



Virginia State Sports photo

# TANGLES AT THE TOP

TOP TEAMS FACING STIFF CHALLENGES; SLATER OUT AT CLARK ATLANTA; HAMP SMITH PASSES

**HENRY FRAZIER III:** His Trojans of Virginia State are undefeated at 5-0 but unranked nationally headed to Bowie State's homecoming.

## 2023 BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL (Standings and Weekly Honors)

### CIAA CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

NORTH DIVISION	DIV			CONF			ALL		
	W	L	T	W	L	T	W	L	T
Virginia State	0	0	0	3	0	0	5	0	0
Virginia Union	0	0	0	2	1	4	1	1	4
Bowie State	0	0	0	2	1	3	2	1	3
Lincoln (PA)	0	0	0	1	2	2	3	1	3
Bluefield State	0	0	0	0	3	1	4	0	3
Elizabeth City State	0	0	0	0	3	1	4	0	3
SOUTH DIVISION									
Johnson C. Smith	0	0	0	3	0	4	1	1	4
Fayetteville State	0	0	0	3	0	3	2	1	3
Winston-Salem State	0	0	0	2	1	2	3	1	3
Livingstone	0	0	0	1	2	1	4	0	2
Shaw	0	0	0	1	2	1	4	0	2
Saint Augustine's	0	0	0	0	2	0	4	0	2

### CIAA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

**OL - Bruno Onwuazor, VSU**  
**QB - Curtis Allen, So., VUU** - 151 rushing yards, 2 TDs vs. St. Aug's.  
**QB - Marcus Orish, LIV** - 18-32-0 for 224 yards, 4 TDs (2, 5, 18, 29) in upset win over BSU.  
**WR - Lucas Nunez, So., VSU** - 3 rec., 112 yds., TDs of 28 and 75 in win over Shaw.  
**DB - Dylan Morris, Sr., FSU** - Five tackles, 1 TFL, a pick 6 in win over Bluefield State.  
**LB - Jayden Echols, Jr., LIV** - 12 tackles, 6 solos, 1.5 TFL, 1.0 sack for -8 yds, 1 forced fumble and one break-up in win over BSU.  
**DL - Kobe Pringle, LIV** - Six tackles, 2.0 sacks vs BSU.

### MEAC MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

North Carolina Central	CONF			ALL		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
North Carolina Central	0	0	4	1	0	4
Howard	0	0	2	2	0	2
Norfolk State	0	0	2	3	0	2
Morgan State	0	0	1	4	0	1
SC State	0	0	1	3	0	1
Delaware State	0	0	1	4	0	1

### MEAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

**OFFENSE**  
**Davius Richard, Sr., QB, NCCU** - 21-34-0, 265 yards passing, 1TD, 21 carries, 86 rushing yards, 4 TDs in OT win vs. Campbell.  
**DEFENSE**  
**Jayden Flaker, So., LB, NCCU** - Led Eagles with 15 tackles, 11 solos in win over Campbell.  
**ROOKIE**  
**Grant Gaffney, Jr., NSU** - Six tackles, one solo, a half-sack for -4 yards vs. NC A&T.  
**SPECIALIST**  
**Rahkeem Smith, Gr., RB, DSU** - Had 88-yard kickoff return TD and 60-yard punt return TD vs. VUU.  
**OFFENSIVE LINEMAN**  
**Isaiah Cook, Jr., DSU**

### SIAC SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

Fort Valley State	CONF			ALL		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
Fort Valley State	4	0	4	1	0	4
Benedict	3	0	5	0	0	0
Tuskegee	3	0	4	1	0	4
Miles	3	0	4	1	0	4
Albany State	3	0	3	2	0	3
Allen	2	1	3	1	0	3
Edward Waters	2	2	2	3	0	3
Savannah State	1	2	2	3	0	3
Lane	1	3	1	4	0	3
Central State	0	3	1	4	0	3
Morehouse	0	3	0	5	0	3
Kentucky State	0	4	1	4	0	3
Clark Atlanta	0	4	0	5	0	3

### SIAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

**OFFENSE**  
**Isaiah Knowles, So., QB, ALB** - 14 of 19 for 208 passing yards w/o a pick, four TDs, 7 carries, 77 yards in win over KSU.  
**DEFENSE**  
**Dominique Davis, Jr., DB, CSU** - Nine solo tackles, three assists vs. Miles.  
**SPECIAL TEAMS**  
**Elan Hall, Fr., P, FVSU** - Three punts, 130 yards, 43.3-yard average, long of 52 yards vs. Allen.

