



DelState Sports Photo

**RODNEY GUNTER:** Del-State D-lineman goes to Arizona midway through the fourth round. First of four from HBCUs.

## DRAFT CRASHER

**CIAA, MEAC AND SIAC SPRING CHAMPS; NEW AD AT GRAMBLING, SID AT TUSKEGEE**

## UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

### SIMMONS INTERIM AD AT GRAMBLING;

GRAMBLING, LA - **Obadiah Simmons, Jr.** has been named the interim athletics director at **Grambling State University**.

Simmons, a 35-year veteran of Grambling, most recently served as the interim head and director of the Department of Kinesiology, Sport and Leisure Studies and was the recipient of the Robert L. Piper Endowed Professorship in Health and Physical Education. Prior to joining that department in 2008, Simmons worked in numerous administrative capacities at GSU in enrollment management, academic support, total quality management and student affairs.

As the interim athletics director, Simmons will provide administrative direction and oversight for Grambling's 17-sport athletics program.

Simmons is a native of Inkster, Mich., and a three-year letterman of Grambling's baseball team from 1972-1974. He received his bachelor's degree in secondary education from Grambling in 1974, earned his master's degree in physical education from the University of North Carolina in 1976 and earned his doctoral degree in educational administration from Texas A&M University in 1988.

Simmons has served as Chair of the NCAA Athletics Certification Self-Study Steering Committee (2006-2008), chair of the Grambling State University Athletic Council (2008-Present), University Policy Review Committee member (2008-Present), and Institutional Representative for the Southwestern Athletic Conference Hall of Fame Nominating Committee (2006-Present).

### TUSKEGEE GETS NEW SID:

**Tuskegee** Athletics Director **Curtis Campbell** has announced the hiring of former Troy Assistant Media Relations Director, **Travis Jarome**, as the new Sports Information Director for the Golden Tigers.

Jarome succeeds **LaMonica Scott**, who left to take a similar position at **Mississippi Valley State**.

## THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

### 2015 BLACK COLLEGE UNDRAFTED FREE AGENT NFL SIGNINGS

#### ARIZONA

Alfy Hill, DL, Winston-Salem State  
Phillip Sims, QB, Winston-Salem State

#### ATLANTA

Mike Lee, DB, Fort Valley State

#### BALTIMORE

Jerry Lovelocke, QB, Prairie View A&M

#### BUFFALO

Erik Williams, DE, Bethune-Cookman

#### CAROLINA

Arthur Miley, DT, Southern

#### CLEVELAND

Travis Lee, DB, Miles  
DeAnte Saunders, DB, Tennessee State

#### DALLAS

Brandon Bridge, QB, South Alabama (Alcorn State)

#### GREEN BAY

Marcus Reed, OL, Fayetteville State  
Tavarus Dantzler, LB, Bethune-Cookman

#### HOUSTON

Lynden Trail, DE, Norfolk State  
Khari Lee, TE, Bowie State

#### NEW YORK JETS

Davon Walls, DT, Lincoln (MO)

#### PITTSBURGH

Nigel Crawford-Kinney, DT, Saint Augustine's

#### SEATTLE

Keenan Lambert, DB, Norfolk State

#### WASHINGTON

Jacquise Lockett, RB, Kentucky State

# DelState's Gunter leads four in NFL Draft

### LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

Longtime **Howard** Sports Information Director **Ed Hill** said back in November after the Bison hosted **Delaware State** in an MEAC football game that Hornets' defensive tackle **Rodney Gunter** was going to play in the NFL.

"He just looked like an NFL player," Hill said then. "He disrupted everything we tried to do."

Well, Hill appears clairvoyant after the 6-5, 305-pound Gunter, a four-year starter and three-time all-MEAC defender, was the first black college player selected in last week's NFL Draft, going to the Arizona Cardinals with the 17th pick in the fourth round, 116th overall.

Gunter was perhaps the most surprising of four HBCU products to go off the boards on Saturday when the final four rounds of the draft (4th thru 7th) were completed.

He was the first player selected in this year's draft who was not invited to the NFL Combine. Gunter didn't appear on most draft boards but made visits to ten teams. He was known and coveted by the Cardinals who took him when word leaked to their brass that another team was about to select him.

Twenty picks after Gunter, 6-2, 187-pound **Texas Southern** cornerback **Tray Walker** was selected by the Baltimore Ravens with the 37th pick in the fourth round, 136th overall.

In the fifth round, the Ravens added 6-5, 326-pound offensive lineman **Robert Myers** of **Tennessee State**, thought to be the highest-rated black college player, with the 40th and final pick of that round, 176th overall.

