

2016 HBCU Team Overviews - Small School (Division II, Division III, NAIA):

Albany State University

2015 Record: 20-34 .370 **Conference:** SIAC **BCN 2015 HBCU Baseball Final Poll:** Received Votes

Albany State University will look to regain its Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) Conference Championship and a berth in the NCAA DII Regional Tournament in 2016. Top returners include returning junior starters Reise McDaniels, Terrance Worthy, a 2015 ABCA/Rawlings All-American Honorable Mention, Jonathan Galan and Emmanuel Santos. Key additions are Nic Griggs, Cody Fleck, Bryant Prather and pitcher Chase Wollett. The strength of the team will be its ability to defend and its overall depth at each position. Albany State will play a tough non-conference schedule highlighted by the NCAA DII defending champions University of Tampa.

Biggest Strength:

Batting, speed, aggressive on the base paths, fielding and team chemistry

Biggest Weakness:

Pitching depth

Benedict College

2015 Record: 23-17 .575 **Conference:** SIAC **BCN 2015 HBCU Baseball Final Poll:** No.8

Benedict returns the entire roster from the 2015 season with 8 seniors, 3 juniors and 9 sophomores. The Tigers added 8 talented freshmen who will contribute to the 2016 season. Majority of the returning players all played summer ball this past summer. With a balanced roster, top players include senior pitchers Yaniel Delgado and Devon Lemon, as well as Angel Perez, a senior utility man and head coach Selwyn Young's nephew, Daniel Young, who has a .300 career batting average. Other top players are junior pitchers Robert Troiano and James Roman, sophomore outfielder David White Jr., third baseman Shomarii Thomas and utility man Rodney Beach, plus a freshman crop who may make an immediate impact.

Biggest Strength:

Aggressive on the base paths, speed, fielding, pitching depth and team chemistry

Biggest Weakness:

Under .500 vs. non-conference in 2015

Bluefield State College

2015 Record: 9-36 .200 **Conference:** ECAC **BCN 2015 HBCU Baseball Final Poll:** Unranked

Endured consecutive 9-36 seasons, during which time Bluefield State was forced to play all of its games on the road due to issues with their baseball field on campus. "We are looking forward to a turnaround year in 2016. If the renovation of our facility is completed on time, then we expect to play 23 of our 50 scheduled games at home". In spite of this, six position players who started regularly on last year's squad return and five additional backups saw significant playing time. The 16 returnees include two hitters who hit over .300 as well as six pitchers who combined for 183 innings in 2015. Of the nine signees for 2016, three are transfers with college level playing experience and six new pitchers should provide a good balance between position players and pitchers.

Biggest Strength:

Team defense

Biggest Weakness:

Hitting... must improve on last season's team batting average of .255

Clafin University

2015 Record: 18-29 .383 **Conferences:** SIAC **BCN 2015 HBCU Baseball Final Poll:** Unranked

The Clafin University 2016 baseball team returns seven of its nine starters from last year's team, all who have played together for the last two seasons. Seniors Jabari Brown and Jesse Minter lead the defensive contingency which provides a bright outlook for the Panthers of Clafin University. Offensively, the 2016 Panthers return the 2015 SIAC Offensive Player of the Year in Damien "Rashad" Bivens and sophomore Darius Boykins will once again lead the pitching staff. The experience that returns for the Panthers puts the team in a good position for the spring, as the team only lost four players (three seniors and one student-athlete who transferred to Florida State) from a 2015 squad which finished second in the Eastern Division of the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC).

