

BLACK COLLEGE
SPORTS



PGA photo

MAKIN' THE GRADE

NEW LINCOLN HOOPS COACH; MAKER GETS HIS
NBA SHOT; NEW DOC ON THE DANCING DOLLS

CHARLIE SIFFORD: The first African-American on the PGA Tour will have a President's Cup-like HBCU event named and held in his honor in August.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS



JUNIOR OLYMPICS HEADED TO NC A&T:

The city of Greensboro N. C. and **North Carolina A&T State University** will serve as hosts for the 2022 AAU Junior Olympics from July 26 to August 6.

The 56th annual AAU Junior Olympic Games hosted by the Amateur Athletic Union is the largest youth amateur, multi-sport event in the US.

Competition will be held in 13 sports including major competition in basketball, fencing, field hockey, track & field, swimming and wrestling. Over 16,000 athletes from all over the country will be competing. Most of the events at the Greensboro Coliseum Complex.

NC A&T will host the track competition from August 1-6 at Truist Stadium. Track participants will pick up their packages at the A&T Student Center beginning on July 29.

All facets of the A&T campus will be used for check-in and registration. This will be the second time in Greensboro after the city and A&T hosted the event in 2019.

SIFFORD CUP TO FEATURE TOP HBCU GOLF PROGRAMS:

CHARLOTTE, NC – The Presidents Cup has announced the six HBCU teams set to compete in the inaugural *Charlie Sifford Centennial Cup*, slated for August 29, 2022 at Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte. **Johnson C. Smith University** will serve as the host school for the event, which will showcase top Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) men's golf programs in a Presidents Cup competition during the event's media day.

The 2022 Presidents Cup will be contested on September 20-25 at Quail Hollow Club.

Howard, Florida A&M, Alabama State and Texas Southern are the four Division I HBCU teams to qualify, while **Livingstone College** in nearby Salisbury, North Carolina, qualified as the top Division II HBCU program during the 2021-22 season. The qualifying schools were solidified via the Golfstat Ranking.

All participating teams will receive complimentary travel and accommodations for the event, with arrivals slated for Saturday, August 27. Teams will spend Sunday, August 28, at Quail Hollow Club, with a partner brunch hosted by Charles Sifford, Jr., practice rounds and a welcome reception that evening. On Monday, August 29, players will be split into teams of 12, competing in Four-Ball competition in the morning and Singles in the afternoon, before concluding the day alongside Captains Davis Love III and Trevor Immelman as they make their captains' picks to round out their respective 12-player teams for the Presidents Cup.

"My father's vision was that the golf establishment provide equal access to make the game of golf more inclusive to all people. The Charlie Sifford Centennial Cup is a great example of the diversity and inclusion that Dr. Charles Luther Sifford exemplified as the first African-American member of the PGA TOUR," said Sifford's son, Charles Sifford, Jr. "He dreamed of young people playing a championship course with the opportunity to acquire experience and knowledge of what it takes to compete at the highest level." The Charlie Sifford Centennial Cup is presented by Bridgestone, Citi, Cognizant and Nucor.

In addition to the Charlie Sifford Centennial Cup, the Presidents Cup will host a Leadership Summit during event week on Wednesday, September 21. The Summit will feature a discussion with corporate executives, as well as other leadership executives from the world of sport, and presidents from HBCUs on furthering diversity in golf.

JSU's Robinson named AD of the Year

LAS VEGAS - **Jackson State University** Vice President / Director of Athletics **Ashley Robinson** was honored for his leadership as he received the prestigious 2021-2022 Cushman & Wakefield Athletic Director of the Year award by the National Association of College Directors of Athletics (NACDA).

Robinson was honored at the 57th Annual NACDA & Affiliates Convention at the Mandalay Bay Hotel. The elite recognition spans seven collegiate divisions (NCAA FBS, FCS, Division I-AAA, II, III, NAIA/Other Four-Year Institutions and Junior College/Community Colleges), as Robinson was one of 28 winners recognized Tuesday.

The Athletic Director of the Year Award highlights the efforts of athletics directors at all levels for their commitment and positive contributions to student-athletes, campuses, and their surrounding communities.

