

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



NC A&T Sports Photo

TOP PERFORMER: NC A&T's Kayla White had four firsts in MEAC Outdoor Track championships.

SPRING WRAP-UP

PUGH BOLTS SOUTHERN FOR PRAIRIE VIEW; SPRING CHAMPS IN ALL FOUR CONFERENCES

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

PUGH LEAVES SOUTHERN FOR PV:

Sandy Pugh has been named the new head women's basketball coach at **Prairie View A&M University**.



PUGH

Pugh spent the previous 18 seasons as head coach at **Southern University** (2000-18), leading the Jaguars to seven outright or shared **Southwestern Athletic Conference** regular season titles. She also led Southern to four SWAC Tournament titles, four NCAA Tournament berths, and four NIT appearances. Pugh is a four-time SWAC Coach of the Year, including this past season when she led the Jaguars to the SWAC Regular Season title. Pugh, who also served in 2011-12 as Southern's interim Athletics Director, led Southern to 15 seasons of .500 or better, including 13 winning seasons, five seasons of 20+ wins, and more than 300 victories during her tenure.

She succeeds **Ravon Justice** who, after two years, left in April to become head basketball coach at Sam Houston State.

PRAIRIE VIEW (M); BAMA STATE (W) TAKE SWAC TRACK TITLES

PRAIRIE VIEW, Texas – For the first time in a decade, the **Prairie View A&M Panthers** men are **Southwestern Athletic Conference** Outdoor Track and Field champions, besting **Alabama State** and **Jackson State** behind clutch victories in field action.

PVAMU scored 167 points. In second was Alabama State (161) followed by Jackson State (160). Up by two points heading into the final event, Prairie View A&M (3:09.81) managed a second-place finish behind **Texas Southern** (3:09.60) to seal the title, as Alabama State and Jackson State faded during the stretch run of the relay. UAPB finished third at 3:13.42.

Jackson State distance runners **Vincent Langat** and **Henry Kiplagat** (28 points) finished as Co-Most Outstanding Track Performers after winning a combined four gold medals. **Alabama A&M's Akeem Samuels** won two gold medals in throwing events to earn Most Outstanding Field Performer (25 points). Prairie View A&M's **Chris Clay** was named Coach of the Year.

Alabama State walked away with their seventh consecutive Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) women's championship.

Alabama State won its first championship at Prairie View A&M, winning the cross country championship back in 2000 and the win this weekend marked the 30th title for Alabama State head coach **Ritchie Beene** as the head coach of the program, and the 41st overall on the coaching staff.

Alabama State claimed six individual titles on their way to 218 points, winning the championship by 62 points over second place Prairie View A&M. UAPB and **Grambling State** each tied for third place.

ALL-SWAC SOFTBALL TEAM NAMED:

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – **Texas Southern** senior pitcher **Lauren Rodriguez** was named the **Southwestern Athletic Conference** 2018 Softball Player and Pitcher (11-1, 2.14 ERA) of the Year as the league announced its softball postseason honors Monday morning.

The team was chosen via a vote among the conference's head coaches and sports information directors.

Alcorn State senior infelder **Taylor Hughes** won her second straight Hitter of the Year award (.350, 26 RBI), fellow Lady Brave **Paige Taylor** received the Newcomer of the Year award (3-7).

Texas Southern's **Julia Bilbao** (.324, 15 RBI) was honored as freshman of the year and Alabama A&M's **Nakeya Hall** (21-19) was voted the SWAC Coach of the Year.