### SWAC SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

East Division	DIV			ALL		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
East Division	3	0	4	1	0	4
Florida A&M	1	1	3	2	0	2
Jackson State	1	1	3	2	0	2
Alabama A&M	1	1	3	2	0	2
Bethune-Cookman	0	1	1	3	0	1
Alabama State	0	2	1	3	0	2
Miss. Valley State	0	1	0	4	0	1
WEST DIVISION						
Grambling State	2	0	3	2	0	2
Southern	2	0	2	2	0	2
Prairie View A&M	2	1	2	3	0	2
Alcorn State	1	1	2	3	0	2
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	0	2	1	4	0	2
Texas Southern	0	2	1	4	0	2

### SWAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

**OFFENSE - Aaron Allen, Jr., QB, ALC** - 32-46-1, 370 passing yards, 2 TDs in win vs. ALST.  
**DEFENSE - Ckelby Givens, So., DT, DSU** - Nine tackles, 3 solos, 4 TFL with 2.5 sacks for -7 yards in shutout of UAPB.  
**SPECIALIST - Tanner Rinko, PK, GSU** - Hit on three field goals (28, 39, 38) and 2 PATs for 11 points in win over PVAM.  
**NEWCOMER - Keenan Hambrick, Jr., WR, ALA&M** - 5 receptions for 147 yards and TDs of 9 and 76 yards vs. Tuskegee.

### INDEPENDENTS

Florida Memorial	CONF			ALL		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
Florida Memorial	0	0	2	2	0	2
Va.-Lynchburg	0	0	0	5	0	0
Texas College	0	0	0	5	0	0
<b>CAA</b>						
Hampton	1	0	3	1	0	3
NC A&T State	0	1	1	3	0	1
<b>OHIO VALLEY</b>						
Tennessee State	0	1	2	2	0	2
<b>MAIA</b>						
Lincoln (Mo.)	0	0	0	5	0	0
<b>MOUNTAIN EAST</b>						
W. Va. State	4	0	4	1	0	4
SAC (Sooner Athletic Conference)	2	1	2	2	0	2
Langston	2	1	2	2	0	2

### BCSP PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

**OFFENSE - Terrance Bardell, So., RB, LANG** - 13-25-1 for 231 passing yds., 3 TDs, 10 car. 125 yds., 2 TDs vs. SWA.  
**DEFENSE - B.J. Turner, Gr., LB, NCA&T-19t**, 9 solos, 2.5 TFL, 1 pass break-up vs. NSU.  
**NEWCOMER - Kenji Christian, R-So., RB, NCA&T** - 15 car, 118 yds., 2 TDs vs. NSU.  
**ROOKIE - Kevin "KJ" White, Fr., QB, NCA&T** - 11 car., 115 yards, 2 TDs, 6 of 10 passes with one pick for 98 yards.

## SCORES

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30	
Alabama A&M 58, Tuskegee 3	Lane 34, Clark Atlanta 24
Albany State 33, Kentucky State 27	Langston 45, SW Assemblies 21
Alcorn State 23, Alabama State 20, OT	Lincoln (PA) 30, Winston-Salem State 27
Benedict 27, Morehouse 3	Livingstone 31, Bowie State 18
Delaware State 48, VA-Lynchburg 10	Miles 40, Central State 7
Edward Waters 26, Savannah State 25	North American 30, Texas College 26
Fayetteville State 28, Bluefield State 18	NC A&T 28, Norfolk State 26
Florida A&M 31, Miss. Valley State 7	NC Central 49, Campbell 48
Florida Memorial 56, Ave Maria 13	Southern 27, Arkansas-Pine Bluff 0
Fort Hays State 71, Lincoln (MO) 3	Texas Southern 52, Lincoln (CA) 7
Fort Valley State 49, Allen 21	UT-Martin 20, Tennessee State 10
Grambling State 35, Prairie View A&M 20	Virginia State 38, Shaw 19
Hampton 31, Richmond 14	Virginia Union 47, Saint Augustine's 7
Howard 35, Robert Morris 10	West Virginia State 51, W. Va. Wesleyan 16
J. C. Smith 21, Elizabeth City State 20	Yale 45, Morgan State 3

# Ranked teams in critical match-ups

### LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

The first month of the 2023 black college football season has ended with just two teams left with undefeated overall records - **Virginia State** of the **CIAA** and **Benedict** of the **SIAC**, both at 5-0.

Benedict, the defending SIAC champion under head coach **Chennis Berry**, tops the BCSP HBCU Div. II Top Five and is nationally ranked. The Tigers are 13th in the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) NCAA Div. II poll and 12th in the d2football.com Top 25.