Completing his fourth year as athletic director at Jackson State, Robinson has continued to improve JSU athletics in the classroom and in competition. JSU student-athletes combined to post a 3.2 grade-point average for the 2021-22 academic year, with 12



Jackson State Athletics Director
Ashley Robinson

teams earning 3.0 GPAs with 55 graduates.

In perhaps his boldest decision, Robinson and JSU leadership named Pro Football Hall of Famer **Deion Sanders** as head football coach of the Tigers. The hire of Sanders not only galvanized JSU football but transformed college athletics on and off the field. Sanders led JSU to an 11-2 record and the SWAC Championship in 2021 while elevating the Jackson State University brand to become

one of the most recognized in sports and culture today. Jackson State set an FCS home football attendance record last fall, averaging more than 42,000 fans.

"You walk through the airport, you turn the radio on, you open the newspaper, you turn SportsCenter on, you see Jackson State University," Robinson told the *Clarion-Ledger* daily newspaper in Jackson, Ms. this week. "That shows the branding that we're doing for our institution and the success we're having. We want to continue to grow Jackson State, but that's one of the best experiences you can ever have as an athletic director."

Robinson's has also added another coach with serious professional credentials, 14-year NBA veteran Mo Williams as JSU's new men's basketball coach.

"In order to do things that have never been done before, you have to do something different," Robinson told the newspaper. "I'm all about change and making sure we give our student athletes the best when it comes to coaches. But also, Jackson State has a rich tradition. Our alumni and fans expect to win. So you want to bring in high-level coaches."

Among the on-field highlights

during the past year, Jackson State won its first **Southwestern Athletic Conference** football championship since 2007. JSU women's basketball became the first SWAC team in more than a decade to win three consecutive regular season championships while also winning back-to-back conference tournament titles. JSU men's cross country won the SWAC Championship, women's volleyball won its second consecutive SWAC regular season championship, and women's tennis won its second straight SWAC regular season title and first conference championship since 2005.

Always visionary and forward-thinking, three of Robinson's football hires, all first-time college head coaches at the time, earned postseason play in fall 2021. **Willie Simmons**, whom Robinson hired at **Prairie View A&M** in 2015, led **Florida A&M** to an at-large berth in the FCS playoffs, the first for a SWAC school in more than 20 years. **Eric Dooley**, who Robinson hired to replace Simmons prior to the 2018 season, led **Prairie View A&M** to the SWAC Football Championship game for the first time since 2009.

BCSP Notes

Armstrong named interim Lincoln hoops coach

Lincoln (Pa.) University Director of Athletics and Recreational Services **Harry Stinson III** has named **Jason A. Armstrong** as the Interim Head Men's Basketball Coach, effective immediately.



Robinson

He replaces **Corey Lowery**, who was recently named the assistant men's basketball coach at Division I Seton Hall University.

"We are also excited for the future of the Lincoln University Men's Basketball program with the elevation of Coach Armstrong. Our program is in very capable hands with the handoff to Jason. He has shown his ability to lead, demonstrating his passion for Lincoln, and will keep our program positioned for success within the CIAA, regionally and nationally."

Armstrong was the associate head coach under Lowery at Lincoln for the last two seasons.

While on staff, Armstrong took on a variety of roles, including recruiting, scouting and academics. He served as the primary contact for all of the team travel and was responsible for the game schedule.

"I am humbled and honored to be named interim head coach of Lincoln University," said Armstrong. "I would like to thank President Brenda Allen and Athletic Director Harry Stinson for believing in my vision for the continued success for men's basketball program. I wouldn't be here today without the support of my family, previous coaches, as well as current and former players. Lincoln University has been very instrumental in my personal growth and development. I am very excited to get to work with our current roster with the goal of building on the success that Coach Corey Lowery started. I want to build something that Lincoln University can be proud of."

Armstrong came to LU after serving as an assistant coach and director of recruiting at Division II Dominican College for seven seasons. During his tenure at Dominican, the Chargers reached four consecutive Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) championship games, while claiming back-to-back CACC championships 2019 & 2020.

Lincoln opens the 2022-23 season by hosting the CIAA/PSAC Challenge at Manuel Rivero Gymnasium on November 11.

Former top Howard recruit Maker on NBA Summer League roster

Former **Howard University** top recruit **Makur Maker** is embarking on his chance to play in the NBA as a member of the Chicago Bulls Summer League basketball team.

