

S.C. State nips FAMU for title

By **BARRY COOPER**

Democrat sportswriter

Late Friday night, members of the South Carolina State men's track team sequestered themselves in the hotel room of Coach Robert Jackson. Their mission was to predict who would win Saturday's Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference meet.

"We went down the line," said Jackson, "and we figured who would win what. When we left the meeting, we were pretty sure we would win the meet."

S.C. State lived up to the prediction, winning the MEAC championship Saturday by holding off host Florida A.&M 167-149.

Delaware State was third with 96 points. Howard was fourth (69), North Carolina A&T fifth (19) and Bethune-Cookman sixth (12).

It was S.C. State's fourth outdoor conference championship in five years. The Bulldogs also won in 1977, '78 and '79.

Earlier this year, S.C. State won the MEAC indoor championship. FAMU was runner-up in that meet, too.

"We didn't have enough depth," FAMU coach Bobby Lang said of Saturday's runner-up finish. "The field events were the big thing that hurt us. We knew that if we didn't do it in the sprints, it would come down to our field events. And we weren't all that strong in the field events."

S.C. State entered the final day of the meet in third place behind Delaware State and FAMU. Delaware State quickly faded, leaving the Rattlers and S.C. State to battle it out.

"We knew FAMU would be the team to beat," Jackson said. "The first-day results didn't mean a thing. We knew FAMU would be tough but we knew how we could beat them."

Johnson said the Bulldogs' strategy was to at least stay with FAMU in the running events and overwhelm the Rattlers in the field events. That's pretty much the way it went.

South Carolina State won six events: the 110-meter hurdles, discus, 200-meter dash, 1,600-meter relay, triple jump and 5,000-meter run.

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The Rattlers won five events: the 400-meter relay, 1,500-meter run, 100-meter dash, long jump and 800-meter run. But FAMU failed to come up with enough second- and third-place finishes to win.

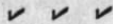
Top performer for the Rattlers was Alphonso Williams, who was voted the meet's top male performer. He won the 1,500-meter run in a record time of 3:54.76, and the 800-meter run in a record time of 1:49.90.

Williams was third in the 5,000-meter run.

Bill Hayes won the 100-meter dash in a record time of 10.23 seconds, and Calvin Cook won the long jump with a leap of 24 feet 3 inches.

Before the meet began, FAMU had expressed an interest in becoming a permanent host for the MEAC spring championships. Conference commissioner Ken Free said he had "no objections" to the idea.

"I was very impressed with FAMU's facilities and with the way the meet was run," he said. "But all I can do is pass that information on to our athletic directors. They would have to make a final decision."



Delaware State won the MEAC women's track meet with 77 points. Howard was second with 66 points, followed by S.C. State (63), FAMU (37) and North Carolina A&T (4).

The Rattlerettes had three first-place finishes. Patrice McGugan won the 400 intermediate hurdles, Pam Oliver captured the 400-meter run and Melinda Prescott won the 1,500-meter run.

Howard's Ron Woods was named the meet's outstanding women's track coach. Delaware State's Joe Burden was named outstanding men's coach.

MEN
Finals

400-meter relay — 1. Florida A&M 40.13, 2. South Carolina State 40.46, 3. Delaware State 41.77.

1,500-meter run — 1. Alphonso Williams (FAMU) 3:54.76, 2. E. Hayes (Del.St.) 3:59.60, 3. J. King (Howard) 4:01.09.

110-meter hurdles — 1. Martlin (S.C.State) 13.79, 2. Bonner (S.C.State) 13.93, 3. Bradwell (FAMU) 13.95.

100-meter dash — 1. B. Hayes (FAMU) 10.23, 2. Boyd (S.C.State) 10.34, 3. Sims (FAMU) 10.37.

Long jump — 1. Calvin Cook (FAMU) 24-3, 2. McCants (S.C.State) 23-11½, 3. Johnson (S.C.State) 23-5¼.

Discus — 1. Cotton (S.C.State) 143-7½, 2. Wilson (S.C.State) 139-7½, 3. Merritt (Del.St.) 138-4.