Biggest Strength:

Big bat in Damien "Rashad" Bivens and strong pitching from Darius Boykins

Biggest Weakness:

Maintaining consistency

Clark Atlanta University

2015 Record: 1-27 .036 **Conference:** SIAC **BCN 2015 HBCU Baseball Final Poll:** Unranked

Clark Atlanta's 2016 team will have an outstanding and talented group of incoming freshmen who will join a solid nucleus of returning players. Returning are Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) Utility Player of the Year Joseph Holmes, senior Johnny Surry, a 2014 All-SIAC performer, and junior ace pitcher Jezreel Moore. Head Baseball Coach Kentaus "KC" Carter, hired in January to lead the Panther baseball program, welcomes his first recruiting class of nine freshmen to campus. The Panthers added depth to the roster with the addition of two-way players RHP/1B Michael Haywood Jr., RHP/SS Jordan Johnson, LHP/OF/1B Jason Howell and RHP/C John Walton. As well, second baseman Cedric Garrett, RHP DJ Taylor, OF Ceontae Brandon and Nicolas Mitchell will be key contributors for the Panthers.

Biggest Strength:

Utility Player Joseph Holmes finds ways to get on base

Biggest Weakness:

Lack power hitting run producer

Concordia College

2015 Record: 11-18 .379 **Conference:** Independent **BCN 2015 HBCU Baseball Final Poll:** Unranked

Head baseball coach Curtis Wimberly's 2016 team is a mix of freshmen and returning players. Concordia expects to be dominant on defense and put the ball in play. The team returns eight starters from last year and two starting pitchers, LHP Christian Briscoe and John Britton, who will be counted on as weekend starters along with freshman pitcher Darrius Rudolf. Hitting at the top of the lineup will be OF Keiran Starving and adding Mason Miller with his speed on the base path should help the Hornets improve. "This group has worked hard during fall ball are looking for a top spring" according to Coach Wimberly.

Biggest Strength:

Freshmen should have an immediate impact on the mound

Biggest Weakness:

Short of quality reliever

Edward Waters College

2015 Record: 34-22 .607 **Conference:** GCAC **BCN 2015 HBCU Baseball Final Poll:** No.3

The 2016 edition of the Edward Waters College baseball program will return a number of familiar faces this season. There are only two players the Tigers will be without from the 2015 team, Jesse Baker, the starting catcher and Bilal Ragland a starting pitcher. However, the Tigers are returning Miguel Beltre which led the team in batting with a .438 average and over 90 total bases and Juan Bracamonte who hit .388 with over 100 total bases and 29 stolen bases. In 2015 the Tigers finished the year with a 35-24 record, going 13-2 in Gulf Coast Athletic Conference (GCAC) play. With the exception of Baker and Ragland, the entire roster returns and expects key additions for the 2016 season. The main focus for 2016 recruiting class was pitching and catching. The Tigers welcome three JUCO transfers catchers David Diaz (Anne Arundel Community College), Carlos Cabrera (Dominican College) and Jonathan Jaime (ASA Community College) and a freshman catcher Christian Montesinos who look to battle it out for the starting spot. On the hill the Tigers welcome JUCO transfer LHP Marcos Mella, two freshmen RHPs Noah Leake and Jonathan Radomski and two freshmen LHPs, Bo Hodges and Denver Ripley.

Biggest Strength:

Eight returning starters, batting, speed, fielding and experience

Biggest Weakness:

Good but inconsistent middle relief

Florida Memorial University

2015 Record: 7-39 .152 **Conference:** FSC **BCN 2015 HBCU Baseball Final Poll:** Unranked

Head baseball coach Luis Zarzabal has the daunting task of playing in one of the NAIA's toughest conference, the Sun Conference (SC). "This year's team will be very young and energetic. We will be solid behind the plate and our pitching has improved from years past. Our defense is solid all around with some key returning players. We will be a competitive this year and with a tough schedule, it should make us a contender for conference play."

