

## NC A&T SPORTS

# HALL OF FAME

### **DALE ADAIR, TRACK AND FIELD**

Dale Adair was a two-sport athlete who lettered in men's track and field and football from 1991-1995. He played defensive back on the football field and specialized in the short sprints for the Aggies in track and field. Adair was a member of the 1991 and '92 MEAC championship football teams. As a cover corner, he finished his career with three interceptions, one punt block for a safety, 20 passes defended and 54 tackles as a part of the famous "Blue Death Defense."

His specialty included the indoor 55-meter dash on the track, where he was crowned MEAC back-to-back conference champion in 1994 and 1995. He also ran the 100-meter dash, 200-meter dash and 4x100 meter relay during the outdoor track season. He was a part of the three outdoor conference championship teams from 1994-96 and one indoor championship team in 1996. As a collegiate, he received such honors as most valuable player at the West Virginia Indoor Invitational and A&T 1995-96 senior athlete of the year.

Adair graduated from the School of Technology with a B.S. in electronics and computers and earned his master's degree in school administration from Gardner-Webb University. He is an assistant principal with Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools. Adair and his wife Ronda have two sons: Kendale and Syncer Adair.

### **CRYSTAL BAILEY, BOWLING**

Crystal Bailey, a Detroit native, is a Six Sigma Black Belt engineer at General Motors and owner of Shine Productions LLC, an A/V and media service company. At Cass Technical High School, Crystal showed her athletic prowess on the basketball court and the softball field. Although she desired to play collegiate basketball, an injury shattered that dream.

It, however, allowed her to focus more on bowling, where she participated in the Saturday youth leagues. An HBCU college tour left Crystal enamored with the idea of attending North Carolina A&T. After returning for an official tour, she felt it was fate that her tour guide happened to be the assistant bowling coach, Mr. Donald Fox. Once introduced to the head coach, Vernell "The Gipper" Stallings, she knew A&T was her only choice!

Life as a student-athlete was unique. The bowling team was transitioning from a club sport to entering the NCAA, allowing them to participate in intercollegiate

tournaments and the MEAC. The team gelled instantly and was a dominating force in the MEAC, clinching the championship from 1998-2000. A&T became a name to remember in intercollegiate tournaments, beating major teams like the University of Florida and Tennessee.

The team's most significant accomplishment was entering the 2000-2001 USBC Intercollegiate Team Championship, making A&T the first HBCU to qualify! As the bowling captain for three years, Crystal was blessed to make significant contributions to the team. She earned all-tournament honors, was a member of the All-MEAC team, was a MEAC stats leader, was the first bowler in the MEAC to bowl a 750 series, and was A&T team MVP in 1997, '98 and 2000.

Since graduating from A&T, Crystal has dedicated time mentoring youth in Detroit. She has coached girls basketball at her middle school alma mater, Gesu School, and coached and mentored children in the Saturday youth bowling leagues. In addition, she is an advisory board member for the Police Athletic League non-profit sports organization.

Crystal received the Michigan Chronicle 40 under 40 award for continued community involvement with youth. She is a member of the Aggie Alumni Association and a faithful donor to the A&T bowling team. None of this would have been possible without the constant love and support of her parents, Rev. Ronald Bailey and Rosetta Bailey. Her grandmother, the late Mozell Kennedy, was her number one fan. Coach Stallings always believed in her, even now; and lastly, the 1997-2001 A&T bowling teams, for being the pioneers of the awesome bowling program A&T has now. God has always been favorable over her life, and for that, she is grateful.

### **WESLEY BALDWIN**

Wesley was born in Ellerbe, N.C., on July 29, 1936. His parents, William and Eularia Robinson Baldwin moved to Graham, N.C., when he was 4. Wesley was a popular, well-rounded student engaging in all the resources offered at the Historical Graham School that served African Americans in Alamance County from 1931-1961. Wesley was an exceptional basketball player from 1950-1954. He was awarded Most Valuable Player for consecutive years. Wesley was competitive, consistently racing in the neighborhood with friends. Unfortunately, there was no organized track program at his school.