In the seventh round, the Oakland Raiders drafted Myers' TSU teammate and fellow offensive lineman, 6-6, 290-pound **Anthony Morris** with the first pick, 218th overall.

The four HBCU products were the most since four were selected in 2011. Only five had been selected in the previous three years (two in 2012, one in 2013 and two last season).

To get Gunter, the Cardinals traded their 123rd pick in the fourth round to Cleveland for the 116th pick, and sent the Browns their 198th (6th round) and 241st (7th round picks). The Cardinals made the move to grab Gunter when

### BLACK COLLEGE PLAYERS IN 2015 NFL DRAFT



ARIZONA  
**Rodney Gunter**  
6-5, 305, DL  
**Delaware State**  
4th Round - 17th pick  
116th overall



BALTIMORE  
**Tray Walker**  
6-2, 187, DB  
**Texas Southern**  
4th Round - 37th pick  
136th overall



BALTIMORE  
**Robert Myers**  
6-5, 326, OL  
**Tennessee State**  
5th Round - 40th pick  
176th overall



OAKLAND  
**Anthony Morris**  
6-6, 290, OL  
**Tennessee State**  
7th Round - 1st pick  
218th overall

word leaked to Arizona General Manager Steve Keim that the San Francisco 49ers were about to take him.

"A lot of fans are probably going to say, 'Who is Rodney Gunter?'" Keim said on the Cardinals' website. "I have a strong conviction, Coach (Brice Arians) has a strong conviction, in the next couple of years our fans will know real well who Rodney Gunter is."

Area scout Zac Canty was the first to pull the Cardinals' attention to Gunter, and as the Cardinals looked more at him, they liked what they saw. Then defensive line coach Brentson Buckner went to work Gunter out.

"My man (Buckner) got off the plane and he was foaming at the mouth," Keim said.

Added Arians, "Buck went to work 18 to

22 guys out, and he came back raving about this guy's athletic ability."

"I'm very surprised," Gunter said. "I was expecting to go in a later round, around five, six, seven. God blessed me to be in a position to go fourth round. It's a dream come true."

He was told by the Cardinals he could play outside rush on the defensive line on first and second down (in base packages) and then play inside, pushing the pocket in sub packages. As for his talent, he went so far as to compare himself to NFL Defensive Player of the Year J. J. Watt of Houston.

"I could potentially be the next J. J. Watt," he said.

Walker was second team all-SWAC last season after recording 41 tackles, three interceptions and four pass break-ups. He was a three-year contributor for the Tigers and finished his career with six interceptions.

With his ball skills and length, Walker has the potential to develop into a contributor in the Ravens' defensive backfield. He's viewed as a raw prospect who could stand to gain experience before being thrown into the fire.

The Ravens added another big body in Myers, who has four years of starting experience at TSU. He was twice named an All-Ohio Valley Conference pick while racking up 35 starts at right guard and right tackle. He moved to guard on a full-time basis last season and was a second-team all-conference pick at that position.

Myers, who performed well at both the Combine and Senior Bowl, is projected as a future starter for the Ravens at guard.

Morris, an offensive tackle, started ten games last year for TSU, his first year as a starter after spending three years as a reserve. Morris was picked to solidify the Raiders offensive line and provide depth. He has the potential to be a solid everyday tackle for the Raiders in the future after some NFL polishing.

Myers and Morris are two of four Tennessee State offensive linemen selected in the last two years of the Draft.

**Kadeem Edwards** was a fifth round pick of Tampa Bay last season while **Demetrius Rhaney** was taken in the seventh round by St. Louis.

## BCSP Notes

### Winston-Salem State takes fifth straight CIAA Baseball title

RALEIGH, N.C. - **Winston-Salem State** capped another stellar conference season with its fifth straight CIAA baseball championship after stopping **Virginia State** 8-3 at the USA Baseball National Training Complex Saturday.

The Rams, ranked 26th nationally, will now await the regional pairings to find out who and where they will play in the NCAA Division II Tournament. They gained the automatic bid by winning the CIAA championship. The selection show is on May 10.

The top seed Rams (38-13 overall) added another league crown by defeating the No. 3 seed Trojans (25-18 overall) twice in two days. In Friday's contest, both teams combined for 28 hits in an 8-4 Rams' victory in the winner's bracket.

CIAA Player of the Year **Conner Andrus** of WSSU was named Tournament MVP

### St. Augustine's wins CIAA Softball title

RALEIGH, N.C. - **Saint Augustine's** capped a tremendous run in the conference tournament with an 8-2 victory over **Chowan** for the CIAA Softball Championship at Walnut Creek Softball Complex Sunday.