Biggest Strength:

Hitting, fielding and speed

Biggest Weakness:

Pitching

Harris-Stowe State University

2015 Record: 13-30 .302**Conference:** AMCBCN **2015 HBCU Baseball Final Poll:** Unranked

The Hornets have promoted interim head coach CJ Hilbrey to the head baseball coaching position of Harris-Stowe. In 2016, he'll have a core of talent to work with returning first team All-AMC selection Jon Alvarez C/1B/DH who hit .379 with 8 HR in 2015. Gasberth Pacheco, a junior first baseman, Alejandro Infante, a senior second baseman, Jordan Weaks, a junior third baseman, Arsalaan Alvi, a sophomore outfielder, Tyler Schatz a junior outfielder, Andreas Alburjas, a senior outfielder/pitcher and Zach Jones a sophomore outfielder also return. Transfer Adam Core, a sophomore played last season at the University of Alabama is considered a steal for the Hornets. Hilbrey states, "we will be young in many spots but this is one of the more athletic teams that the program has produced. Hilbrey is also counting on Jordan Weaks, a junior infielder/right-handed pitcher, Steven Kemp, a sophomore right-handed pitcher and Stephen Wells, a freshman right-handed pitcher. Wells was ranked the 41st best right-handed pitcher in the state of Florida in 2015. Coach Hilbrey thinks Wells might take the next step and become an ace. We are ten quality arms deep and return a core middle of the order lineup. Much more reliable infield than the past three seasons". Harris-Stowe will have three NCAA Division I games this spring (Murray State and Southeast Missouri twice). "We expect this group to be over .500 despite our tough schedule".

Biggest Strength:

Hitting, hitting with power, infield

Biggest Weakness:

Speed on the base path, lack closer

Huston-Tillotson University

2015 Record: 7-24 .226**Conference:** RRAC **BCN 2015 HBCU Baseball Final Poll:** Unranked

Head Coach Alvin Moore comes into the 2016 season sitting at sixteenth in the nation amongst active coaches in NAIA winning percentage. Coach Moore's 33rd season at the helm of Huston-Tillotson baseball program will see a big reliance on youth throughout the program. With only five seniors and a handful of juniors, this is a freshman and sophomore loaded team. A lot of ranked teams in the NAIA will travel to Austin, TX to historic Downs Field and take on the Rams, so a sense of home field advantage has the Rams feeling pretty good heading into the season. Pitching and speed will be the strong points of this Huston-Tillotson team. Moore expects to see quite a few stolen bases and a lot of hit and runs this year, just putting pressure on the other team's defense. Moore hopes that will translate to runs and help give his pitching staff some confidence knowing his team will get on base and score some runs with timely hitting and speed. It also helps with Tyler Blair behind the plate, who Moore believes will have a big season for the Rams. He is also expecting freshman outfielder, Andre Dowdy to have an immediate impact.

Biggest Strength:

Hitting, speed on the base path

Biggest Weakness:

Pitching, fielding Ranks Number 43 in NAIA Division I in Errors per Game (1.903)

Jarvis Christian College:

2015 Record: 30-23 .566 **Conference:** RRAC **BCN 2015 HBCU Baseball Final Poll:** No.5

The 2016 season looks to be filled with depth and a very talented “multi-dimensional offensive attack”. Lead by key returners Javion Randle, DeAndre McGuire, Carlos Andrade and Vance Moody. The pitching staff has reloaded and will be led by Marcus Jones, who has been a two year starter for the Bulldogs. Best recruiting class in four years.

Biggest Strength:

Offense and depth

Biggest Weakness:

Unproven arms at this level.

Kentucky State University

2015 Record: 13-22 .371 **Conference:** SIAC **BCN 2015 HBCU Baseball Final Poll:** Unranked

The Thoroughbreds will rely on a mixture of returners and newcomers heading into the 2016 season. Senior starting pitcher Kodie Girton (2-4, 2.50 ERA, 50 IP, 46 K) and junior starting pitcher Josh Dunn (4-4, 6.75 ERA, 36 IP, 33 K) headline an improving and deeper pitching staff. Senior Arefes Everette and sophomore Chae Butler will help shoulder the load for the 'Breds pitching staff. Sophomore starting catcher Lazaro Sosa-Gonzalez, who threw out 36% of would-be base stealers with only one error, will team up with transfer Rob Johnson to form a strong platoon behind the plate. Sophomore shortstop Justin Stinson will move to make room for transfer Arnold Dominguez at shortstop, while senior right fielder Justin Cain, junior centerfielder Darius Hughes and senior 1st baseman Marcus Jackson bring veteran leadership to the lineup.

