TRACK AND FIELD



photos by Craig T. Greenlee

Morgan State kept SWAC from totally dominating the meet. Above, Ethlyn Tate won the women's 100 over teammate Rochelle Stevens. Diane Weber of Texas Southern was third. In the men's 1500(right) Kabiru Ibraham of TSU dueled with Phillip Walkins of Jackson State. Walkins picked up the pace in the last lap to claim the victo-



Coors Games were definitely a SWAC affair

Morehouse College in Atlanta.

MEAC schools kept SWAC from making it a complete sweep. The Tony Durham in the high jump.

and field athletes from the four historically black athletic conferences against ample share of events anyway.

None of the top Division II teams Apparently, injuries and coaches' deci- order to return to top form. sions had something to do with that.

According to Martin Epps, meet coordinator and track coach at Jackson May, you've wasted time in February having jumped 26' 1 3/4". State, the majority of the no-shows had and March," he said. "In the Coors agreed that they would participate. Games, the athletes run in just one race Women's Competition Although no meet officials would because there are no heats to run. So openly admit it, the date the meet was injuries don't really matter unless one held (May 14) is the likely reason for of your people is already hurting. shown up, the sprints most likely Scheduling the meet any later than all the no-shows.

after each conference held its own chance for injury." championships. Additionally, the Coors meet was scheduled fairly close started the following Thursday.

ence Outdoor Track and Field Games lem," said Epps. "We (as a people) Sports Review offers these brief analyhad been billed as a black college all- tend to shy away from competition. ses of the events that figured to be the star track extravaganza. But what it Some of us just don't want to meet the most hotly contested. turned into was a SWAC meet. The challenge. I experienced the same conference with the star captured 17 thing with the indoor games. The bot- Men's Competition events at the Edwin Moses Track at tom line is that we just don't want to compete against the best."

Maybe, maybe not.

SIAC avoided being shut out, getting the season, to believe that late in the ham and Maude Odo. The final lap put together some solid performances their only victory from Albany State's season, track coaches of prominent may have been very tight had South last year, winning a gold medal in the programs, schedule competition in Carolina State's Vance Wade (3:56.72) Pan American Games for America's 4 The games were designed to be a relation to the nationals. Coaches want and Tony Williams of Albany State x 400 relay team. shining spectacle, pitting the best track their best to be fully prepared for the (3:56.87) been in the race. Wade was biggest event of the year.

Doing well in the nationals is a one another. But when the meet got great recruiting tool. Because black say that SWAC wouldn't have won an performers are more apt to take a seri- Augustine's Derek Knowles (13.50) know what may transpire. ous look at attending a black college and Texas Southern's Vernon George that produces national champions.

participated. St. Augustine's, Hamp- take into account. The collegiate track would Felton Nails of Prairie View sistent all year. Texas Southern ton's women and Alabama A & M's season tends to lengthy and very com- (13.82). As technical an event as this (45.01) is always there. But you have women didn't compete. Even some of petitive if your program is top-flight. is, there's no way of telling what the to believe that Hampton (44.39) the top individuals from SWAC and And understandably, coaches want to finishing order of these four might would've have a grand chance to crash MEAC schools weren't present. And in give their best people sufficient time to have been. some cases, the best that did show up, rest. If those folk have had injuries, Long jump - Another face-off out-of-synch baton exchanges would didn't compete in their best events. they must have time to recuperate in

only up to a point.

"If you're worried about injuries in When you run three or four races in would have been the centerpiece this mid-May, he explained, puts a finan-The games were staged just weeks three to four hours, then there's a good

to the national track championships in a true interconference match-up with would've carried the Division II banner quarter. In most cases, athletes' living all NCAA divisions and the NAIA. the very best competing, it seems that a against some equally fast opponents. expenses become an item for a This factor was very apparent for Dividate suitable to competing schools will With Wendy Vereen of Morgan State school's coaches and athletic departsion II. The games were held on a Sat- have to be worked out. To illustrate (11.35) and Mary Onyali of Texas ments to deal with. urday and the Division II nationals how much higher the level of competi- Southern (11.42) also coming out of tion might have been based on the best the blocks, we're talking photo finish.

"I don't think the date was a prob- people participating, Black College

represented with Phillip Walkins of the '87 runner-up in the NCAA 400 vs. Jackson State (3:56.71) and a pair of Jearl Miles, two-time Division II It's reasonable to believe that late in Texas Southern runners in Kabiru Ibra- champ from Alabama A & M. Stevens not in Atlanta and Williams chose to run in the Coors 800 instead.

(13.71). Brett Fortune of Hampton Injuries are another crucial factor to (13.80) would have been a factor as State (44.44) had been strong and con-

between Texas Southern and St. likely have been the key for the even-Augustine's. George was runner-up in tual victor. Epps understands the rationale, but the '87 Division I championships and has leaped 27' 0 1/2". Xavier Donaldson of the Falcons is no pushover,

The sprints - Had everybody

The 200 would have been equally as promising. The same threesome in the 100 would have run in this one along with star quartermiler Rochelle Stevens of Morgan State. Who might have prevailed is anyone's guess.

This year, the 400 could have been 1500 meter run - SWAC was well the meet's dream race, pitting Stevens,

Miles started to come on as a bona fide contender in the quarter late in the year. She's tough to handle for anyone underway, there were some conspicu- colleges lack the resources of their 110 meter high hurdles - Division II and Stevens would've discovered that. ous absences. SWAC's performance white counterparts, coaches need every may have accounted for itself in good Stevens has more experience against was more a product of default rather advantage at their disposal to attract fashion here. It would likely have been world-class competition, but once the than outright domination. That's not to the best available athletes. Top echelon a two man race between St. starter's gun has gone off, you never

> The relays - In the 4 x 100, Morgan the party. Bad timing on hand-offs or

Epps is the first to admit that the outdoor version of the Coors Games will need some fine tuning for next year. He's convinced that the games can be a success in Atlanta. As for changing the date of the meet, Epps is adamant about keeping it the way it is. year. In the 100, black colleges have cial strain on schools who must have some of the best in the U.S. regardless places for their athletes to sleep and of conference or division. Vivienne eat. At that time of year, most schools In order for the Coors Games to be Spence, the Hampton swifty (11.30) have adjourned for the semester or

-- BCSR Staff

Coors Games Winners

100 meter dash - Victor Omagbemi, Texas Southern, 10.46. 200 meter dash - Rolland Barclay, Jackson State, 20.95. 400 meter dash - Harry Ellerby, Maryland- Eastern Shore, 46.29.

son State, 3:56.71.

Texas Southern, 13.86.

Ronnell Barclay), 40.28. 4 x 400 relay - Prairie View (Charles Long jump - Vernon George, Texas

100 meter dash - Evelyn Tate, Morgan State, 11.36. 800 meter run - Adina Valdez, Jackson 1,500 meter run - Komfort Ighabon, 4 x 100 relay - Morgan State (Rochelle

Triple jump - Kim Vanzant, Prairie View, -