

## New Era begins in the History of Wildcat football

A new era in the history of Wildcat football at Fort Valley State University is about to begin. The university announced Donald Pittman, former Albany State University Rams Offensive Coordinator, as the new head football coach of the Wildcats.

A 14-member search committee including retired FVSU coach Stan Lomax, interim director of football operations Wilson Gosier, state law maker and FVSU alumni Freddie Powell-Sims and Calvin Smyre selected Pittman from a pool of forty applicants. Dr. Larry E. Rivers - who made the final decision — announced the selection during an afternoon press conference before an anxious crowd of Wildcat fans.

"This marks a great new day in the history of Wildcat football. I have confidence that Coach Pittman is going to lead our program to great new heights," said Dr. Larry E. Rivers, president of Fort Valley State University. "I also believe he's going to make sure our Wildcat players are scholars, as well as athletes."

Pittman, a native of Las Vegas, has 30 years of experience in coaching college football. He served as the offen-



Donald Pittman

sive coordinator at Texas A&M -Kingsville University's Javelinas football program and was a running back coach for 15 years before landing the offensive coordinator position at Albany State University.

"I'm very excited. I think it's a blessing," Pittman said. "I know all the tradition at FVSU, from Coach Porter onward, and it's a pleasure and honor to follow in his footsteps."

At the end of the 2008 football season, FVSU head coach Deondri Clark resigned, citing the need to make way for new leadership. Clark remains at the university and is employed in the academic and student affairs departments. A new, 10,000 seat stadium is under construction and is scheduled for completion by the time the 2009 football season begins.

## New Women's Basketball League Being Formed

An adult women's basketball tournament in conjunction with a new women's basketball league being formed is scheduled for 1/10/09 in Augusta Ga. Sixteen teams are expected to compete for the championship and grand prize(TBD). All coaches can

register their teams online at: sewbl09@gmail.com. 12 players per team. All out of town guests will receive a free admission to the tournament.

Please call 706-627-3859 (coaches only) or 706 550-0799 for more information.

The Savannah State University men's basketball game against South Carolina State University previously scheduled for Saturday, December 20, 2008 has been moved to Wednesday, January 14, 2009. The game will be played at 7:00 p.m. in Tiger Arena. Admission is \$5.00 The schedule change is due to inclement weather that delayed the return of the South Carolina State men's basketball team from another competition.

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## Sports With Walter Moore

### Tigers Unbeaten At Home

Savannah State's men's basketball team raised their home record to 7-0 with a pair of wins last week. The Tigers defeated Kennesaw State 53-49 on December 16 and Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 47-42 on Dec. 18. In the win over Kennesaw State, Chris Linton scored 12 points and pulled down 10 rebounds. SSU trailed by six with less than nine minutes left but put together a 11-2 run to go ahead 47-44 with 2:29 remaining. Patrick Hardy had 11 points and Anthony Jones scored 10. In the win over the Islanders, SSU responded from a eight point deficit with 6:26 left and finished the game with a 15-2 run to improve to 7-4 overall. Raye Bailey led the way with 10 points.

### SSU Women Struggling

The Savannah State women's basketball team lost their seventh straight game with a 73-60 setback at Southeastern Louisiana on December 21. SSU trailed by nine but the Lions used a 13-4 spurt to go up by 18

with 5:30 remaining and cruised to the win. LaShara Smith had 14 points for SSU while freshmen Raven Fields and Crissa Jackson scored 10 each. On Dec. 18, the Lady Tigers lost at Charleston Southern 79-57. The Buccaneers broke open a close game with a 14-7 run to grab a 20 point lead in the second half. SSU (2-8) could get no closer than 17 the rest of the way. Smith led all scorers with 23 points while Ashlee Barley chipped in 10.

### FVSU Names New Football Coach

Fort Valley State has announced the selection of Donald Pittman as its new head football coach. Pittman comes to FVSU from Albany State University where he served as offensive coordinator. Pittman, a native of Las Vegas, has 30 years of experience in coaching college football. He served as the offensive coordinator at Texas A&M-Kingsville and was a running back coach for 15 years before landing the offensive coordinator position at Albany State. Pittman replaces Deondri Clark who resigned at the end of the



Walter Moore

2008. Pittman, 57, will begin his head coaching career in a new home. A 10,000 seat stadium is under construction and is scheduled for completion by the time the 2009 football season begins.

### Locals Red-Shirting at Kennesaw State

Savannah natives Markeith Cummings and LaDaris Green are attending Kennesaw State on basketball scholarships but the Beach High grads are red shirting this season. According to Owls coach Tony Ingle, "Markeith has a heart problem and LaDaris is getting his grades up". He said both will play next season. "We're looking forward to them joining the team next year and both will have

an opportunity to start," he added. Markeith made the trip to Savannah when KSU played Savannah State on Dec. 16. Among those to greet the 6-7 star was his father and former SSU standout basketball player Terrell Cummings, grandmother Faye Bridgeforth, aunt Rossie Caldwell, cousin Larry Johnson, family friend Roberta Moore, as well as former coaches and classmates from Beach High.

### O'Neal Returns To Bethune-Cookman

Robert "Tony" O'Neal has returned in to Bethune-Cookman as the Associate Athletic Director for Compliance. His focus for Wildcat Athletics is the internal operations of the program with oversight responsibilities in maintaining compliance with NCAA regulations. He comes back to B-CU following three years (2004-2007) as the Director of Intercollegiate Athletics at Savannah State. The Detroit native previously was on staff at Bethune-Cookman, serving four years (2000-2004) as Associate Athletics Director for Compliance.

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