



Photo by Reggie Walston

SPRING IS IN THE AIR

SPRING SPORTS IN FULL BLOOM; VA. UNION GETS NEW WOMEN'S HOOPS COACH

INTRODUCING: Virginia Union AD Joe Taylor (l.) announces AnnMarie Gilbert (r.) as new Lady Panther basketball coach.

2015 BLACK COLLEGE BASEBALL (Results, Standings and Weekly Honors thru 4/20/15)

CIAA CONF ALL table with columns W, L, W, L and rows for Winston-Salem State, Virginia State, Chowan, St. Augustine's, Lincoln

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

PLAYER Joshua Markins, Sr. IF/RHP, VSU - Was 9 for 16 (.564) with 4 HRs including a grand slam, 6 runs scored, and 13 RBI. Also was winning pitcher in four games vs. Lincoln.

OFFENSE Conner Andrus, Sr., C, WSSU - Hit .667 (8 for 12) with 1 double, 1 HR and 4 RBI during 4-0 week.

PITCHER Evan Hart, Sr., RHP, CHOWAN - Threw 6 scoreless innings allowing one hit and 4 Ks vs. Bluefield State.

DEFENSE Jason Baytop, Jr., OF, SAU - Hit .571 with 1 double, 2 runs scored vs. WSSU. Also had 9 putouts with no errors.

COACH Kevin Titsche, WSSU - Had 4-0 week.

MEAC CONF ALL table with columns W, L, W, L and rows for Northern, Norfolk State, Maryland-E. Shore, Delaware State, Coppin State

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

PLAYER Mike Escanilla, Jr., 2B, UMES - Batted .600 (9-for-15) against GW and DelState. Scored five runs and had four hits, one triple, in 11-3 win over DSU.

PITCHER Devin Hammerich, So., P, NSU - Pitched his first complete game shutout in 8-0 win over Coppin State, scattering two hits and getting 8 Ks.

ROOKIE Alex Mauricio, Fr., SS, NSU - Had five hits on the week, three in 8-2 win over Coppin State. Also had three steals.

SIAC CONF ALL table with columns W, L, W, L and rows for East, Benedict, Claflin, Albany State, Paine, Morehouse, Clark Atlanta

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

PLAYER Paul Winterbottom, Sr., 3B, STILLMAN - Hit .714 (5-for-7) with two runs scored and two RBI.

PITCHER Jezreel Moore, So, P/OF, CLARK ATLANTA - Struck out three in seven innings.

SWAC DIV ALL table with columns W, L, W, L and rows for Eastern, Alabama State, Alabama A&M, Jackson State, Alcorn State, Miss. Valley State

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

PLAYER Cesar Rivera, Fr., ALABAMA STATE - Hit .579 with 8 runs scored, 4 doubles, 1 triple and 2 HRs with 7 RBI in four games. Had .636 OPB for the week.

PITCHER Tyler Howe, RHP, ALABAMA STATE - Earned first win in 7.1 innings and 6 Ks vs. Jacksonville State. Allowed just one earned run.

Josh Burchell, Jr., ALABAMA A&M - Pitched complete game shutout (10-0) vs. Alcorn State. Struck out 7, walked 3.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

GILBERT NEW WOMEN'S VUU COACH:

At a press conference on campus Tuesday, Virginia Union Athletic Director Joe Taylor introduced AnnMarie Gilbert as the school's new head women's basketball coach.



VUU Sports Photo

GILBERT: New VUU head coach comes off show cause ban from NCAA.

Gilbert, 46, a former outstanding player at Oberlin College, brings 20 years of coaching experience to her new job including a successful but controversial stint as the head coach at Eastern Michigan and five years as the top assistant at Michigan State.

She was the head coach at EMU from 2007-12 compiling a 94-54 record. As head coach, the Eagles had three consecutive 20-win seasons (2009-12) and received an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament in 2012. She led EMU to the Mid-American Conference Tournament championship in her final year (2012) with one of her players winning the Francis Pomeroy Naismith Award.