ALL-SWAC SOFTBALL FIRST TEAM

1B – Taylor Hughes, ALC; 2B – Jocilynn Ellis, TSU; 3B – Kristin Gunter, ALST; SS – Tiana Sanders, ALA&M; C – Kiara Suttles, SU; OF – Tonny Hawkins, UAPB, Sydney Andrews, SU, Mariah Ortiz, ALCE; DP – Charlene Castro, ALST; P – Lauren Rodriguez, TSU, Jasmin Fulmore, TSU, Crystal Castillo, PV A&M

ALL-SWAC SOFTBALL SECOND TEAM

1B – Sierra Valdez, TSU; 2B – Tamia-Lee Barbadillo, ALA&M; 3B – Ariel Smith, ALA&M; SS – Dominique Tello, TSU; C – Marissa Padron, TSU; OF – Kelsey Smith, JSU, Kailyn Dunn, MVSU, Amira James, ALST; DP – Jazmine Dukes, SU; P – Justine Jean, ALST, Winter Ridgeway, ALC, Lauren Hayden, AL A&M

Spring Championship Recaps

Three HBCU squads in D2 Softball playoffs

INDIANAPOLIS — The NCAA Division II Softball Committee has selected the 64 teams that will participate in the 2018 NCAA Division II Softball Championship and three teams come from HBCUs.

Four teams will participate at each of the 16 regional sites in double-elimination tournaments, held May 10-12.

In the Atlantic Region No. 1, **CIAA** champion and #8 seed **Chowan** (31-14) will face top seeded West Chester (40-13) Thursday (May 10) at 1:00 pm in Lock Haven, PA

Mountain East champion and 7th seeded **West Virginia State** (34-20) will meet 2nd seeded West Virginia Wesleyan (40-12) in Atlantic Region #2 in Buchanan, WV

SIAC champ **Albany State** (29-22), seeded 8th in the South Region, will begin its championship quest facing top-seeded Palm Beach Atlantic (33-6) in West Palm Beach, FL

Winners will advance to the super regionals, slated for May 17-18. The finals will be held May 24-28 at the Moyer Sports Complex in Salem, Virginia and will be hosted by the Mountain East Conference and the city of Salem, site of this year's CIAA softball championship.

Chowan repeats in CIAA softball

Salem, VA (May 2, 2018) – **Chowan** was crowned back-to-back **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association** (CIAA) Softball Champion after a perfect 4-0 tournament appearance and 8-0 victory over **Fayetteville State** in the final championship contest.

Hawks pitcher and the 2018 CIAA Softball Championship MVP **Shannon Buchanan** had a one-hitter for the game while only walking three batters and striking out four. Meanwhile, teammate **Lindsey Stigler** led the team's batting efforts with 4 RBIs on three at-bats.



The Hawks (31-14) is seeded 8th in Atlantic Region 1 and will face top seed West Chester (40-13) Thursday in Buchanan, West Virginia.

CIAA SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

Ashlyn Zook | FSU; Shi-Cara Goins | FSU; Marley Parker | SAU; Francis Perry | SU; Nicoleen Ochoa | BSU; Shontel Linette | VUU; Sam Gibbs | WSSU; HaLee Knowles | FSU; Kiana Rogers | SU; Tamiera Sanchez | SAU; Tia Robinson | WSSU; MVP: Shannon Buchanan | CU

NC A&T (M), FAMU (W) take MEAC Track crowns

GREENSBORO, N.C. - It took winning the final event of the day, but **North Carolina A&T** won the men's 2018 **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** (MEAC) Outdoor Track & Field championship on Saturday at Irwin Belk Track.

A strong Thursday and Friday, and a late push on Saturday, propelled **Florida A&M** to the 2018 women's title.

The Aggies won their second straight title and fifth overall. They tallied 153 points to **Bethune-Cookman's** 150. As a result of Saturday's win, the Aggies become the first back-to-back men's champions since Bethune-Cookman's three consecutive titles from 2014-16. N.C. A&T's second straight MEAC title marks its first back-to-back crowns since winning three straight titles from 1994 to 1996.

The Lady Rattlers tallied 179.5 points edging defending champ North Carolina A&T by just .5 points. Florida A&M won its third title in four years and its 12th overall. The Lady Rattlers came into the day with a sizeable lead, thanks largely to their performances in field events and distance races. But the defending champion Aggies chipped away at the lead, taking the top spot briefly after the 200-meter dash. FAMU answered immediately in the 5,000-meter run to take an insurmountable lead heading into the 4x400-meter relay.

Darlene Moore of FAMU was named the women's Outstanding Coach. **Taylor Gorum** was named the Outstanding Field Performer.