The former five-star recruit had a celebrated but brief stint at Howard. Maker shocked the college basketball world when he committed to Howard in the summer of 2020. He was the highest-rated recruit to sign with an HBCU during the "modern era" of college basketball which began in 1986-87.

Prior to committing to Howard, Maker, the cousin of NBA forward Thon Maker, was No. 75 in ESPN's NBA draft rankings and was on some lists as a top 20 high school player.

At Howard, Maker only played two games before suffering a groin injury in November 2020. He averaged 11.5 points and six rebounds in those two games before COVID-19 sidelined him and ultimately the entire program over the course of the winter.

Following the end of Howard's regular season, Maker declared for the NBA draft. After not being selected in the 2021 draft, Maker signed with the Sydney Kings of the National Basketball League on a Next Stars contract. The Kings won the 2021-22 NBL championship and Maker was a contributor off the bench, averaging 7.8 points and 6.0 rebounds in 16 games.

After not being selected in this year's NBA Draft, Maker was one of 13 players named to the Bulls 2022 NBA Summer League roster. The 6-11, 235-pound center will wear No. 99 and play for the Bulls in the NBA2K23 Las Vegas Summer League from July 7-17. Games will be played at the Thomas & Mack Center and Cox Pavilion on the campus of the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

He had previously worked out for the Utah Jazz, Oklahoma City Thunder, Charlotte Hornets and Washington Wizards.

"It definitely is a different route that I took — going to an HBCU and then going back to Australia," Maker told *Deseret News*. "I think it's going to help me in the long run because you never know in professional sports ... you've got to learn how to adapt to situations."

The Bulls' schedule includes games on July 8 vs. Dallas (4 p.m. ET on ESPN2), July 10 vs. NY Knicks (5 p.m. ET on ESPN2), July 12 vs. Toronto (5 p.m. ET on NBATV) and July 14 vs. Charlotte (6 p.m. ET on ESPN2).



MAKUR MAKER: Maker, at Howard (above), is now getting his shot in the NBA's Las Vegas Summer League on the Chicago Bulls' roster.

Chris Paul to produce docuseries featuring Southern's Dancing Dolls

Why Not Us: Southern Dance, the third season of the acclaimed Why Not Us series from Andscape and executive produced by NBA All-Star and entrepreneur Chris Paul, will premiere Thursday, August 11, exclusively on ESPN+.

The new, eight-episode ESPN+ Original will take fans behind-the-scenes of **Southern University's** dance line, the Dancing Dolls.

For over 50 years, the Dolls have set the standard for collegiate dance lines nationwide. Powered by the booming sounds of the school's marching band, **The Human Jukebox**, the Dancing Dolls push the envelope with every performance, creating unique choreography stemming from their diverse dance backgrounds. Beyond the field, the Dolls are role models in their communities and represent what it means to be strong Black women, pushing the culture with their talent and artistry.

"The third season of Why Not Us will continue to shine a spotlight on the importance of HBCUs and celebrate the culture and influence of these institutions," said Paul. "This season will focus on Southern University's nationally acclaimed Dancing Dolls and will capture the drive, talent and vision of these powerful black women leading the way."

"We are so excited to showcase another unique aspect of HBCU culture in this season of Why Not Us," said Brian Lockhart, Senior Vice President, Original Content. "Over the past 50 years, the Dancing Dolls have solidified their place in an elite tier of dancers and have proven to be the foremost innovators amongst the nation's top dance teams. We are looking forward to reaching more sports fans with their unique story."

Like the first two seasons of Why Not Us, which followed the **North Carolina Central** men's basketball team and **Florida A&M's** football program, Why Not Us: Southern Dance will examine the distinct culture, experiences and challenges of an HBCU athletic program.

Coached by the magnetic **Dr. Akai Smith**, the Dolls navigate the rigors of practice, and classes, and upholding the legacy of the Forever Dolls that came before them. Comprised of dancers from different regions across the country, the Fabulous Dancing Dolls of Southern University grow in their craft, as students, and in life.



THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

BLACK COLLEGE PRESEASON FOOTBALL EVENTS

MEAC Football Media Day
Friday, July 29 - 9 a.m.
Hilton Norfolk The Main
Norfolk, VA