200-meter dash — 1. Cunningham (S.C.State) 20.71, 2. Boyd (S.C.State) 21.10, 3. Sims (FAMU) 21.25.

800-meter run — 1. Williams (FAMU) 1:49.90, 2. Ferguson (N.C.A&T) 1:50.58, 3. Michael (Howard) 1:53.0.

400-meter hurdles — 1. Oliver (Howard) 51.38, 2. Jenkins (S.C.State) 51.45, 3. Johnson (S.C.State) 52.80.

400-meter dash — 1. Charlton (Howard) 47.32, 2. Simms (Howard) 47.47, 3. H. Wynn (FAMU) 47.74.

1,400-meter relay — 1. South Carolina State 3:07.30, 2. Florida A&M 3:08.33, 3. Howard 3:08.75.

Triple jump — 1. McCants (S.C.State) 49-0, 2. Adam (Del.St.) 48-11½, 3. Jackson (S.C.State) 48-7½.

5,000-meter run — 1. Dix (S.C.State) 15:39.70, 2. Johnson (Del.St.) 15:46.45, 3. Williams (FAMU) 16:26.19.

WOMEN
Finals

400-meter relay — 1. South Carolina State 45.52, 2. Howard 46.88, 3. Delaware State 47.60.

1,500-meter run — 1. M. Prescott (FAMU) 4:50.02, 2. Watts (Howard) 4:52.27, 3. McNeely (Howard) 4:56.25.

100-meter hurdles — 1. Carson (S.C.State) 13/92, 2. Bowles (Del.St.) 14.45, 3. Jewell (Howard) 15.09.

100-meter dash — 1. Horton (S.C.State) 11.66, 2. Bowers (Del.St.) 11.67, 3. Clarke (S.C.State) 11.70.

400-meter run — 1. Palm Oliver (FAMU) 56.26, 2. Adams (Del.St.) 56.44, 3. Dorch (Del.St.) 56.50.

Long jump — 1. Charles (Howard) 19-2½, 2. Finney (Del.St.) 18-3½, 3. Carson (S.C.State) 18-1¾.

Javelin — 1. Griffith (S.C.State) 146-7, 2. Smaw (Del.St.) 111-1½, 3. S. Williams (FAMU) 109-3½.

200-meter dash — 1. Charles (Howard) 24.35, 2. Carson (S.C.State) 24.40, 3. Minkson (S.C.State) 24.45.

800-meter run — 1. Eastwick (S.C.State) 2:13.80, 2. Prescott (FAMU) 2:16.80, 3. McNeely (Howard) 2:17.42.

400-meter hurdles — Patrice McGugan (FAMU) 1:03.23, 2. Graig (Del.St.) 1:03.55, 3. Manley (Del.St.) 1:05.72.

3,000-meter run — 1. Turner (Del.St.) 11:45.07, 2. Dryden (Howard) 12:18.54, 3. Fenderson (Del.St.) 12:34.60.

1,400-meter relay — 1. South Carolina State 3:42.40, 2. Delaware State 3:47.50, 3. Howard 3:48.75.

Discus — 1. Belle (Howard) 124-11¾, 2. L. Behn (FAMU) 120-10½, 3. Smaw (Del.St.) 115-9.

MEN

Finals

Pole vault — 1. Cliff Thomas (Delaware State) 13-6, 2. Arthur Manning (FAMU) 13-6; **Shot put** — 1. William Merritt (Delaware State) 50-10, 2. Dean Wilson (Delaware State) 47-11½, 3. Anthony Harvin (South Carolina State) 47-5; **High jump** — Dwayne McClair (Bethune-Cookman) 7-2, 2. Sherman Washington (Howard) 7-2, 3. Doxie Alston (FAMU) 7-2.

WOMEN

Finals

Shot put — 1. Sherice Shaw (Delaware State) 39-6½, 2. Sheila Belle (Howard) 38-10½, 3. JoAnn Williams (FAMU) 35-6; **High jump** — 1. Sharon Rose (Howard) 5-8, 2. Arlene Adams (Delaware State) 5-2, 3. D. Woods (Howard) 5-0.