COVER STORY

Prime-time track comes to Hampton

lege campus will be the site of a nation- staged our share of large meets in past al collegiate athletic championship. years. During the regular season, we Hampton University will host the '89 have hosted meets that have involved a NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and greater number of athletes than what Field Championships, May 25-27 at we'll have at the nationals." Armstrong Field.

For John L. White, the Hampton

For the first time ever, a black col- to handle a championship event. We've

White anticipates that roughly 700 track coach who will coordinate the people will be involved with the nationchampionships, these are busy times as als. That total doesn't include (a yet to the school completes its preparations for be determined number of) coaches and what has become a showcase event for some 170 meet officials. The coach



Photo by Max Dunhill

In recent years, Alabama A&M's women's teams have always been a factor at the nationals.

last year's nationals, black college ath- teams to be a part of this year's field for letes produced an ample amount of the national championships. prime-time performances. Black college athletes won 11 individual national titles and 42 earned All-America honors.

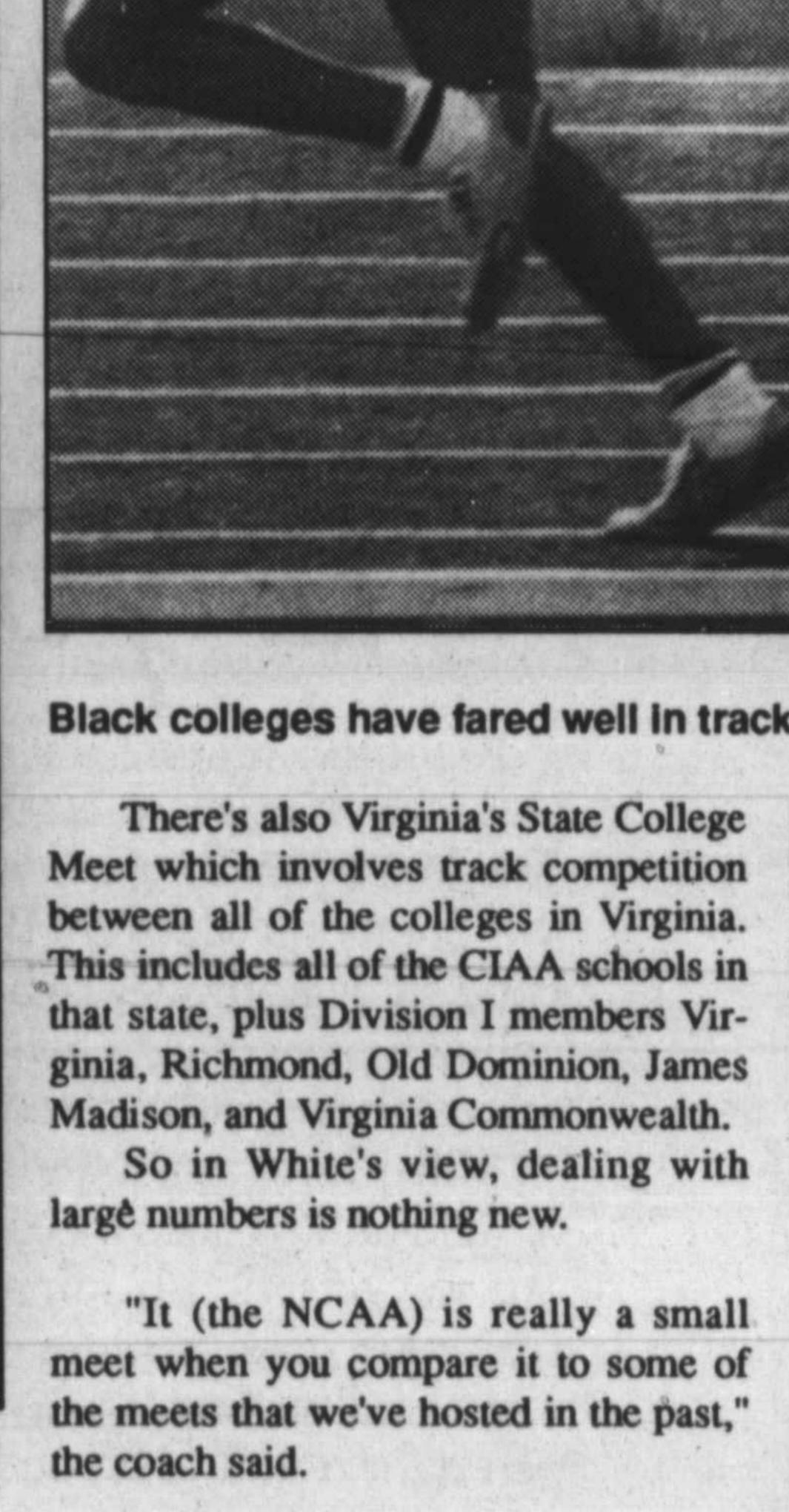
second in the men's competition. In the For example, in March, the HU Relays als had almost been exclusively conished second in the team standings and girls' in the high school division. The White explained, helped him sell the Hampton placed third.