Virginia State, in its second-year under veteran head coach **Henry Frazier III**, is second in the BCSP Div. II/NAIA poll but not nationally ranked in either poll.

Pollsters apparently haven't taken notice of VSU's season-opening 33-24 win over **MEAC** and Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) member **Norfolk State** or its 21-17 win over Div. II South Atlantic Conference (SAC) Mountain Division leader Tusculum. Norfolk State has since gone 2-1 vs. members of the powerful FCS Coastal Athletic Association (CAA) with wins over **Hampton** (31-23) and **Towson** (21-14) before falling to **North Carolina A&T** Saturday (28-26).

In the AFCA poll, VSU received 47 votes to finish behind Augustana (SD, 51 votes) just outside the Top 25.

**Virginia Union** (4-1), with its only loss a 10-7 last-second decision to defending CIAA champion **Fayetteville State**, is the other nationally ranked HBCU Div. II team. The Panthers, under head coach **Dr. Alvin Parker**, are 23rd in the d2football.com Top 25. They are not in the AFCA Div. II poll.

**North Carolina Central** and **Florida A&M**, both 4-1, appear in the latest FCS national rankings.

NCCU tops the BCSP FCS Top Five and is coming off a thrilling 49-48 win in overtime vs. CAA member Campbell Saturday. The defending MEAC champion Eagles, under head coach **Trei Oliver**, are up from 13th to 11th in the AFCA FCS poll and are 14th in the STATS Perform FCS Top 25.

Florida A&M, under head coach **Willie**



**NATIONALLY RANKED:** (L. to r.) **Chennis Berry** (Benedict), **Dr. Alvin Parker** (Va. Union), **Trei Oliver** (NC Central) and **Willie Simmons** (Florida A&M) have their teams nationally ranked thru the first month of the 2023 football season.

**Simmons**, checks in at 19th in the STATS poll and 16th in the AFCA poll. FAMU currently leads the SWAC East with a 3-0 record.

### THIS WEEK'S MATCH UPS

All four of the ranked teams and Virginia State are on the road for tough match ups.

Benedict plays at 4-1 **Miles** Saturday (4 p.m.) in a critical SIAC tilt that will be carried live by *HBCUGo on The Grio*. Both Benedict and Miles are 3-0 in SIAC play.

Miles, led by second-year head coach **Sam Shade**, is playing much better this season after finishing 1-9 in 2022. The Golden Beans have beaten SWAC member **Alabama State** (21-17) and their only loss is a one-point decision (21-20) to SWAC member **Arkansas-Pine Bluff**.

Virginia Union plays at **Elizabeth City State** Saturday (1 p.m. *CIAA Network*). ECSU is 1-4 overall but winless (0-3) in CIAA play. The dangerous Vikings, under second-year head coach **Marcus Hilliard**, have three losses by single digits including a heartbreaking 21-20 loss to **J. C. Smith** Saturday at homecoming.

Virginia State travels to Bowie State's homecoming Saturday (2 p.m., *CIAA Network*). BSU has to be smarting after losing at then winless **Livingstone** Saturday, 31-18. A year ago, BSU administered a 41-14 whipping to VSU and former BSU head coach **Frazier** at its homecoming. **Frazier** and the Trojans would like nothing better than to return the favor.

NC Central looks to knock off its second straight CAA opponent when it travels to Elon Saturday (2 p.m., on *FLOSports*). Elon upset FCS No. 4, CAA member **William & Mary** Saturday,