She abruptly resigned at EMU after the 2012 season and was later that year hit with a two-year show-cause ban from the NCAA for failing "to promote an atmosphere of compliance within the program," according to a release from the Div. I Committee on Infractions dated November 8th of that year.

The specific allegations, dating from the spring of 2007 through August of 2010, included exceeding practice hour limitations, overseeing impermissible weight training, summer workouts, on-campus tryouts and preseason and postseason athletic related activities. The show cause ban expired in November of 2014.

Gilbert coached most recently in the Michigan Crossover AAU program.

As a player, Gilbert averaged 31.1 points per game as a junior at Div. III Oberlin and 31.3 as a senior.

Gilbert is replacing Barvenia Wooten-Cherry, a former standout VUU player and member of the 1983 NCAA Division II national championship team, who stepped down after this season, her fifth leading the Lady Panthers. She compiled a 48-85 record over that span including a 9-18 overall and 4-12 record in the CIAA this season.

BCSP Notes

Shaw sweeps CIAA tennis titles

CHARLOTTE, NC - The Shaw Bears and Lady Bears claimed both the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Men's and Women's Championships in dramatic fashion after a grueling day of competition at the 2015 CIAA Men's and Women's Tennis Championships.

After cruising to early wins in semifinals play earlier in the day, the Bears and Lady Bears both had to step up to upset the top-seeded Chowan Hawks and Lady Hawks.

The Lady Bears took home the championship after taking a 5-3 win over the CIAA Northern Division champion and top-seeded Lady Hawks while the men's championship match went down to the wire with Shaw taking a clutch 5-4 win.

The Bears and Lady Bears had to overcome a pair of steep obstacles to take home the championships as both teams had just five players on their rosters and were hampered by forfeit losses at #3 doubles and #6 singles.

"I've been struggling all season long with my five players and for us to win here is just really, really special," Shaw men's and women's tennis head coach Sunday Enitan said following the win. In addition to overcoming a short-handed roster, the Bears and Lady Bears had to defeat a Chowan team that handed them a pair of losses earlier this season.

The women's match was a thrilling affair with Shaw taking a 5-3 win. The deciding point was scored at #2 singles when senior Jessica Medina took a 7-5, 6-4 win at #2 singles to seal the championship victory.

Things got interesting in the men's finals when Chowan posted a 6-4, 6-3 win at #2 singles and tied the score, 4-4, and set the stage for a thrilling end. With the conference championship on the line, Shaw's Juan Sanchez took a 7-5, 6-3 win at #4 singles to take the win. For his efforts, Sanchez was honored as the tournament MVP.

With the wins, the two teams claim the 2015 CIAA Men's and Women's Tennis Championships and will await selection to the 2015 NCAA Division II Atlantic Region Tournaments.

Saint Augustine's sweeps CIAA track titles

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - Saint Augustine's swept the CIAA Men's and Women's Outdoor Track and Field Championships at the Irwin Belk Complex on the Johnson C. Smith University campus that was completed Saturday.

The Falcons scored 158 points to win their 18th consecutive CIAA men's championship. Virginia Union was second with 132.5 and Johnson C. Smith finished third with 120 points.

The Lady Falcons scored 178 points to capture their 14th CIAA women's title in 19 years and first since 2010. Winston-Salem State was second with 161 points and Johnson C. Smith was third with 74 points. The last time the Falcons and Lady Falcons swept the CIAA championships was 2010.

Matthew Huckabee of Lincoln was named CIAA Men's Field Most Valuable Performer and Immanuel Hutchinson of Saint Augustine's was selected CIAA Men's Track MVP. Ebony Moore of Livingstone was chosen CIAA Women's Field MVP and Fanta Fofana of Saint Augustine's was selected CIAA Women's Track MVP.