The Lady Falcons were led by tournament MVP **Meranda Zanni** and All-CIAA Tournament picks **Marley Parker** and **Hannah Stutts**.

They won their first title since 1991 and earned their first-ever NCAA Division II Tournament berth.

St. Aug.'s (20-12) will play at No. 1 California (Pa.) (35-10) Friday at 1 p.m. in an Atlantic Region I first round Div. II playoff game.

### Bethune-Cookman men, Florida A&M women win MEAC Outdoor Track & Field titles

GREENSBORO, N.C. - The **Bethune-Cookman** men and **Florida A&M** women won the 2015 **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** (MEAC) Outdoor Track and Field Championships at the Irwin Belk Track on the campus of **North Carolina A&T**.

The Wildcats tallied 139 points to win their second consecutive MEAC Men's title. A&T followed closely in second place with 138

points, while **Hampton** finished third with 93 points.

The men's meet came down to the 4x400 relay as North Carolina A&T finished fourth to record five points, but the Wildcats placed eighth to get the one point needed to win the title.

BCU's **Kenneth Fisher** recorded 21 points to earn the Outstanding Field Athlete award. Fisher finished second in the high jump and long jump, while placing fourth in the triple jump.

**Maryland Eastern Shore's Khalil Rmidi Kinini** set records in the 1500m and 5000m and won the 3000m steeplechase and was named the Outstanding Runner. BCU's **Donald Cooper** was selected as the Men's Track and Field Outstanding Coach for the second time.

**Hampton's Trey Holloway** set a new MEAC record in the 100 meter hurdles, with a time of 13.57. Holloway broke the record set by Bethune-Cookman's **Ronnie Ash** in 2008 (13.57).

Florida A&M tallied 111 points to win their first MEAC Women's Outdoor title since 2000 and 10th overall. Hampton placed second with 105 points, while Bethune-Cookman finished third with 92.33 points.

Norfolk State's **Kiara Howell** registered 25 points to earn her second consecutive Outstanding Field Athlete award. Hampton's **Ce'aira Brown** repeated the Outstanding Runner honor after posting 28.50 points. Florida A&M's **Darlene Moore** was selected as the Women's Outstanding Coach. Bethune-Cookman's **Tristie Johnson** broke her own meet record in the 100 meter dash, with a time of 11.26.

### Albany State dethrones Stillman for SIAC Baseball crown

COLUMBIA, S.C. - Sophomore **Jeremy Arrington** recorded three hits and two RBIs to lead **Albany State** to the 2015 **SIAC** Baseball Championship with a 9-5 victory over **Stillman**. With the win, ASU wins its first SIAC title since 2010.

The Golden Rams, who started the season with a 1-16 overall record, improve to 20-32 overall and receive an automatic bid to the 2015 NCAA Regional Playoffs, which will be held May 14-17. Opponents and sites will be determined on May 10.

Stillman, winners of the last four SIAC championships, ends its season at 14-21.

### 2015 BLACK COLLEGE BASEBALL & SOFTBALL (Results, Standings and Weekly Honors thru 5/4/15)

#### MEAC

| BASEBALL          | MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE |     |      |     |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----|------|-----|
|                   | CONF                            | ALL | CONF | ALL |
| NORTHERN          | W                               | L   | W    | L   |
| Norfolk State     | 19                              | 5   | 23   | 13  |
| Maryland-E. Shore | 14                              | 10  | 16   | 30  |
| Delaware State    | 13                              | 11  | 14   | 27  |
| Coppin State      | 2                               | 22  | 3    | 38  |
| SOUTHERN          |                                 |     |      |     |
| Florida A&M       | 15                              | 9   | 19   | 23  |
| Bethune-Cookman   | 14                              | 10  | 16   | 37  |
| NC Central        | 12                              | 11  | 19   | 27  |
| Savannah State    | 12                              | 12  | 19   | 30  |
| NC A&T            | 6                               | 17  | 9    | 36  |

#### PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

**Jaylen Zielecki**, So., 1B/LHP, **DSU** - Hit .454 (5-for-11) with 5 RBI, 3 HRs, 4 runs scored vs. Towson and UMES. Had 12 Ks in 6.1 innings vs. UMES.  
**PITCHER**  
**Devin Hemmerich**, So., LHP, **NSU** - Pitched first career no-hitter and fifth in school history in 6-1 win over Coppin State. Matched career high with 10 Ks in 7 innings.  
**ROOKIE**  
**Roger Hall**, r-So., IF, **NSU** - Totalled 6 hits, 6 RBI, 4 runs, 1 double and 1 triple vs. VSI and CSU.