A&T's **Taylor White** broke her own MEAC record in winning the 100-meter hurdles, turning in a 12.91 to take gold for the second straight year. Her teammates **Madeleine Akobundu** (13.13) and **TeJyrica Robinson** (13.40) were second and third to sweep the podium. White also won the 100-meter dash, turning in an 11.24, the 200-meter dash with a 22.98 time and ran the anchor on the Aggies' winning 4x100 relay squad. White was named the meet's Most Outstanding Runner.

Her title in the 200-meter dash gave the Aggies the team lead over Florida A&M, 169-166.5. But Florida A&M took the lead right back by placing three in the top eight in the women's 5,000-meter, going up on the Aggies 179.5-169. Rounding out the top five in the women's team standings were Bethune-Cookman in third with 120.5 points, Hampton with 119 and Norfolk State with 68.

North Carolina A&T held a one-point lead over Bethune-Cookman in the men's competition heading into the final event, the 4x400-meter relay.

While the Wildcats were game, the quartet of **Justin Hamilton**, **Trevor Stewart**, **Dajuan Harding** and **Michael Dickson** ran an outdoor-record 3:04.75 to edge Bethune-Cookman for the title.

A&T coach **Duane Ross** was again named Outstanding Coach for the men, and **Jeremiah Peters** of Bethune-Cookman was named the Outstanding Field Performer. **Wesley Kirui of Hampton** won his third event of the meet, taking gold in the 1,500-meter run with a 3:54.96, before winning his fourth event by taking the 5,000-meter run with a 15:17.82. He was named the meet's Outstanding Runner, and his 40 points are a MEAC outdoor record for an individual in the MEAC Championships.

A&T opened the men's running events by taking the 4x100-meter relay with a time of 39.42. **Michael Bell**, **Joel Thomas**, **Dickson** and **Rodney Rowe** were the foursome to win the title. Dickson also added a title in the men's 110-meter hurdles with a 13.59. Rowe ran a 20.42 to take the gold medal in the 200-meter dash. That result helped the Aggies take the team lead over Bethune-Cookman, 143-140.

Rounding out the top five in the team men's standings were Hampton in third with 131 points, Florida A&M in fourth with 65 points and Morgan State fifth with 60.

FIRST TEAM (Men)

Joseph Amoah, CSU (100m), Rodney Rowe, NCAT (200m, 4x100), Tyrell Richard, SCSU (400m), Michael Dickson, NCAT (110h, 4x100, 4x400), Jaelen Williams, HAM (400h), Michael Bell, NCAT (4x100), Joel Thomas, NCAT (4x100), Justin Hamilton, NCAT (4x400), Trevor Stewart, NCAT (4x400), Dajuan Harding, NCAT (4x400), Jonathan Moore, B-CU (800m), Wesley Kirui, HAM (1,500m, 5,000m, 10,000m, Steeple), Jacob Milton, NSU (HJ), Dominic Harper, B-CU (Pole), Lloyd Hylton, MSU (LJ), Malik Franklin, SSU (TJ), Robert Duncan, DSU (Discus), Jeremiah Peters, B-CU (Shot), Derrick Wheeler, NCAT (Hammer), Judah Corriette, MDES (Javelin), Jerrick Powell, HAM (Dec)

FIRST TEAM (Women)

Kayla White, NCAT (100m, 200m, 100h, 4x100), Asia Joe, B-CU (400m), Martha Bissah, NSU (800m, 1,500m), Lea Tshikaya, B-CU (400h), Tori Ray, NCAT (4x100, 4x400), India Brown, NCAT (4x100), Jadzia Beasley, NCAT (4x100), Sun-Sara Williams, NCAT (4x400), Payton Russell, NCAT (4x400), Nia Lundy, NCAT (4x400), Nancy Murgor, FAMU (Steeple), Faith Keitany, HAM (5,000m), Janet Okeago, HAM (10,000m), Quamecha Morrison, B-CU (HJ), Morgan Knight, NCAT (Pole), Monae Nichols, B-CU (LJ), Anisa Toppin, NCAT (TJ), Taylor Gorum, FAMU (Discus), Loren James, NCAT (Shot), Onnika Scott, FAMU (Hammer), Brittany Corbett, FAMU (Javelin), Ed Quisha Alvin, FAMU (Hept)

Albany State coasts to SIAC baseball title

ALBANY- **Albany State** left little doubt from the first pitch of Sunday's **SIAC** Baseball Championship.