Biggest Strength:

Improved pitching staff

Biggest Weakness:

Lack of consistent hitting

Lane College

2015 Record: 0-25 .000 **Conference:** SIAC **BCN 2015 HBCU Baseball Final Poll:** Unranked

Lane College baseball is entering into a new era. According to head baseball coach Mike Henson, “we had a very good recruiting year, signing 14 new players”. He went on to say, “I think we will have more depth at every position with players who can play multiple positions which will make our bench stronger for in game decisions. Our team is excited about turning our baseball program around. They are working hard this fall, which by the way, is the first time we’ve ever been fall workouts. Our players know the challenges they face and are looking forward to meeting those challenges head on”.

Biggest Strength:

Having fall baseball for the first time

Biggest Weakness:

Team lacks hitting, pitching and fielding. (0-25 in 2015)

LeMoyne Owen College

2015 Record: 7-23 .233 **Conference:** SIAC **BCN 2015 HBCU Baseball Final Poll:** Unranked

2016 is a rebuilding process for LeMoyne Owen College baseball program along with recently hired head baseball coach Mark Smith. Smith is predicting fast results through recruiting. "Our strengths will be defense which is one of my coaching strengths, aggressive style of play and hitting could come through the season".

Biggest Strength:

Fielding

Biggest Weakness:

Pitching, hitting and team consistency

Lincoln University, Missouri

2015 Record: 3-47 .060 **Conferences:** MIAA **BCN 2015 HBCU Baseball Final Poll:** Unranked

Lincoln added 18 new players to the roster after going 3-47 last season adding speed, athleticism and aggressiveness on the base paths to score runs. Head Baseball Coach Mike DeMilia believes his team can swing the bats pretty well. "We are still lacking some power at the plate and look to improve on defense behind our pitching staff." The Blue Tigers are still young with only five seniors and 19 underclassmen. The new freshmen will definitely provide a different team this year, but Coach DeMila thinks, "We are probably a year away from making a big jump in the conference."

Biggest Strength:

Big crop of first year talent

Biggest Weakness:

Short on power at the plate, short on solid pitching

Lincoln University, PA

2015 Record: 3-33 .083 **Conference:** CIAA **BCN 2015 HBCU Baseball Final Poll:** Unranked

The Lincoln University Lions play a tough out of conference schedule each year against teams from Pennsylvania State Athletics Conference (PSAC), Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACCC), and the East Coast Conference (ECC), "all pretty tough conferences" as well as conference opponents from The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA). This year, head baseball coach Anthony J. Pla' has 11 freshman players "who all have something to bring to the table". Defensively, the Lions return two starting catchers, one a senior and one a junior. A junior shortstop returns who has played in all but four games. Also a starting third

baseman, who is also a pitcher and a senior second baseman return. Coach Pla' believes this year the Lions will make a run for the conference championship.

Biggest Strength:

Solid defensively

Biggest Weakness:

Unproven freshmen

Miles College

No report filed

Morehouse College

No report filed

Morris College

2015 Record: 0-16 .000 **Conference:** Independent **BCN 2015 HBCU Baseball Final Poll:** Unranked

Head coach Clarence Houck comes into the 2016 season with a youth movement as the Hornets baseball program will see a big reliance on incoming freshmen throughout the lineup. This is a very freshman loaded team. With this young lineup, coach Houck feels pretty good heading into the season. Pitching and speed will be the strong points of this team. Morris is looking to freshman Derrick Brown as the ace of the staff.

Biggest Strength:

Young but energetic team with speed

Biggest Weakness:

Freshmen inexperience at this level

Paine College

2015 Record: 19-25 .432 **Conference:** SIAC **BCN 2015 HBCU Baseball Final Poll:** No.10

Paine College will be looking to have one of its best seasons ever. The team is returning seven position starters and nine returning pitchers from last season and will have only one senior on the team who is not a starter. Three of the starters were named to the 2015 Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) All - Conference team. According to head coach Kerby Marshall, Paine has "three players on the radar of professional scouts." With 19 wins last season, "we look to finish in the top of our division and improve with 20 plus wins."