our hosting the nationals," White said. were 17 men's teams and 13 women's tions had been Slippery Rock, Ark. in "We have all of the necessary elements teams that had 14 events each.

black college athletic programs. During added that it's reasonable to expect 240

Hampton has been able to deal with

some fairly large numbers at their meet to the east coast. annual Hampton Relays which includes Team-wise, St. Augustine's placed high school and college competition. "Everybody is real excited about events. In the college division, there ciation. The meet's most eastern loca-



White had been convinced since '85 that Hampton would be an ideal site for Penn Relays in late March. a national championship meet. Con-

struction of HU's new track was com-

The fact that the site of the nationboys' had 14 events, the girls' had 13 idea to the national track coaches asso-

'76, and Ashland, Ohio in '72.



would land the '89 meet. There was grant funds. some thinking that we may not have gotten the bid, because opinion said that our best chance to host would more try to turn some kind of a profit whenlikely be in '90 or '91. But when a vote ever possible and that's where corporate was taken, the coaches voted for Hamp- sponsorship comes in. At presstime, it ton by a big margin (60-2). The only was learned that Hampton officials were people who were against it were the two attempting to work out a sponsorship other schools who were bidding for the arrangement with Black Entertainment meet to be held on their home tracks."

The University of Miami (Fla.) wanted to host the meet badly, even gram for 20 years and it was felt that if don't give more." they could host a national championship meet, it would enhance their image as at the Division I level.

located within a 400 mile radius of nations. Miami (the potential host) as required by NCAA regulations.

putting on a national event. White said are among the nation's best track and that the cost of the meet should run in field performers. the neighborhood of \$20,000 -- the bulk After all, stopwatches and measurof that going toward printing (ID num- ing tapes don't tell lies. bers for the athletes), programs, plus transportation and lodging for athletes

"We put our bid in in '86 and didn't and NCAA officials. Part of the cost of get it," White said. "So we went through staging Division II national champithe process again in '87, hoping we onships is subsidized by NCAA bloc

> Nevertheless, hosts schools always Television. Still, convincing companies to become a sponsor is never easy.

"It's been a problem for us because though they are Division I. The ratio- there have been many firms who have nale behind their move was to give them already donated money to the NCAA," quick visibility in the college track com- White said. "And in a lot of cases, that munity. Miami hasn't had a track pro- is used as an excuse as to why they

This month promises to produce a they attempted to get back into the sport lot of excitement, ecstasy, and pride for black college athletics. Many of the meet's participants go on to compete in However, Miami's plans were the Division I meet and earn All-Amerithwarted when it was determined that can honors. Some have been Olympic not enough Division II schools were medalists for the U.S. as well as other

Given those facts, it's fair to say Track is a non-revenue sport, but it that at the Division II nationals, you're still takes money to pay the bills for bound to see that black college athletes

-Craig T.Greenlee

These athletes will be worth watching at the nationals

colleges have become a force to be reckoned with.

With that in mind, Black College Sports Review gives you a capsule look at some of the top black college athletes who (46.56) in the CIAA meet. will compete at this year's national championships.

110-meter high hurdles - Hampton's Brett Fortune won '88 outdoor nationals with a 13.80. However, St. Aug's Charles Rowan Wade. Johnson will likely to present a strong challenge. Johnson defeated Fortune in the CIAA, winning in 14.14 to Fortune's who was questionable for the nationals. He injured a hamstring

100 meter dash - St. Augustine's is strong in the century. Kenneth Brokenburr won the national indoor 55 meters. But began to solicit support to bring the 100. The Falcons Aston McCatty will also contend for one of team has never had all of its best components together until now Harrison (11.99) and Sharon Ford (12.0), both of St. Aug's Relays with a 20-7. Also won the CIAA title. the top spots.

200-meter dash - Another party for St. Aug's with Brokenburr and Trevor Graham being the top black college contenders. Both sprinters finished 1-2 in the CIAA meet with Brokenburr women's division, Alabama A & M fin- handled 25 teams each for boys' and fined to the Midwest and Far West, winning in 20.96. Graham was in it until the end at 21.06.

