

Gulf Coast Athletic Conference changes name to HBCU Athletic Conference from sports page 1

universities, they enroll 10 percent of all African American students and produce 17 percent of all African American graduates while disproportionately enrolling low-income, first-generation, and academically underprepared colleges students.

“Stillman College is excited about the Hope Credit Union and HBCU Athletic Conference partnership,” said Dr. Yolanda W. Page, President of Stillman College. “The tangible benefits for our students will be life-changing.”

“Stillman College is excited about the Hope Credit Union and HBCU Athletic Conference partnership,” said Dr. Yolanda W. Page, President of Stillman College. “The tangible benefits for our students will be life-changing.”

In 2022, Hope Credit Union (HOPE), one of the nation’s leading and most impactful Black- and women-owned financial institutions, became the GCAC’s official financial institution, and lead sponsor for the Men’s and Women’s Basketball and Baseball tournaments. The agreement announced today extends the partnership through June 2027. In addition to the sponsorships, HOPE will work with GCAC institutions to increase economic mobility among their staff, students, alumni, and surrounding communities.

According to HOPE CEO, Bill Bynum, “This partnership is a natural extension of our commitment to improving the financial health and wealth of under-resourced people and places in the Deep South. The contributions of HBCUs to America’s innovation, culture, and economy far exceed the resources they receive. Investing in them, and in

the HBCU Athletic Conference, is good business and it’s good for the country.”

Learn more about the HBCU Athletic Conference and Hope Credit Union partnership by visiting www.GCACConf.com .

About HBCU Athletic Conference

The HBCU Athletic Conference, formerly Gulf Coast Athletic Conference (GCAC), is celebrating its 42nd year as a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). The GCAC is one of only five conferences comprised of members representing Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the United States.

The GCAC membership includes **Dillard University (LA), Fisk University (TN), Oakwood University (AL), Philander Smith College (AR), Rust College (MS), Southern University at New Orleans (LA), Tougaloo College (MS), and Wiley College (TX)**. On July 1, 2024, the conference will also add HBCUs **Stillman College (AL), Voorhees University (SC), and Wilberforce University (AL)** to its roster of schools.

About HOPE

HOPE (Hope Enterprise Corporation, Hope Credit Union, and Hope Policy Institute) provides financial services; aggregates resources; and engages in advocacy to mitigate the extent to which factors such as race, gender, birthplace, and wealth limit one’s ability to prosper. Since 1994, HOPE has generated more than \$3.9 billion in financing that has benefitted more than 2.7 million people in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee. Learn more at www.hopecu.org.

Silverfield adds Lee Marks to football coaching staff as running backs coach

MEMPHIS, Tenn. March 4, 2024 – University of Memphis head football coach Ryan Silverfield announced the addition of Lee Marks to the coaching staff on Monday as the running backs coach. Marks comes to Memphis after serving as the assistant head coach and running backs coach at Washington the past two seasons.

“We could not be more excited to add Lee Marks to our staff,” Silverfield said. “Lee is very well regarded in college football as one of the very best running backs coaches in the country. His experience and ability to build relationships will make him a tremendous addition to our program.”

In 2023 with the Huskies, Marks helped guide the team to a 14-1 record, the first undefeated Pac-12 conference record in school history, a Pac-12 Championship title and a berth in the CFP National Championship. As a team, Washington ranked 12th in total offense (462.1) and 13th in scoring offense (36.0) in the NCAA.

Running back Dillon Johnson earned Second-Team All-Pac-12 honors after rushing for 1,195 yards and 16 touchdowns. His 1,000-yard season was the 23rd in UW history and he ranked sixth in the nation in rushing touchdowns and 21st in rushing yards.

Following the season, Johnson earned an invitation to the NFL Combine, marking three-straight seasons that a running back under the coaching of Marks has earned an invite.

“My family and I are excited to join the University of Memphis football program and look forward to making Memphis our new home,” Marks said. “This program has a rich history of winning and developing great players. I am excited to bring my hunger and grit to this team. We’re #ALLIN to win championships.”

In his first year at UW in 2022, Marks helped guide the Husky offense to some of its highest heights as Washington led the nation in both passing offense (369.8 yards per game) and

Marks, a former second-team All-WAC running back at Boise State (2001-05), began his coaching career as a strength & conditioning coach at Colorado before moving to Sioux Falls the year after DeBoer's departure, in 2010, when he worked as a graduate assistant.

third-down conversions (57 percent) while also finishing second in total offense (515.8 yards per game). Just one season earlier, Washington finished the season 73rd in pass offense and 114th in total offense.