Biggest Strength:

Batting, fielding, speed

Biggest Weakness:

Highest earned run average among conference opponents

Rust College

2015 Record: 0-12 .000**Conference:** : Independent **BCN 2015 HBCU Baseball Final Poll:** Unranked

For the past eight years, the Bearcats have been in a downward phase. Eighteen freshman has head coach Arby Burdine hopes high for this year's team. "All of our returners play the outfield with the exception of three. This means that our outfield should be experienced enough to hold their ground. I believe our strengths will be defense and speed. Every starter, except the first baseman, runs a 4.0 or less to first base and a 6.6 or less 60. During our fall training, we have yet to reach our five error limit in any inner squad scrimmage and we have what I believe to be the best freshman catcher in the state. I believe our weaknesses will be experience and hitting. We sit at a huge disadvantage with hitting do to our crazy weather and reconstruction of our batting cage. This is a rebuilding year for us but with our great young talent, we will strive to make this the best year a freshman team can have".

Biggest Strength:

Fielding, speed

Biggest Weakness:

Lack pitching, hitting and team consistency

Selma University

2015 Record: 17-10 .630 **Conference:** Independent **BCN 2015 HBCU Baseball Final Poll:** No.6

NCCAA Poll: No. 4

Selma University returns all nine starters from last year's team which finished sixth nationally in Black College Nines small school poll and fourth in National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA poll. Selma has upgraded in several keys positions with 25 new recruits, some being Junior College (JUCO) transfers, and adding 10 pitchers to the staff, five of whom throw 90-plus. Selma stepped up its strength of schedule adding two Division I universities, Southern University and Eastern New Mexico. This will help prepare for a run at the NCCAA national title. 2015 marked the fifth straight playoff appearance. Selma Bulldogs expect to have another great year of baseball.

Biggest Strength:

Batting, speed, pitching and fielding

Biggest Weakness:

Inclement weather – Rainouts

Saint Augustine's University

2015 Record: 18-27 .400**Conference:** CIAABCN **2015 HBCU Baseball Final Poll:** Unranked

With the return of seniors William Thomas and Carey Cheek, the Falcons should generate offense with their bats. Both players had down seasons as juniors, but Coach Charles Whitaker expects them to return to form offensively in their final seasons. Offensively, senior Jason Baytop, who batted .421 with 30 RBIs in 2015 will add punch to

the lineup. The fielding is expected to improve from last season. Coach Whitaker is concerned about the team's depth after losing many players from last season, including standout pitchers Bryan Rivera and Jeremy Sandifer. The Falcons have two starting pitchers and one player per position.

Biggest Strength:

Senior Catcher Jason Baytop's hitting

Biggest Weakness:

Lack depth at all positions, pitching

Stillman College

2015 Record: 15-21 .417 **Conferences:** SIAC **BCN 2015 HBCU Baseball Final Poll:** Unranked

The Stillman Tigers are building the 2016 season around pitching. Currently have seven pitchers and signed four more who will arrive in January. Of those 11 pitchers, two sit at 90 MPH and four sit at 86-88. First year head coach Julius McDougal will have a strong bullpen barring injuries. Offensively, Stillman has a number of new players on the roster. Defensively the Tigers recruited players who can run the ball down in the outfield as well as "throw guys out while playing fundamental baseball and hitting the cutoff", according to Coach McDougal. McDougal will have big shoes to fill as he replaces Donny Crawford who ended his 11-year reign as head coach. Crawford accumulated a career mark of 272-236 (.535) while claiming Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Championship (SIAC) titles in 2007-2009 and 2011-2014. McDougal served as an assistant under Crawford the last two seasons.

