athletes compete in men's football, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's cross country, men's and women's track & field, women's volleyball and men's wrestling.

The Allen football team boasts 121 student-athletes for the fall, including 87 veterans and 34 recruits.

"The vision of the school's leadership has brought us this far," Head Football Coach **Teddy Keaton** explained while acknowledging President **Ernest McNealey's** influence. "There is nothing more critical in athletics than to have an administration that supports the University mission. I am proud to be able to do my part to help this vision become a reality. I am elated at the growth we are experiencing and to move to Division II in four short years is exciting!"

Allen University joined the NAIA Appalachian Athletic Conference in the fall of 2016. The move to Division II will require a three-year membership process. A division conference has yet to be determined, but the Yellow Jackets may land in the **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC)** alongside their longtime athletic rivals and Columbia neighbors, **Benedict College**.

When asked about the transition to Division II, Dr. McNealey said, "This leap into Division II speaks not only to our growth as an institution but also to the caliber of success our student-athletes are capable of, on and off the field. This opportunity will increase enrollment numbers due to the national recognition and exposure we will receive for athletics and academics."

### Southern's Cador to ABCA Hall of Fame

The American Baseball Coaches Association has announced that former **Southern** head baseball coach **Roger Cador** is one of eight individuals to be inducted to the ABCA Hall of Fame in January 2021.

Cador retired from coaching in 2017 with a career record of 913-597-1 (604). He took over the program at Southern University (La.) in 1984 after serving as an assistant coach on the baseball and basketball teams at his alma mater and would go on to build one of the most respected Historically Black University/College (HBCU) programs in the nation.

Over the course of 33 seasons, Cador's teams won two HBCU national championships (2003, 2005), captured 14 **Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC)** championships and made 11 NCAA Regional appearances.

Along the way, he racked up 13 SWAC Coach of the Year awards, coached 10 players to All-America honors and 62 players were drafted by MLB teams, including 2003 Golden Spikes Award winner **Rickie Weeks**.

Among the many highlights in his illustrious career which spanned three decades, Cador holds the distinction of leading Southern as the first HBCU to win a game in an NCAA regional, upsetting No. 2 Cal State Fullerton, 1-0, in New Orleans in 1987. Over his career, Cador added two more NCAA tournament victories en route to posting a dozen 30-win seasons.

Weeks received the 2003 Golden Spikes Award as the top collegiate baseball player in the county, the first from a predominantly black school. Weeks was taken with the second overall pick in the 2003 MLB Draft by the Milwaukee Brewers, and would go on to have a stellar 14-year MLB career with four teams.

Throughout his career, Cador also helped bring baseball back to inner-city communities, working alongside Major League Baseball and their diversity task force.

A standout for the Jaguars from 1970-73, Cador played professionally in the Atlanta Braves organization from 1973-77 after leading Southern with a .393 batting average as a junior in 1972. Cador advanced all the way to the Class AAA Richmond Braves before returning to Southern where he served as an assistant baseball coach from 1978-84 while simultaneously working as a basketball assistant coach from 1980-84.

Cador was honored by the Southwestern Athletic Conference as a 2018 SWAC Hall of Fame inductee and was inducted into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame in the fall of 2019.