After graduating high school, he was off to North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. He majored in physical education and military science. After observing the Track team at practice, Wesley believed that he could compete with the team. His specialty was the 100 and 200-yard sprints.

A highlight of his track career was winning a bronze medal in the sprint medley at the Penn Relays in 1958. He also ran in the Carolina Amateur Athletic Union, where he came in second (9.5 seconds) behind world record holder Dave Sime of Duke University (9.3 seconds). In addition, Wesley ran track at many Historical Black Colleges. In 1958, Wesley was voted the most valuable athlete in track at

A&T. He earned a B.S. degree and an ROTC commission in the United States Army in 1959.

He served the United States Military throughout the United States, Europe and Asia, which included tours in Vietnam. His final assignment was at Fort Meade, Md., retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. After the military, he was a Federal Executive at the United States Department of Energy, retiring in 1996 with over 37 years of service. He continued to work in several venues, which included as a consultant with Electronic Data Systems and Secretary of Convention on the Board of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, DC. He has been married for 63 years to Dr. Nettie N. Baldwin and has two children, Angela Baldwin Austin and Wesley Douglas Baldwin.



### **CJ BEATTY**

Christian "C.J." Beatty was born in Winston Salem, N.C., to Chris and Lorraine Beatty. C.J. excelled in baseball from age 5. Entering his senior year at Glenn High School, C.J. collected over 65 letters to attend any baseball college of his choice. Some of the colleges were the University of Virginia, N.C. State, Harvard, Yale, LSU and Kentucky. After many nights of prayer, C.J. decided to accept a full baseball scholarship to A&T.

During his college career, C.J. earned various awards. Those awards included MEAC rookie of the year, A&T freshman athlete of the year, and Louisville Slugger Freshman All-American. C.J. is also a three-time first-team All-MEAC recipient, a two A&T male athlete of the year award winner, and he made the MEAC's greatest 50 baseball players list during the conference's 50th anniversary.



In 2009, C.J. was selected in the Major League Baseball draft by the St. Louis Cardinals. He later signed a free agent contract with the Chicago White Sox, bringing him back home to play for the Winston-Salem Dash. During his professional baseball career, C.J. also started his motivational speaking career. Once he established a new love for speaking, he decided to start a company called Motivational Nuggets, LLC.

Today, C.J. speaks worldwide, including workshops in Switzerland, Dominican

Republic, Canada, Australia and Puerto Rico. His social media accounts are in over 220 countries, and he has over 2.5 million views on YouTube. CJ Beatty is happily married to his beautiful wife Brianna Beatty and enjoys emptying his wallet on his beautiful daughter Shiloh.



### **AMBER BLAND**

A native of New Orleans but raised in Ohio, Bland attended Penn State University before transferring to A&T in 2006 under head coach Patricia Cage-Bibbs. Bland's decision to become an Aggie transformed the women's basketball program into one of the best mid-majors in the nation, a distinction the program still holds today.

She became the cornerstone that revitalized A&T's women's basketball program in the late 2000's. During her first season at A&T, Bland led the conference in scoring at 19.6 points per game, which also ranked her 20th nationally. Bland's 19.6 points per game average is the best single-season scoring average in school history. The following season the Aggies posted a 25-8 record overall and a 15-1 mark in the MEAC to win the regular-season championship. The 25 victories were the most wins in a single season by the A&T women's basketball program. The 2007-08 season also

saw the Aggies compete in the postseason for the first time in 14 years in the WNIT.

In 2008-09, Bland earned MEAC Preseason Player of the Year honors. The Aggies won a school-record 26 games during the season. She also led A&T to another MEAC regular-season title with a 15-1 mark. The Aggies went on to win the MEAC tournament, which was A&T's first NCAA appearance in 15 years.