The Huskies also had top-25 finishes in sacks allowed (2nd), first downs (5th), scoring offense (7th), and rushing offense (25th). Washington’s top-two running backs – Wayne Taulapapa and Cameron Davis – combined to rush for 1,427 yards and 24 rushing TDs, and Husky backs didn’t lose a single fumble the entire season.

Marks came to UW from Fresno State, where he worked the last two seasons as assistant head coach, run game coordinator and running backs coach.

Following Kalen DeBoer’s departure for UW, Marks was named Fresno State’s interim head coach and led the Bulldogs to a win over UTEP in the 2021 New Mexico Bowl.

Marks, a former second-team All-WAC running back at Boise State (2001-05), began his coaching career as a strength & conditioning coach at Colorado before moving to Sioux Falls the year after DeBoer’s departure, in 2010, when he worked as a graduate assistant.

After a year as running backs coach at South Dakota State (where he coached 2,000-yard rusher and future NFL player Zach Zenner) and another as a strength & conditioning coach at Arkansas State, Marks returned to his alma mater as a strength coach in 2014.

In 2015, he took over as the Broncos’ running backs coach and held that position through

2019, adding the title of director of special teams in 2019. In 2015, he coached Boise State’s Jeremy McNichols, who rushed for 1,337 yards and 20 touchdowns. The following year, McNichols rushed for 1,709 yards and 27 scores before being drafted by Tampa Bay.

He coached 1,000-yard rushers each of the following three seasons as well, as Alexander Mattison ran for 1,086 in 2017 and 1,415 in 2018. Mountain West Freshman of the Year George Holani kept that streak alive with 1,014 rushing yards in 2019.

After DeBoer was named head coach at Fresno State before the 2020 season, Marks was named the Bulldogs’ assistant head coach, run game coordinator and running backs coach. Marks coached Ronnie Rivers, a first-team All-MWC running back in 2020, who finished his career as Fresno State’s all-time leader in rushing touchdowns and total touchdowns.

In 2021, Marks was part of an offensive staff that saw Fresno State finish first in the MWC and 14th in the nation in total offense (464.8 yards per game), and second in the conference and 26th in FBS in scoring (30.5 points per game).

In 2020, his running backs group was led by first team All-Mountain West selection Ronnie Rivers. Before suffering an injury in the second-to-last game of the season, Rivers was one of two MW backs averaging over 100 rushing yards per game, and led the conference in all-purpose yards (163.8/game) and scoring (10.8/game).

Marks joined the Fresno State football staff for the 2020 season following six seasons at Boise State.

Marks initially returned to his alma mater in 2014, serving as assistant strength and conditioning coach. Before returning to Boise State, Marks spent the 2013 season as the assistant director of strength and conditioning at Arkansas State, where Bryan Harsin served as head coach. There, the Red Wolves earned a share of the Sun Belt Conference title and a victory in the GoDaddy Bowl.

He joined A-State after serving as running backs coach at South Dakota State in 2012. The Jackrabbits ranked as high as No. 21 in the Sports Network Football Championship Subdivision Poll, producing a 9-4 overall record during Marks’ lone season in Brookings.

Marks oversaw the efforts of All-America running back Zach Zenner, who rushed for 2,044 yards and 13 touchdowns while adding 28 receptions for another 197 yards. He topped 100 yards in nine games and rushed for 200-plus yards three times, including a school-record 295 yards in a win over Eastern Illinois.

Prior to working at South Dakota State, Marks spent two seasons as a graduate assistant that worked with the running backs at the University of Sioux Falls. The high-powered Cougar offense ranked second in the NAIA in total points (577) during the 2010 season and ranked 18th in rushing yards (2,254).

Before joining the Sioux Falls staff, Marks spent three seasons at Colorado, where he served as an assistant speed and strength and conditioning coach.

During his playing career at Boise State, Marks twice led the Broncos in rushing. He accumulated 1,773 rushing yards and eight touchdowns over his final two seasons as a starter and helped lead the Broncos to four bowl games. He was a two-time All-Western Athletic Conference selection and was the team’s offensive most valuable player in 2005.

He later played one season with the Boise Burn of the Arena Football League.

A product of Taft High in Woodland Hills, Calif., Marks earned his bachelor’s degree in psychology from Boise State in 2007, and a master’s degree in education from Sioux Falls in 2011. He and his wife, Kim, are the parents of two children: Liam and Logan.