The Golden Rams opened the first inning with a 12-0 scoring outburst and coasted to a 19-2 victory over **Kentucky State** to claim the 2018 SIAC baseball title in a shortened seven innings. This represents the Rams' tenth conference title in school history, their first since 2015.

Tyler Wilcher went the distance in the championship game, striking out six while allowing two earned runs.

Nic Griggs finished the afternoon a home run short of hitting for the cycle and **Tyler Morris** was the named the tournament's most valuable player. **Michael Reddick**, **Trey McMillan** and **Riliani Familia** were also tabbed for the 2018 All-Tournament Team.



Albany State captures SIAC softball title

ALBANY, GA- The **Albany State** Golden Rams held off **Kentucky State** 4-3 to capture the 2018 **SIAC** Softball Championship Saturday afternoon at Gordon Park.

Albany State capped the school's first ever undefeated (19-0) SIAC season by running the table at this year's tournament, the only team not to drop a game during championship play.

ASU's starting pitchers **Aryn McGowan** and **Lauren Lowrey** were both named to the All-Tournament team as was **Lavette Tucker**, whose walk-off single on Friday propelled the Golden Rams into the title game.

The Golden Rams (29-22) got the SIAC's automatic playoff berth and are seeded eighth in the South Region. They will play at top seed Palm Beach Atlantic (33-6) in Thursday's NCAA Division II playoffs 1st round.

McGowan secured tournament MVP honors after entering the game in relief of Lowrey with the bases loaded and no outs in the top of the fourth inning.

ALL TOURNAMENT TEAM

Kendruena McPherson, MIL; Jacey Gray, CAU; Ericka Webster, LNE; Kaela Robinson, CLAF; Tiaria Norman, CLAF; Alysha Sakamura, KSU; Chante Thome, KSU; Lauren Lowry, ALB; Lavette Tucker, ALB; Aryn McGowan, ALB - Tournament MVP Amber Barker, ALB - Coach of the Tournament

St. Aug's sweeps CIAA Outdoor Track titles

Bowie, MD - The Falcons of **Saint Augustine's University** swept the men's and women's titles at the **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association** (CIAA) Outdoor Track and Field Championships at Bowie State University on Sunday.

The outdoor sweep is the first for the Falcons and Lady Falcons since the 2015 season. This year, they also swept both men's and women's indoor and outdoor conference titles for the first time in the same year since 2010.

SAU claimed its 21st straight men's outdoor conference crown and 38th in 40 seasons after entering the day trailing by 25 points to **Virginia State** in the two-day meet. The Falcons finished the meet outscoring Virginia State 202-189 for the championship. **Virginia Union** was third with 78 points followed by **Lincoln (Pa.)** (61), **Johnson C. Smith** (47), **Livingstone** (37) and **Bowie State** (35).

SAU's women won their 15th title in 22 seasons and first since 2015 after starting the day in fourth place. The Lady Falcons outdistanced second place Virginia State 157-155. Bowie State was third with 87.5 points followed by **Shaw** (83), **Winston-Salem State** (77.5), Johnson C. Smith (38), Livingstone (35), and Lincoln (Pa.) (20).

Kyla Frank of Virginia State was the Women's Track Most Valuable Performer and **Magaly Tshipopo** of Saint Augustine's won Women's Field MVP. Frank won the 1500m run and was second in the 800m run in addition to helping the 4x400m relay team place third. Tshipopo swept the long jump, high jump, and triple jump.

For the men, **Brandon Valentine-Parris** of Saint Augustine earned Men's Track MVP honors and **Justin Williams** (SAU) took Men's Field MVP. Valentine-Parris won the 200m and 400m dashes and was a member of the winning 4x100m and 4x400m relay teams. Williams won the triple jump and finished third in the long jump, tied for fourth in the high jump, and placed fourth in the pole vault and javelin throw.

