



Track and Field, Golf and Tennis Squads Win Conference Titles

By Add Seymour Jr.

Spring 2009 turned out to be a banner season for Morehouse Maroon Tigers spring sports teams as the golf, tennis and track and field teams each won their respective Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference tournament titles.

Several Maroon Tigers from each squad were named to All-Tournament teams and each head coach was named the conference's best.



TRACK AND FIELD

THE FLYING MAROON TIGERS did what they have done for each of the past four years—win the SIAC Track and Field championship.

In the championship meet's 21 events held at Edwin Moses Track at B.T. Harvey Stadium from April 16-18, Morehouse continued its SIAC dominance by finishing first with 209 points. Albany State was a distant second with 153, while Benedict College had 145.

Top individual performers included Dreyfus Clemons, who won the 800-meter and 1,500-meter runs and was second in the 3,000-meter steeplechase; Abraham Kiprotich, who won the 5,000-meter run and finished third in both the 10,000-meter run and the 3,000-meter steeplechase; Barry Batson, the SIAC's Field Athlete of the Year, who finished first in the long jump and triple jump, and Matt Tuffuor, who won the javelin and was second in the decathlon.

Clemons was named first team All-SIAC in three events, while Batson, Tuffuor and Turner Coggins were also named to the first team. Khiry Lee, Steven Patterson and Norvell Van were chosen for the second team.

The Maroon Tigers also were honored for having the highest team grade point average among SIAC track and field teams.

Also, the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association named sprinter Damian Prince the South region's Track Athlete of the Year and Batson as the region's Field Athlete of the Year. ■

Drefus Clemans leads the pack during the SIAC Track and Field Championship.



TENNIS



The Maroon Tigers Tennis Squad celebrates after winning the SIAC Tennis Tournament championship.

BEFORE THE 2009 MAROON TIGERS tennis season started, head coach Terry Alexander was hoping his team would finish the season just as the 2007 squad had done – with a SIAC championship.

That is exactly what happened as the Maroon Tigers netters defeated the regular season's top team, Fort Valley State University, to win their second SIAC championship in three seasons.

"Definitely, it's exciting for two reasons," said Alexander, who was named the tournament's most outstanding coach. "Historically, we're still always a contender or the team to beat. So that's one thing to be able to uphold that. But then this is one of the first years the team didn't win just because we had superior players. I feel like my actual coaching – being able to strategize with the lineup, being able to strategize on the court – played just as big a part as the players' ability did. Those things make this one feel much more special."

Josh Harris and Tory Martin were named to the All-Tournament singles squad, while Martin and Ben Seagle were named to the All-Tournament doubles team.

Maroon Tiger tennis players also won several regular-season honors. Harris and Martin were named first team All-SIAC while Michael Steward has a third-team pick. Steward also was named SIAC Freshman of the Year. Martin and Seagle were named to the All-SIAC doubles team. ■

GOLF

PHILIP ALLEN PICKED UP where he left off in 2008 as he helped lead Morehouse to the 2009 SIAC Golf Tournament championship.

Morehouse finished 28 strokes ahead of Benedict College to win the College's second-ever conference tournament golf title and first in 29 years: the Tigers last won in 1980.

"It came around. When we first started off in September, it wasn't good," said first-year head coach Bill Lewis, who was named Coach of the Year. "It definitely came together. We definitely played better golf."

Allen finished five shots ahead of his nearest competitor and was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player for the second year in a row. He also earned a spot on the SIAC All-Tournament squad.

"He's the captain of the team and he's probably the best player, so he's leading by example," said Lewis.

Two other Maroon Tigers finished in the tournament's top ten players: Olajuwon Ajanaku (third) and Thaddaeus Hill (10th). Ajanaku joined Allen on the All-Conference team.

Allen, Ajanaku, Hill and Bryan McElderry were named to the regular season All-SIAC team. McElderry was named Freshman of the Year while Hill, a business administration major with a 3.59 grade point average, was chosen for the All-Academic team. ■



The Morehouse Golf Team win the College's first SIAC Golf Tournament title since 1980.



To see athletic schedules, go to www.morehouse.edu/athletics