



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BETHUNE-COOKMAN PICKED TO WIN 2010 MEAC BASEBALL TITLE

Aggies' Macklin and Wildcats' Lauriello Named Co-Preseason Players of the Year; Wildcats Simpson Named Preseason Pitcher of the Year

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va., January 28, 2010- The defending Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) tournament champion Bethune-Cookman Wildcats were predicted to win the 2010 MEAC Baseball Championship title, as voted on unanimously by the conference's head baseball coaches and sports information directors.

North Carolina A&T State University sophomore Xavier Macklin and Bethune-Cookman senior C.J. Lauriello were named Co-Preseason Players of the Year, while B-CU sophomore Ali Simpson earned Preseason Pitcher of the Year accolades.

The Wildcats finished the 2009 season with a 16-2 mark in MEAC play and 34-28 overall record. B-CU looks to reload this year adding 10 newcomers to the roster, while providing veteran leadership from Lauriello and Simpson.

Macklin, a 2009 All-MEAC First Team selection led the conference with 48 RBI and recorded 10 home runs, five triples and 20 doubles. The sophomore was fifth in the MEAC with a .371 batting average and posted a .663 slugging percentage in 50 games.

Lauriello was also an All-MEAC First Team selection last season. He was third in the conference with a .398 batting average in 49 games. The outfielder tallied four home runs, two triples, 19 doubles and 36 RBI. In 181 appearances at the plate, he recorded 72 hits, stole 12 bases and walked 18 times.

Simpson led the league with a 3.23 ERA. The sophomore recorded nine victories in 16 appearances. In 75.1 innings pitched, he struck out 79 batters and allowed 32 walks. Simpson tallied a 1.09 ERA against MEAC opponents while posting a 5-0 MEAC record and striking out 39 batters in 33 innings of play.

Bethune-Cookman's Esterlin Paulino (P), Maryland Eastern Shore's Bryan Chiakowsky (DH), North Carolina A&T's Nick Boles (P), and Norfolk State's John Lynch (OF) earned honorable mention accolades.

The 2010 MEAC Baseball Championship tournament is scheduled for May 20-23, at the Jackie Robinson Stadium in Daytona Beach, Florida.

For more information on MEAC Baseball, log onto www.MEACsports.com.

-2010 Preseason Baseball Predictions listed below-



2010 MEAC Preseason Baseball Predictions

As voted on by the conference's Head Coaches and Sports Information Directors
(First place votes in parenthesis)

Team	Points
1. Bethune-Cookman (14)	196
2. Norfolk State	112
3. North Carolina A&T.....	110
T4. Delaware State	100
T4. Florida A&M.....	100
6. Maryland Eastern Shore	52
7. Coppin State	30

2010 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Baseball Preseason All-Conference Awards

As voted on by the conference's Head Coaches and Sports Information Directors

Co-Players of the Year: Xavier Macklin, North Carolina A&T and C.J. Lauriello, Bethune-Cookman
Pitcher of the Year: Ali Simpson, Bethune-Cookman

FIRST TEAM

Pos	Name	School	Cl.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown
P	Ali Simpson	Bethune-Cookman	So.	6-2	170	Campbell River, British Columbia
P	Jason Barker	Norfolk State	Sr.	6-0	195	Chesapeake, Virginia
RP	Brandon Pennick	Delaware State	Sr.	5-11	200	Phoenix, Arizona
C	Peter O'Brien	Bethune-Cookman	So.	6-3	215	Miami Gardens, Florida
1B	Abe Eubank	Delaware State	Sr.	6-3	215	Medford, Oregon
2B	Jared Jeffries	Florida A&M	Sr.	5-9	165	Decatur, Georgia
3B	Derrick Shaw	Florida A&M	So.	6-0	185	Orlando, Florida
SS	Alejandro Sanchez	Bethune-Cookman	So.	5-11	175	Pembroke Pines, Florida
OF	C.J. Lauriello	Bethune-Cookman	Sr.	5-9	180	Miami, Florida
OF	Xavier Macklin	North Carolina A&T	So.	5-11	195	Rocky Mount, North Carolina
OF	Darryl Evans	Florida A&M	Sr.	5-10	175	Merrillville, Indiana
DH	Ryan Durrence	Bethune-Cookman	Jr.	6-2	215	Jacksonville, Florida

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