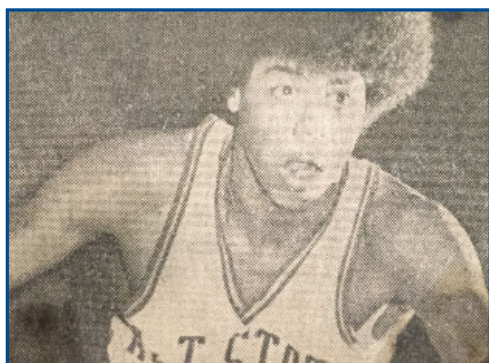
A&T posted a remarkable 68-29 (.701) record during Bland's three-year stay in AggieLand. It is the best three-year run in program history. The Aggies were also 42-8 (.840) in conference play, including the two MEAC regular-season championships. Bland finished her career with three first-team All-MEAC recognitions, 1,589 points, 537 rebounds, 246 assists and 249 steals.

She is perhaps the most efficient player in school history as well. She ranked seventh in the nation as a senior in 3-point shooting at 43.1 percent. Bland is the Aggies all-time leader in 3-pointers made (205) and second all-time in 3-point percentage (38.3). In addition, she is third on the all-time scoring list and fifth all-time in steals. No other player in program history scored as many points or collected more steals over three years than Bland. She also has the highest career-scoring average in school history (16.7).

After graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Journalism and Mass Communications, she now lives in Houston, where she is pursuing a master's in healthcare administration while working at NRG Energy. She is the daughter of Maria and Willie Bland. She is married to Christopher Wiggins, and the couple has two daughters, Avianna and Cristyce.

### **SINCLAIR COLBERT**

Sinclair made it onto the basketball practice court during open tryouts as an unrecruited 6-foot-5, 175-pound center, based on a dare from Lon Smith, whom he played against in high school. He made the practice team and practiced every day, hoping to eventually make the travel team or at least the dress-out list for home games.



Neither of those events happened. So the previous head coach, Cal Irvin, became the athletics director the following year. The assistant coach, Warren Reynolds, became the head coach, and Sinclair grew to be a 6-8 center. Sinclair made the team but mostly rode the bench, getting in the game predominately when A&T was winning or losing by a large margin.

The following year, Reynolds called my name (or something close to it) during the middle of a game. Those warm-ups came off of me with lightning speed. Now that I had a little taste of playing time, my main goal was never to ride the pine again. Sinclair accomplished his goal, and it didn't hurt that he grew to 6-10, 220 pounds. Even if the basketball stars had not aligned appropriately, my journey would have been different. I'm grateful they aligned correctly!!

Sinclair's accomplishments included Black College All-American (1975-76), first-team All-MEAC (1975-76), and he made the MEAC all-tournament team. The Aggies played in the NIT at Madison Square Garden that same season. He also led the nation in rebounding. The Aggies won three MEAC regular-season and tournament titles during his time there and made the ECAC tournament (1972).

In 1973, the Aggies won the 1973 Charlotte Tip-Off, where Sinclair made the all-tournament team. Two years later, the Aggies won the Aggie Holiday Classic,

where Sinclair also earned all-tournament honors. In addition, he was named the team's most improved player in 1974-75. The following season he earned team MVP.

In addition, he earned team co-captain recognition for two seasons. In 2020, he made the MEAC's 50 greatest men's basketball players list during the conference's 50th anniversary. Academically, he made the Dean's list in 1972, '74 and '75.

Sinclair is happily married to Lizabeth (Libby) Goss. His children are Ashli Brooke Colbert – daughter; Trent Cullen Goss – stepson, Shaun Sinclair Colbert – son (deceased).



### **TIM JOHNSON**

Tim Johnson was born into a military family in Tucson, Ariz. When Tim was 8, he and his mother moved to Hampton, Va., where he discovered his love for football. In his first year playing football, his coach immediately put him in at linebacker, where he would go on to win several defensive MVP awards during his years in Rec League.

At Bethel High School, Tim played three games on the junior varsity team as a sophomore before moving to varsity as a middle linebacker. After breaking his arm early in his junior season, Tim would lead his team and the conference in tackles and sacks his senior year. His accolades during his senior season included first-team All-District, All-Peninsula, and All-State.



Tim accepted a full scholarship to play for Bill Dooley at Wake Forest University where he played linebacker as a true freshman and was able to experience playing time in the Independence Bowl. Under new head coach Jim Caldwell, Tim became a full-time starter at outside linebacker his sophomore year. However, Tim experienced some frustration with the school and decided to transfer and take his talents to Howard University.