NCAA Division II Outdoor Track & Field Nationals will be held May 24-26, 2018 on the campus of Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina. For more information on NCAA Division II Nationals, visit www.ncaa.com.

2018 BLACK COLLEGE BASEBALL

MEAC

NORTHERN	MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE		CONF				ALL			
	W	L	W	L	T	W	L	W	L	T
Coppin State	18	4	19	21	1					
Norfolk State	13	10	17	25	0					
Maryland-E. Shore	8	16	12	37	0					
Delaware State	7	16	9	35	0					
SOUTHERN										
North Carolina A&T	14	7	23	26	0					
Florida A&M	14	7	23	26	0					
Bethune-Cookman	12	9	18	31	0					
North Carolina Central	11	13	27	23	0					
Savannah State	3	18	6	32	0					

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

COREY JOYCE, So., NCCU - Hit .643 (9-for-14) with 8 RBI, 6 runs scored, 1 HR, 5 BBs and 5 SBs in four games.
PITCHER
Jonathan Figueroa, So., NCCU - In three appearances, six shutout innings giving up just four hits with 8 Ks.
ROOKIE
Marcus Costello, Fr., CSU - Hit .600 (6-for-10) in 3 games vs. DSU with 5 RBI, 5 runs scored.

SWAC

EAST	SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE		DIV				ALL			
	W	L	W	L	T	W	L	W	L	T
Alabama State	15	6	24	20						
Jackson State	17	7	28	15						
Miss. Valley State	9	12	11	28						
Alabama A&M	7	14	10	35						
Alcorn State	6	15	11	32						
WEST										
Texas Southern	15	5	21	24						
Grambling State	13	8	22	19						
Arkansas Pine Bluff	10	9	18	19						
Prairie View A&M	7	14	12	29						
Southern	6	15	9	30						

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

HITTER
Justin Barna, Sr., oF1B, **ALCORN STATE** - Was 7 for 13 with 2 doubles, 3 RBI, 6 runs scored, 9 total bases, 2 SBs.
PITCHER
Darius Wright, Jr., P, **ALABAMA STATE** - Went 6.0 innings vs. FAMU allowing one hit, 1 run, 1 K in win. Improved to 7-1.

2018 BLACK COLLEGE SOFTBALL

MEAC

NORTHERN	MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE		CONF				ALL			
	W	L	W	L	T	W	L	W	L	T
Morgan State	15	3	27	15	0					
Hampton	11	7	22	26	0					
Coppin State	10	8	14	23	0					
Norfolk State	10	8	22	29	0					
Delaware State	10	8	12	33	0					
Howard	6	12	8	37	0					
Maryland-E. Shore	1	17	4	35	0					
SOUTHERN										
Bethune-Cookman	12	3	27	24	0					
Florida A&M	11	4	20	27	0					
North Carolina Central	8	7	17	24	0					
Savannah State	8	7	14	20	0					
North Carolina A&T	4	11	7	36	0					
South Carolina State	2	13	2	29	0					

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

PLAYER **Isha Waters**, 1B., Sr., **B-CU** - Hit .600 (6-for-10) with 6 RBI, 5 runs, 3 doubles, 2 SBs in sweep of FAMU.
CORTI JONES, Jr., SSU - Hit .778 with 7 hits, 7 RBI, 5 runs, 2 BBs.
PITCHERS **Amy Begg**, Sr., MSU - 2-0 week, 0.00 ERA with 12 Ks, 2 complete game shutouts. MSU clinched N. Div.
Courtney Mirabella, Sr., NCCU - Led league with 18 Ks in 2-0 week. Allowed 1 run in 2 appearances, 0.50 ERA.
ROOKIE
Briana Robinson, Fr., C, **HOW** - Hit .600 in sweep of UMES with 3 runs, 4 RBI, 3 doubles, 1 SB. **Tanisha Williams**, Fr., P, **SSU** - Won both stats with 0.00 ERA holding batters to 0.93 avg., with 5 Ks only allowing 4 hits.

SWAC

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