The men's winners on Saturday were Andrew Alexander of Johnson C. Smith (javelin throw), David Shaw of Saint Augustine's (triple jump), Hutchinson of Saint Augustine's (1500-meter run, 800-meter run), Justin Williams of Virginia State (110-meter hurdles), Omar Johnson of Saint Augustine's (400-meter dash), Daniel Jamieson (100-meter dash), Patrick Campbell of Johnson C. Smith (400-meter hurdles), Burkheart Ellis, Jr. of Saint Augustine's (200-meter dash), Luis Nieves of Virginia Union (5000-meter run) and Huckabee of The Lincoln (discus throw).

Johnson C. Smith won the 4x100-meter relay in 40.15 seconds which tied the nation's best in Division II this season. Saint Augustine's was the winner in the 4x400-meter relay.

2015 BLACK COLLEGE SOFTBALL (Results, Standings and Weekly Honors thru 4/20/15)

CIAA CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

CIAA DIV CONFALL table with columns W, L, W, L, W, L and rows for North, Chowan, Virginia Union, Bowie State, Virginia State, Elizabeth City State, Lincoln, St. Augustine's, Fayetteville State, W-Salem State, J. C. Smith, Shaw, Livingstone

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

PLAYER Corey Hill, So., P/OF, SAU - Hit .471 with 2 doubles, 3 RBI and 4 runs scored in 5-1 week.

DEFENSIVE Danyelle Noland, Fr., SS/2B, SAU - 8 putouts, 10 assists no errors in 5-1 week, 4-0 vs. S. Div.

PITCHER Meranda Zanni, So., P/2B, SAU - Was 3-0 with 0.00 ERA in 21 innings, 3 complete game shutouts.

COACH Nikkie Bynum Bumpass, SAU - Guided Falcons to 4-0 CIAA mark, 5-1 overall.

MEAC MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

MEAC CONF ALL table with columns W, L, W, L and rows for Northern, Delaware State, Norfolk State, Hampton, Howard, Maryland-E. Shore, Coppin State, Morgan State, Savannah State, Bethune-Cookman, Florida A&M, NC A&T, S. C. State, NC Central

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

PLAYER Sandy Hawthorne, Jr., C, DSU - Hit .600 (9-for-15) with three multi-hit games.

PITCHER Tara Tursellino, So., P, DSU - Went 4-0 including first career no-hitter in 12-win over Morgan State. Registered 16 strikeouts in 26.1 innings.

ROOKIE Vanessa Washington, Fr., 1B, DSU - Went 10 for 20 (.500) in five wins. Was 4-for-5 with 2 runs, 1 double and 4 RBI in win over Norfolk State.

SIAC SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

SIAC CONF ALL table with columns W, L, W, L and rows for East, Albany State, Fort Valley State, Claflin, Benedict, Clark Atlanta, Paine, Spring Hill, Stillman, Kentucky State, Tuskegee, Miles, LeMoyn-Owen

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

PLAYER Rachel Shelton, So., DP/OF, STILLMAN - Had eight hits in six games, four HRs, 22 total bases in 5-1 week.

PITCHER Kristina Kelly, Sr., RHP, STILLMAN - Four starts and 4-0 record, three complete games. Over 27.1 innings, struck out 12 and allowed 12 earned runs in 5-1 week.

SWAC SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

SWAC DIV ALL table with columns W, L, W, L and rows for Eastern, Jackson State, Alabama State, Miss. Valley State, Alabama A&M, Alcorn State, Texas Southern, Southern, Grambling State, Prairie View, Arkansas Pine Bluff

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

HITTER Kiara Suttles, Fr., C, SOUTHERN - Was 5 of 8 at the plate (.626) with 3 RBI, 2 doubles and 2 HRs, 4 runs scored and 7 putouts in weekend series vs. Prairie View.

PITCHER Chelsea King, Fr., ALABAMA STATE - Third straight week with honor after pitching 13 innings allowing 2 runs (1 earned) on seven hits and 9 Ks. Leads conference with 1.26 ERA in 50 innings.