Biggest Strength:

Pitching and fielding

Biggest Weakness:

Under .500 vs. non-conference in 2015

Talladega College

2015 Record: 30-25 .545 **Conference:** GCAC **BCN 2015 HBCU Baseball Final Poll:** No.4

2016 season is a rebuilding year for the Tornados. The team returns one starter, shortstop Jean Marmol. Talladega signed shortstop Luis Alvarado of Labette Community College and pitcher Julian Christopher Thomas from Atlanta, GA. "We have pretty much a whole new infield and we have a lot of question marks with our rotation," Coach Ramos said. "Hopefully we will have all of our questions answered by the time we get into the schedule. We have another tough schedule and that's the way we like it. We just feel the better opponents we play, the better we will be down the road, getting us ready for post-season and hopefully a national tournament."

Biggest Strength:

Returning pure slugger shortstop Jean Marmol

Biggest Weakness:

Pitching, hitting, fielding, unproven incoming players

Texas College

2015 Record: 9-40 .184 **Conference:** RRAC **BCN 2015 HBCU Baseball Final Poll:** Unranked

Texas College baseball has a brand new coaching staff. Head coach Stanley Stubbs, assistant coach Shaquille Thomas, and two student assistants in Chris Burroughs and Julian Coffin-Linear are all working together to change the culture of Texas College Baseball. The Steers will have five returning starters in 1B Juan Mesa, 2B Colton Daniels, Utility Scotty Lehman, LHP Carlos Cordero and LHP Salvador Pagan. Top newcomers include P/IF Jonathan Riffle, P/IF Taj Thompson and P David Ortiz. New coach Stubbs experience includes coaching DI and DII baseball programs. "We know we will not be the team that has the luxury of guys hitting tons of home runs, but we will need to depend on each other by getting on base, making sure the person behind moves him over, and follow up by getting him in. Our weakness is being a young inexperienced team competing in the Red River Athletic Conference".

Biggest Strength:

New head coach

Biggest Weakness:

Unproven incoming players

Tougaloo College

2015 Record: 7-38 .156 **Conference:** GCAC **BCN 2015 HBCU Baseball Final Poll:** Unranked

Tougaloo College expects to be very competitive this year. Replacing six starters will be a challenging task, but with a good recruiting season and some returning players, the Bulldogs shouldn't miss a beat. Tougaloo is anchored by two-time GCAC All-Conference third baseman Joshua Thomas, shortstop Tim Jackson and Lige Mims behind the plate, who hit .300 last year. Also returning are Welton Hudson and Melvin Dilworth, who both had a significant amount of playing time last year. While pitching is definitely a concern, Ronald Russell, a sophomore will be counted on heavily to fill the void of Rodney McKay as the number one starter this year. According to head baseball coach Earl Sanders "We have several prospects that could make the transition early in the season. I expect some the young players to be prepared to step in and play immediately".

Biggest Strength:

Tough non-conference schedule vs. DI, DII, DIII and NAIA opponents

Biggest Weakness:

Shortage of quality pitching from starters and relief

2016 Tuskegee University Baseball

2015 Record: 17-22 .436**Conference:** SIAC**BCN 2015 HBCU Baseball Final Poll:**Unranked

Heading into the 2016 season the Golden Tigers have five starting position players and six veteran pitchers returning to the lineup. The offense added some JUCO experience bringing "tremendous pop, versatility, and speed to the lineup" in 2016. "What stands out about our team this year is our heavy playing experience in the outfield and our veteran presence on the mound. Pitching will be our strong suit this year. We are also excited to get back two, fifth year senior pitchers. Both were sidelined by injuries early last season, which forced a medical

redshirt. "Adding new pieces up the middle and to the batting lineup will present a challenge, but with our experience on the mound we should be competitive", according to assistant coach Reginald Hollins.