For complete information on Memphis Tigers Football, visit www.GoTigersGo.com and follow the team’s social media channels on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

Coach Hardaway makes Memphis history with largest Uof M comeback from sports page 1

shot 54.2 percent on the night (32-59) with nine triples and 14 free throws.

With one game left to play in the regular season, Memphis will get some time off this week before heading to Boca Raton, Florida to face Florida Atlantic in the regular season finale. Tip is set for 11 a.m. CT on CBS.

Some Highlights

- Memphis used the starting lineup of Jahvon Quinerly, David Jones, Nae’Qwan Tomlin, Nicholas Jourdain and Jaykwon Walton for the sixth time this season.
- The Tigers improved to 5-1 with that starting group.
- Memphis improved to 40-12 all-time against UAB, while Penny Hardaway improved to 3-1 as head coach.
- The Tigers improved to 24-2 at home against the Blazers, winning 17-straight meetings.
- The Tigers shot 28-of-36 at the free throw line for the second-most makes of the season.
- David Jones led the Tigers in scoring for the 24th time this season with 32 points.
- The senior just missed his 11th double-double with nine rebounds (five offensive), while swiping a team-high three steals.
- Jones scored 24 of his points in the second half after recording just eight before the break.
- Memphis scored a season high 52 points in the paint, marking just the second time this sea-

son it reached 50 in a game.

- The Tigers scored a season-best 33 points off 18 Blazer miscues.
- Memphis also reached a season high in second-chance points with 27.
- The 20-point run by the Tigers was their second largest of the season (21 vs. Villanova).
- Jahvon Quinerly finished one shy his career high with 25 points in 36 minutes.
- He led the team with four assists and drew a team-high seven fouls.
- The fifth-year point guard also had a career-high night at the free-throw line with 10 makes (10-14).
- The three-headed monster of Jones, Tomlin and Quinerly combined for 85 points after scoring 41 in the first half.
- Jaykwon Walton finished the night with just three points, but he grabbed a career-high 13 rebounds, including four on the offensive end.
- Memphis scored a season high 52 points in the paint, marking just the second time this season it reached 50 in a game.
- The 20-point run by the Tigers was their second largest of the season (21 vs. Villanova).

For complete information on Memphis Tiger Men’s Basketball, visit www.GoTigersGo.com and follow the team’s social media channels on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

Grizzlies tip off hoops for St. Jude campaign; Zach Randolph and Tony Allen to coach celeb halftime game ... from sports page 1

rity Basketball Game, occurring at halftime on Wednesday, March 13, against the Charlotte Hornets. Former Grizzlies players Tony Allen and Zach Randolph will serve as coaches for teams that include NLE Choppa, Carmeon Hamilton, Zach Myers, Ashley Shields and more.

Mystery Grab Bags are back and will be available during select home games in March. Grab Bags are available for a donation and may include player autographed items, past giveaways, last season’s apparel and more. Fans can grab the Who Run It?! bag for a \$175 donation, the

Middle Mane for \$300 or the Super Grizz bag for \$500.

Also available for purchase through the silent auction platform are Aquamane Superhero Slides. Originally slated as a giveaway on Friday, April 5, these slides will now be available for fans to acquire by making a \$5 donation to St. Jude. At the conclusion of Hoops for St. Jude, any remaining slides will be donated to the following community organizations: YMCA of Memphis & Mid-South, Hospitality Hub, Room in the Inn, City of Memphis Parks & Rec. and Memphis Union Mission.

The Grizzlies’ online silent auction is open for preview, with bidding opening Tuesday, March 12, and features one-of-a-kind memorabilia, autographed jerseys, basketballs, exclusive experiences and more. The silent auction will run through Sunday, April 14. To learn how to place your bid or to donate, visit grizzlies.com/StJude. Due to generous donations through programs like Hoops for St. Jude, families never receive a bill from St. Jude for treatment, travel, housing or food in order to focus on what is most important: helping their child live.

Fans who want to support the

Memphis Grizzlies and purchase 2023-24 single game tickets can do so now by going online to grizzlies.com/tickets or through the Official Grizzlies Mobile App. For more information on the Grizzlies, visit grizzlies.com, ‘like’ Memphis Grizzlies on Facebook or follow @memgrizz on Twitter/X and Instagram.

St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital is leading the way the world understands, treats and defeats childhood cancer and other life-threatening diseases. Its purpose is clear: Finding cures. Saving children.

Saw THE FUN. Harvest THE MEMORIES.

WILSON COUNTY TENNESSEE STATE FAIR AUG 15-24, 2024

2024 IS THE YEAR OF WHEAT & SMALL GRAINS