400-meter dash - This should be one of the most competi-Duane Johnson was second at the indoor nationals and Hampton's Johnnie Barnes finished fourth. However, look for Trevor

year's outdoor championships and won the 400 title in '87. and NCAA indoor record holder (26-1). Mark Mason and Ran-Barnes (46.2) should be a factor because he defeated Graham dolph will also make a push for the top three places.

However, they will have to find a replacement for Wade, they should still be able to make a serious run for first place.

and they are ready to go. They were second in the indoor nationals, but ran without Graham who is their best 400 man (see page 11). Donovan Callum, Duane Johnson, Brokenburr and Graham could go as low as 3:03.

Triple jump - St. Aug's Earl Randolph has shown to be the tive races of the meet. New York Tech's Howard Burnett is the best black college performer in this event. He captured the triple gold in '89. She beat indoor champ Josetta Royal of Nor- defend her title. She's cleared 6-0 this year and won last year's defending outdoor champ and is the '89 indoor king. St. Aug's indoor national title in March with an effort of 51-0 3/4. He is also the '89 CIAA champion.

When it comes to NCAA Division II track and field, black Graham to make a major push. Graham finished third at last they did at the indoor nationals. Carpenter is the indoor champ 54s, high 53s during the spring.

High jump - This will be another duel of athletes from St. range and should be a factor in the two-lap race. 4 x 100 relay - Once more, look for the Falcons to fly at Aug's vying for a national title. Darrin Moore and Ian Thompson Mach IV speed. They won the relay last May and appear to be in have been locked in competition all season long. Both cleared 6- P. Farmington, Spence, and D. Lyons) to make some noise. St. good shape to repeat. At the Florida Relays in March, they 11 1/2 at the indoor nationals with Moore winning out due to Aug's (46.89 -- Cynthia Badgett, Harrison, Ford and Stephanie the indoor hurdles title in South Dakota and was runner-up in the reeled off a 40.24 with Carpenter, Brokenburr, McCatty, and fewer misses. Both jumpers have broken the 7-foot barrier. At Arline) should also make its presence felt. last year's nationals, Moore placed second with a leap of 7-1 1/2.

4 x 400 relay - Alabama A & M won the SIAC with a

14.24. Johnson's best time this year is 14.04 that was run at the at the Penn Relays and will most likely have to be replaced. St. favorite to successfully defend the crown she won last year. She Hudson, Bertha Knox, Royal and Cynthia Royster) upset Hamp-Aug's will probably insert either Graham or Duane Johnson so didn't compete indoors this past winter so she should be fresh for ton in the CIAA with a 3:45.72. NSU is also the national indoor the outdoor nationals. Her 12.23 victory in the CIAA meet isn't champ for this year. should be in contention for the remaining places.

bit slower than the 23.09 she clocked last year to win her second on a positive note. Finished third at the indoor nationals. Fifth are very capable of clocking 3:06 and if Graham gets hot, they sprint title at the outdoor nationals. St. Aug's Harrison has a last year outdoors. Career best is 42-5. Considered one of the top shot at finishing in the top five.

400 meter dash - Spence (53.59) will be going for the folk State rather handily at the CIAA championships. But don't crown with a 5-11 1/2 effort. Judy McDonald of Hampton isn't count out Charmane Welsh of Alabama A & M in terms of mak- as consistent, but has been known to perform well in big meets. Long jump - The Falcons should dominate this event like ing a dent in the top three. Welsh has consistently run in the low

800 meter run - Best bet for a top finish is Gloria Morgan of Alabama A & M. Morgan has repeatedly finished in the 2:10

4 x 100 relay - Look for Hampton (46.21 -- Kima Edwards,

3:44.70 (Morgan, Juanita Boatwright, Dione Bruff, and Welsh). 100 meter dash - Vivienne Spence of Hampton is a But don't count Norfolk State out. The Lady Spartans (Shelita

4 x 400 relay - This is St. Aug's best relay team and they anywhere near the 11.30 she ran last May. But she's likely to Long jump - St. Aug's Badgett is putting it all together this pleted that year and White promptly | teammate Terrell Carpenter defeated Brokenburr in the CIAA will be out to demonstrate their superiority once and for all. The approach that level by the time the nationals take place. Saundra spring. She won the college division of this event at the Penn

> Triple jump - Hampton's Debra Alexander has improved 200 meter dash - Spence again. Her 23.73 in the CIAA is a each year. As a senior, she's primed to end her collegiate career three performers in Division II.

High jump - Dionne Bruff of Alabama A & M returns to

-Lonnie Sheldon