The day Tim was scheduled to enroll at Howard, the coaching staff informed him that they decided to give his scholarship to

another transfer. Left with nowhere to go, Tim called coach Caldwell for help, and he offered to make some calls. That morning Tim received a call from a peculiar voice. The person said, "Hey man, I heard you ain't got no home." It was coach Bill Hayes. That morning, Tim took a 5-hour drive to Greensboro, N.C., and became a student-athlete in AggieLand.

As a junior, Tim led his team, conference, and all HBCUs in total tackles. The season's highlight for him was seeking revenge on Howard, where he recorded 23 tackles and eight tackles for loss in a win against the team that left him dry. Tim received first-team All-MEAC honors and came in second place for defensive MVP. Tim would also receive the team MVP and Associated Press All-American honorable mention honors. As a senior, Tim was on pace to breaking the MEAC record for tackles in a season but suffered two broken ankles at Homecoming. Tim had 72 tackles over the first five games of that season before his season and career ended.

Although it was a tragic experience, it could not take away the love he had for his experience playing with his teammates and coaches at A&T. Tim now lives in Maryland with his beautiful wife Jill Johnson and their three beautiful young children, Audriana (11), Zoe (8), and Natalya (6). He runs an I.T. Consulting Firm specializing in Federal Government contracting. Tim enjoys spending time with his family and teaching his girls the game of golf and life.



### **ARLENE MITCHELL**

In four years as a North Carolina A&T volleyball player, Arlene Mitchell developed into one of the best hitters in Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) history. She is undoubtedly one of the best players to grace the court for the Aggies. A native of Henderson, NC, Mitchell was a three-sport standout (volleyball, girls' basketball and girls track and field) at Southern Vance High School. With help from her twin sister, Darlene Mitchell, Arlene led the Raiders to the state Class 2A volleyball title in 2002. She also led the Raiders to a state track and field title while winning event titles in the 4x100, 4x200 and 100-meter hurdles. After many colleges pursued the Mitchell twins to play collegiate volleyball, the duo decided to attend A&T under head coach Kathy Bullock. Mitchell played outside hitter throughout her four-year career and became an immediate success. As a freshman, she earned All-MEAC honors, A&T Female Freshman of the Year and Outstanding Female Athlete of the Year.

In her sophomore year, she received NC A&T Aggie Club Award and MVP. As a senior, she was named MVP, Senior Female Athlete Award, and was the A&T Sports Hall of Fame award recipient.

The Aggies finished 17-15 overall and 9-2 in conference play. By her sophomore season, she and her sister were the undisputed leaders of the volleyball program under new head coach Millicent Sylvan. Mitchell led the MEAC in kills per set (4.32) and ranked second in points per set and third in services aces per set while earning her second straight All-MEAC honor.

An ankle injury slowed Mitchell down during her junior campaign, but she battled back to lead the A&T to one of its best seasons. The Aggies finished 22-18 overall and 9-1 in the MEAC and made an appearance in the MEAC championship match against Florida A&M. At season's end, Mitchell earned her third straight All-MEAC honor. The Aggies had another winning season in 2006, going 17-14 overall and 7-3 in conference play.

Mitchell earned first-team All-MEAC honors by averaging 4.27 kills, 0.65 services and 2.48 digs per game. Mitchell's name appears throughout the A&T and MEAC volleyball record books. She is the program's all-time leader in kills (1,674), services aces (277) and total points (2,198.5). She owns the single-match kills record for a five-set match (33) and a four-set match (27). In addition, she was the first player in school history to record more than 1,000 kills and 1,000 digs in a career. Only one other Aggie has accomplished the feat since Mitchell's final season in 2006.

She never finished lower than 30th nationally in services aces per game. Over her final two seasons, she finished fourth and eighth nationally, respectively. Mitchell also led the MEAC in service aces per game over her last two seasons in an Aggies uniform. She ranks fourth in MEAC history in kills, second in service aces and 10th in total points. Her 0.77 service aces per game in 2005 ranks as the sixth-best season in MEAC history.