Biggest Strength:

Hitting, starting pitching, speed on the base path and in the outfield,

Biggest Weakness:

Lack middle relievers

Virginia State University

2015 Record: 25-18 .581 **Conference:** CIAA **BCN 2015 HBCU Baseball Final Poll:** No.7

The VSU baseball team returns five starters from last year's team of 25 wins and a second place finish in the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Conference. The Trojans will be led by All Conference senior outfielder Jamison Griffin and senior pitcher Jay Dee Johnson . Also starting for the Trojans will be senior outfielder Tashaun Taylor, junior catcher David Markins and senior utility player Corey Grant. Griffin and Taylor, top hitters last season, will set the tone at the top of the lineup and control the outfield. Markins will help VSU's young pitching staff and work with senior Jay Dee Johnson, who led the conference with eight wins last season. The Trojans are excited about freshman pitchers Larry Stephens, Jacob "Dylan" Wells and Aaron Harris. Transfers who should make an impact are pitcher Matthew Isaacs (JUCO) transfer, infielder Lamar Jones (Norfolk State) and outfielder Rodney Shell (West Virginia State).

Biggest Strength:

Hitting, speed and fielding

Biggest Weakness:

Relief pitching

Voorhees College

2015 Record: 10-21 .323**Conference:** GCAC **BCN 2015 HBCU Baseball Final Poll:** Unranked

Voorhees College baseball season is one filled with anticipation and excitement. A buzz was created on campus last year after an improvement from 3-31 to 10-21. The buzz grew larger as more baseball players arrived on campus in August. Voorhees lost a big part of its success last season, but what returns and what they brought in will undoubtedly keep the program moving forward in year two of the rebuilding process. One of the most difficult things last season was dealing with only having twelve players. By our first game on January 30th, Voorhees will have a full roster of players. "I believe that is one of our strengths as a team", according to head coach Justin Thomas. We have depth at all positions, two or even three deep in some spots, which gives us different options. Eleven returners will be joined by 14 to 16 freshmen and transfers who hope to focus on strength and speed. Coach Thomas states "the culture is beginning to shift. It's an exciting time to be a part of the Voorhees baseball program".

Biggest Strength:

Full roster in 2016

Biggest Weakness:

Pitching, fielding, unproven incoming players

West Virginia State University

2015 Record: 35-16 .686 **Conference:** MEC **BCN 2015 HBCU Baseball Final Poll:** No.2

West Virginia State, two time defending Mountain East Conference Champion, returns 10 seniors and a host of tournament experienced players. Looking to build on last season's NCAA tournament appearance with returning All-Conference closer, Josh Falbo, Trent Porter, who was an All-Conference outfielder, as well as four starting pitchers.

Biggest Strength:

Batting, fielding, pitching and experience

Biggest Weakness:

Lack to schedule big non-conference opponent

Wiley College

2015 Record: 22-25 .468 **Conference:** RRAC **BCN 2015 HBCU Baseball Final Poll:** No.9

Wiley head baseball coach Kendrick D. Biggs will rely on returners and newcomers heading into the 2016 season. "We will be young, but very athletic and fast. We have some guys working really hard and we will get better throughout the year". Wiley should have good pitching with RHP Jose Hernandez, LHP Emmanuel Pantaleon and LHP John Jones, as well as relievers RHP Tre'von Thomas and RHP Gilbert Ruiz. Look for solid infielders Trevor Spear, Daniel Rojas and Marco Garcia and a fast outfield of Erick Magee and Brian Scott Jr. The catching duties will be handled by Carlos Rosario and Ozzie Palacios. With seven new players, "We are looking forward to good things".

Biggest Strength:

Starting pitching, fielding, hitting, speed

Biggest Weakness:

Pitching consistency

Winston Salem State University

2015 Record: 42-15 .737 **Conference:** CIAA **BCN 2015 HBCU Baseball Final Poll:** No.1

This upcoming year Winston Salem State returns its entire pitching staff with the exception of one starter. The Rams also added 11 transfers and 4 freshmen to the team after graduating a starting catcher and third baseman. Two NCAA All-Region players are returning along with four new transfers who were NJCAA All-Region performers. The reigning Black College Nines small school national champion Rams start the season playing 18 home games before hitting the road.

Biggest Strength:

At home 20 of 24 games to start 2016 season

Biggest Weakness:

Inexperienced catcher to handle talented pitching staff