April 1, 2021

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M’S BYRON SMITH IS THE RECIPIENT OF THE 2021 HUGH DURHAM NATIONAL COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD

BOSTON, MA -- Prairie View A&M head coach Byron Smith is the recipient of the 2021 Hugh Durham award.

Byron Smith led Prairie View A&M to its third consecutive regular season title and an undefeated record in SWAC play at 13-0. The Panthers were one of only three teams in college basketball that were unbeaten in conference play. PVAMU finished 16-5 overall and were ranked No. 25 in the final regular-season Mid-Major Top 25®.

“This season is just the latest example of Byron Smith’s coaching excellence,” said Angela Lento Vice President of CollegeInsider.com. “Byron Smith isn’t a really good coach at a small school, he’s just a really good coach. If he was at a Power 5 program, he would be a household name.”

Smith, who is in the midst of the most successful run in program history, was named SWAC coach of the Year for the third straight season. This season he was also a finalist for a total of four national honors, including the Jim Phelan National Coach of the Year award.
The Hugh Durham award, is presented annually to the top Division I mid-major coach in college basketball, is named after a coach who built winning programs at three different universities.

In eight seasons as the head coach at Jacksonville University, Durham became the Dolphins' all-time winningest Division I coach (106 wins), making him the only coach in NCAA history to be the winningest coach (pct. or wins) at three different Division I schools.

He built national programs at Florida State where he holds the record for best winning percentage with a 230-95 (.708) record in 12 years. And at Georgia where he is also the all-time winningest coach in the 99-year history of the Bulldog program, having won 297 games in 17 seasons.

Coaches of teams in the following conferences are eligible for the award: America East, Atlantic Sun, Big Sky, Big South, Big West, Colonial, Horizon, Ivy, Metro Atlantic, Mid-American, Mid-Eastern, Missouri Valley, Northeast, Ohio Valley, Patriot, Southern, Southland, Southwestern, Summit, Sun Belt, West Coast.

2020-21 HUGH DURHAM AWARD FINALISTS

Casey Alexander  
Belmont

Mark Byington  
James Madison

Scott Davenport  
Bellarmine

Ed DeChellis  
Navy

Darian DeVries  
Drake

Dennis Gates  
Cleveland State

Joe Golding  
Abilene Christian

Jared Grasso  
Bryant

A.W. Hamilton  
Eastern Kentucky

Terrence Johnson  
Texas State

Robert Jones  
Norfolk State

Pat Kelsey  
Winthrop

Tod Kowalczyk  
Toledo

Matt Langel  
Colgate

Carmen Maciariello  
Siena

Mike Magpayo  
UC Riverside

Bashir Mason  
Wagner

Ritchie McKay  
Liberty

Porter Moser  
Loyola Chicago

Wes Miller  
UNCG

Paul Mills  
Oral Roberts

Joe Pasternack  
UCSB

Todd Simon  
Southern Utah

BYRON SMITH  
PRAIRIE VIEW A&M

Preston Spradlin  
Morehead State