### GAMES THIS WEEK

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7	
Notre Dame (OH) vs. West Virginia State in South Euclid, OH	12n
Arkansas Baptist vs. Texas College in Little Rock, AR	
Central Connecticut vs. Delaware State in New Britain, CT	1p
Elizabeth City State vs. Virginia Union in Elizabeth City, NC	1p
Florida Memorial vs. Warner in Miami Gardens, FL	1p
Winston-Salem State vs. Livingstone in Winston-Salem, NC	1p
Langston vs. Panhandle State in Langston, OK	2p
Northwestern vs. Howard in Evanston, IL	2p
Albany State vs. Central State in Albany, GA	4p
Prairie View A&M vs. Miss Valley State in Prairie View, TX	6p
Allen vs. Clark Atlanta in Blythewood, SC	6p
Fort Valley State vs. Savannah State in Fort Valley, GA	6p
<b>HOMEcomings</b>	
Morgan State vs. Stony Brook in Baltimore, MD - <i>ESPN+</i>	1p
Saint Augustine's vs. Fayetteville State in Raleigh, NC	1p
Shaw vs. Johnson C. Smith in Durham, NC	1p
Alabama State vs. Bethune-Cookman in Montgomery, AL - <i>HBCUGO</i>	2p
Lincoln (MO) vs. Northeastern State in Jefferson City, MO	2p
Bowie State vs. Virginia State in Bowie, MD	2p
Edward Waters vs. Lane in Jacksonville, FL	2p
Alcorn State vs. Grambling State in Lorman, MS - <i>ESPN+</i>	2:30p
Bluefield State vs. Lincoln (PA) in Bluefield, WV	3p
<b>CLASSICS</b>	
<i>Gulf Coast Challenge</i>	
Jackson State vs. Alabama A&M in Mobile, AL - <i>ESPN+</i>	3p
Morehouse-Tuskegee Classic	
Morehouse vs. Tuskegee in Birmingham, AL	7p
<b>TV / STREAMING GAMES</b>	
Hampton vs. Campbell in Hampton, VA - <i>FLOSports</i>	2p
SC State vs. VA-Lynchburg in Orangeburg, SC - <i>ESPN+</i>	2p
Elon vs. NC Central in Elon, NC - <i>FLOSports</i>	2p
Kennesaw State vs. Tennessee State in Kennesaw, GA - <i>ESPN+</i>	3p
Miles vs. Benedict in Fairfield, AL - <i>HBCUGO</i>	4p
NC A&T vs. Villanova in East Greensboro, NC - <i>FLOSports</i>	4p
Southwest vs. Florida A&M in Baton Rouge, LA - <i>ESPN+</i>	6p
Grand Valley State vs. Kentucky State in Allendale, MI - <i>FLOSports7p</i>	

14-6. The win vaulted 3-2 Elon into 25th in the STATS Perform Top 25. The Phoenix are not in the AFCA FCS Top 25.

Florida A&M is facing rival and always dangerous **Southern** (2-2, 2-0 SWAC W) in a battle of SWAC Division leaders in Baton Rouge Saturday (6 p.m., on *ESPNU*). Southern is currently tied with **Grambling State** at 2-0 atop the SWAC West. Southern and FAMU met for 51 straight years, from 1949 to 2001 with FAMU having a 29-22 edge. FAMU has won five of their six meetings since 2007 including a 30-16 win in 2022.

## UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

### SLATER OUT AT CLARK ATLANTA:

ATLANTA — **Clark Atlanta** head football coach **Willie Slater** was dismissed from his duties "effective immediately," the university announced Monday.

The decision came following an evaluation of CAU's 0-5 football team during the 2023 season. The university said there were some unresolved challenges and explored many opportunities for change but they had minimal success, the university said in a statement.

With his 3-7 finish in the 2022 season, Slater was 3-12 since taking the CAU job last season. Prior to CAU, he spent 16 years at **Tuskegee** where his teams were 123-47 winning seven **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference** titles.

In the coming days, the CAU Administration said it will discuss the strategy for the remainder of its football season with its athletics department and the university's Athletic Director, **Jerel Drew**.

### LEGENDARY COACH HAMP SMITH PASSES:

Legenday **Albany State** football coach **Hampton "Hamp" Smith** has passed away at the age of 89 per a release by the university on their social media accounts. Smith is arguably the greatest coach in Albany State football history, leading the program from 1971-1976 and 1982-1999.

In his second stint as Albany State's head coach beginning in 1982, he led the Golden Rams to the most successful years in program history. In those 17 years, the Rams won nine **SIAC** championships including a three-peat from 1984-1986 and a five-peat from 1993-1997. From 1993-1997 his teams made the NCAA Division II Playoffs five times and advanced to the quarterfinals in 1997.

Before his coaching career, Smith played football (1953-56) and graduated from at what is now **Mississippi Valley State University**. He earned his master's degree from **Tennessee State University** and started his coaching career as an assistant at MVSU in 1959. He joined Albany State for his first stint as head coach in 1971. The Rams went 27-28-3 with successive winning seasons in 1972 (7-2-1, 4-1-1 SIAC) and 1973 (6-3-1, 3-2 SIAC) before his first departure in 1976.

He became an assistant coach for the **University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff** from 1977-1978 and then joined MVSU's coaching staff in 1979 before rejoining the Rams as an assistant coach from 1980-1981.

### TOP PERFORMANCES

FROM HBCU GAMES OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

PASSING	COMP-ATT-INT	YDS	TDs (YDS)
Aaron Allen, ALC	32-46-1	370	2 (13, 54)
David Wright, ALL	28-51-4	366	2 (7, 23)
Jyron Russell, EWU	22-37-1	338	3 (0, 23, 18)
Kelvin Durham, FVSU	22-31-0	332	5 (2