Her talent and effervescent personality made her one of the most popular student-athletes over her four-year career at A&T. She was a leader in SAAC during her time in Aggieland, and she graduated with a degree in sports science and fitness management in 2007. She even gave back to her beloved A&T volleyball program after graduation, serving as an assistant coach from 2008-16. Today, Mitchell and her sister Darlene own The Mitchell Twins, Inc., where they are certified fitness coaches and nutrition specialists. The twin tandem also owns a clothing line, Black Colleges Rock, and they coach the Dudley girls' volleyball team.



**STEVEN RUSH**

Steven's legacy within men's basketball was marked by his leadership, scoring ability, and being arguably the best shooter in school history. He led the Aggies to two of the biggest wins in school history, defeating DePaul University (Big East) and Southern Methodist University (Conference USA). Steve had 40 points in the win over DePaul and 22 points and seven rebounds against SMU.

He broke the single-season 3-pointers made record (115), tied the single-game 3-pointers made record (8), then broke it twice with nine and then 10 3-pointers in a game.

He broke the career free throw percentage record (.855) and became the fifth Aggie to score more than 500 points in his first season. The sharp-shooter was 16 3-pointers shy of the career record after two seasons in AggieLand.

As the 20th player in A&T history to earn first-team All-MEAC honors (2007), Steven also earned both team MVP and the A&T male athlete of the year award twice (2007 & 2008). He was selected to the MEAC all-tournament team (2007), the All-NCCSIA second team, and made second-team All-MEAC (2008).

Committed to excellence on and off the court, Steven graduated magna cum laude (c/o 2008, B.S. chemistry). In addition, he served as President of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, President of the InRoads NC Triangle chapter, earned All-MEAC academic honors (2007, 2008), and received the A&T Alumni Award (2007) for displaying the most positive publicity. After playing professionally in Germany and England, Dr. Rush earned his pharmacy doctorate from MCPHS University (c/o 2015), serving as Student Government President and receiving the Dean's award.

After pharmacy school, Lieutenant Commander Rush joined Active-Duty ranks within the United States Public Health Service. He previously worked as the Chief Pharmacist for ICE Health Services Corps and was named the 2017 Employee of the Year. Additionally, he is employed within the Department of Defense in health care administration. Steven was no stranger to AggieLand, following his mother's footsteps, Hope Rush, who starred on the women's basketball team (1987-1992). In his free time, Steven enjoys spending time with family and coaching/mentoring youth as they pursue their passion and purpose in life.



**DAMON VAUGHAN**

Vaughan is the true definition of an inspiring student-athlete. He grew up in a single-parent household in Brown Summit, N.C., raised from humble beginnings but with a strong emphasis on education. Vaughan graduated high school with a 3.5-grade point average, won the North Carolina Division Class 3A state championship in track and field, and served as captain on the basketball, cross country, and track and field teams. He also had a passion for engaging with the community. As a high schooler, he had the unique opportunity to leverage his media and journalism experience to interview two “Greensboro Four” members during the Woolworth’s Sit-In commemoration.

At A&T, Vaughan continued to excel as a student-athlete while maintaining his commitment to the community. He graduated Cum Laude in four years with a B.S. degree in electrical engineering while running track and field and working part-time. He joined the track team as a walk-on and ended his collegiate career earning seven individual All-MEAC honors, three out of the school’s first four MEAC team championships, individual MEAC championships, and two national rankings of 6th place (Penn Relays and USATF Junior Nationals).



No stranger to adversity, Vaughan experienced a severe hamstring injury in his junior season, requiring him to stop competing for a short stint. However, he found other ways of contributing by assisting the coaches with returning the javelins to his teammates after each throw. One afternoon Vaughan tested what he learned from teammates by throwing the javelin as far as possible. When the javelin landed, it traveled further than the throws made by some of his teammates. His coach immediately enrolled Vaughan in the javelin, where he later finished as the MEAC champion during the final event of his career.

After graduation, Vaughan earned two master’s degrees, including an MBA from the University of Chicago. As a corporate executive, he supported billion-dollar brands for several Fortune 500 companies and earned accreditation for two patents. Vaughan is also the founder and CEO of two successful companies that have positively impacted society by creating access to financial literacy and economic stability through residential housing.