#### MEAC

| SOFTBALL          | MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE |     |      |     |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----|------|-----|
|                   | CONF                            | ALL | CONF | ALL |
| NORTHERN          | W                               | L   | W    | L   |
| Delaware State    | 14                              | 4   | 20   | 13  |
| Norfolk State     | 13                              | 5   | 14   | 25  |
| Hampton           | 11                              | 6   | 19   | 24  |
| Howard            | 8                               | 10  | 14   | 27  |
| Morgan State      | 7                               | 10  | 8    | 30  |
| Coppin State      | 5                               | 13  | 5    | 31  |
| Maryland-E. Shore | 4                               | 14  | 7    | 32  |
| SOUTHERN          |                                 |     |      |     |
| Savannah State    | 13                              | 1   | 20   | 15  |
| Bethune-Cookman   | 11                              | 3   | 18   | 27  |
| Florida A&M       | 7                               | 7   | 13   | 35  |
| NC A&T            | 6                               | 9   | 14   | 29  |
| NC Central        | 4                               | 10  | 18   | 27  |
| S. C. State       | 2                               | 13  | 8    | 30  |

#### PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

**Torrian Wright**, Jr., 1B, **SSU** - Hit .750 (6-for-8) with 1 HR, 1 double, 5 runs scored and 3 RBI in sweep of SCSU.  
**PITCHER**  
**Tara Tursellino**, So., P, **DSU** - Earned two wins and one save vs. UMES. Allowed 6 hits and 1 earned run with 12 Ks in 14.2 innings.  
**ROOKIE**  
**Vanessa Washington**, Fr., 1B, **DSU** - Went 4-for-6 including two doubles with two RBI and 3 runs in three-game sweep of UMES.

#### SWAC

| BASEBALL           | SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE |     |     |     |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
|                    | DIV                              | ALL | DIV | ALL |
| EASTERN            | W                                | L   | W   | L   |
| Alabama State      | 18                               | 6   | 30  | 15  |
| Alabama A&M        | 16                               | 8   | 25  | 24  |
| Jackson State      | 15                               | 9   | 29  | 20  |
| Alcorn State       | 7                                | 17  | 14  | 37  |
| Miss. Valley State | 4                                | 20  | 7   | 36  |
| WESTERN            |                                  |     |     |     |
| Ark. Pine Bluff    | 16                               | 6   | 23  | 16  |
| Texas Southern     | 16                               | 7   | 25  | 16  |
| Southern           | 13                               | 8   | 16  | 22  |
| Grambling State    | 7                                | 17  | 9   | 33  |
| Prairie View       | 5                                | 19  | 15  | 34  |

#### PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

**Andrew Utterback**, Fr., **ALABAMA STATE** - Went 6-for-11, hitting .647 with 3 RBI, 1 HR and four runs scored vs. Alabama A&M.  
**PITCHER**  
**Tyler Howe**, **ALABAMA STATE** - Pitched 6.2 innings of no-hit ball, allowing no hits and one walk with career-high 13 strikeouts.

#### SWAC

| SOFTBALL            | SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE |     |     |     |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
|                     | DIV                              | ALL | DIV | ALL |
| EASTERN             | W                                | L   | W   | L   |
| Jackson State       | 12                               | 4   | 22  | 24  |
| Alabama State       | 11                               | 7   | 17  | 31  |
| Miss. Valley State  | 8                                | 7   | 13  | 31  |
| Alabama A&M         | 7                                | 9   | 17  | 23  |
| Alcorn State        | 0                                | 14  | 2   | 31  |
| WESTERN             |                                  |     |     |     |
| Texas Southern      | 14                               | 3   | 21  | 16  |
| Southern            | 11                               | 5   | 15  | 12  |
| Prairie View        | 7                                | 9   | 9   | 25  |
| Grambling State     | 7                                | 10  | 9   | 27  |
| Arkansas Pine Bluff | 3                                | 14  | 6   | 34  |

#### PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

**HITTER**  
**Perry Hindi**, So., UTIL, **ALABAMA STATE** - Was 3-for-5 with a triple, run scored and 3 RBI vs. Middle Tennessee.  
**PITCHER**  
**Madison Stoton**, Jr., **TEXAS SOUTHERN** - Tossed three strikeouts while only giving up three walks vs. Grambling. Allowed one hit and no runs.