

CATFIGHT COLUMBIA

Fort Valley State Sports photo SHAWN GIBBS: His Fort Valley State Wildcats are on the road to face the undefeated defending SIAC champion Benedict Tigers Thursday night.

SIAC BATTLE KICKS OFF WEEKEND WITH 16 HOMECOMINGS; NEW HBCU PLAYER IN THE NFL

SCORES

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7 Alabama State 19, Bethune-Cookman 14 Albany State 48, Central State 0 Alcorn State 25, Grambling State 24 Allen 35 Clark Atlanta 27 Arkansas Baptist 23, Texas College 8 Benedict 27, Miles 24 Campbetll 30, Hampton 27 Central Connecticut 51, Delaware State 44 Edward Waters 37, Lane 30 Fayetteville State 7, Saint Augustine's 0 Florida A&M 26, Southern 19 Florida Memorial 72, Warner 19 Fort Valley State 38, Savannah State 24 Grand Valley State 65, Kentucky State 7 Jackson State 45. Alabama A&M 30

Langston 33, Panhandle State 3 Livingstone 23, Winston-Salem State 21 Lincoln (PA) 52, Bluefield State 44 Morgan State vs. Stony Brook - Cancelled. North Carolina Central 34. Elon 23 Northeastern State 28, Lincoln (MO) 13 Northwestern 23, Howard 20 Notre Dame (OH) 31, West Virginia State 24 Prairie View A&M 31, Miss Valley State 12 Shaw 21, Johnson C. Smith 10 South Carolina State 56, Virginia-Lynchburg 6 Tennessee State 27, Kennesaw State 20 Tuskegee 40, Morehouse 28 Villanova 37, NC A&T 14 Virginia State 44, Bowie State 16 Virginia Union 42, Elizabeth City State 20

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

JOSHUA PRYOR JOINS WASHINGTON:

Pryor

Former prolific Bowie State standout defensive lineman Joshua Pryor has been signed to the Washington Commanders' practice squad.

The 6"4," 280-pound pass rusher and run stopper was part of dominant Bowie State defenses that helped the Bulldogs win three straight CIAA championships during his four years in

the program (2018-2022). Washington signed him as a free agent following the 2023 draft and invited him to minicamp. Pryor was cut by the franchise in late August.

Pryor played in 49 games for Bowie State and amassed 245 total stops, 77 tackles for loss, 32 sacks, three pass breakups, five recovered fumbles, and four forced fumbles. He was named the CIAA Defensive Rookie of the Year in 2018 after posting 20 tackles for loss and 9.5 sacks among 55 tackles. He was the league's Defensive Player of the Year in the 2022 season after recording 10.5 tackles for losses (52 yards), 3.5 sacks (30 yards), eight pressures, two forced fumbles and a pair of breakups.

In perhaps his best season, 2019, Pryor led BSU with 70 tackles, topped all of Div. II with 25.0 tackles for loss with 13.0 sacks for -133 yards.

WILBERFORCE TO JOIN GCAC IN 2024:

NEW ORLEANS - The Gulf Coast Athletic Conference has extended membership to Wilberforce University (Ohio), beginning in the 2024-2025 season. "We are elated to have Wilberforce in our conference,"



said GCAC Commissioner Dr. Kiki Baker Barnes. "Adding members strengthens our ability to execute every aspect of our strategic plan and own the narrative of HBCU excellence." The GCAC

is the only HBCU conference in the NAIA. "Wilberforce has excellence, and joining the GCAC

gives us the opportunity to display that," said Wilberforce Director of Athletics John Hill. "We are building on a multitude of levels, and this energy is one of those levels. We want to engage further, and this is a way to bridge the gap between the university and the community."

Wilberforce, the first college historically to be owned and operated by African Americans, received a unanimous vote from the GCAC's Council of Presidents in September and will officially join the conference on July 1, 2024.

Dillard, Fisk, Oakwood, Philander Smith, Rust, Southern-NO, Talladega, Tougaloo, University of the Virgin Islands and Wiley are current GCAC members.

HBCU FCS TOP FIVE

B 11) NC CENTRAL (5-1) Defeated CAA leader Elon, 34-23. NEXT: Idle. 2) FLORIDA A&M (5-1) Got by Southern, 26-19. NEXT: Bye week. 3) JACKSON STATE (4-2) - Ran by Alabama A&M, 35-20. NEXT: Has S Alabama State in for homecoming.

P 4) HAMPTON (3-2) - Battled gamely before falling to Campbell, 30-27. **NEXT:** At Monmouth.

5) HOWARD (2-3) - Came up just short at Northwestern of the Big 10, T 23-20. NEXT: At Harvard.

0 HBCU NCAA DIV. II / NAIA TOP FIVE

1) BENEDICT (6-0) Survived at Miles, 27-24. NEXT: Hosting Fort Valley State Thursday.

2) VIRGINIA STATE (6-0) Won at Bowie State's homecoming, 46-18. **NEXT:** Trojans' homecoming vs. Bluefield State. 3) FAYETTEVILLE STATE (4-2) - Squeaked by at St. Aug's homecom-

ing, 7-0. NEXT: Hosting Livingstone. 4) VIRGINIA UNION (5-1) Handled Elizabeth City State, 42-20. NEXT: Hosting Bowie State.

E 5) FORT VALLEY STATE (5-1) Beat Savannah State, 38-24. NEXT: S

At Benedict Thursday.

2023 BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL (Standings and Weekly Honors)

CIAA CENT			RCOL		
NORTH DIVISION Virginia State Virginia Union Bowie State Lincoln (PA) Bluefield State Elizabeth City State SOUTH DIVISION	DIV W 0 0 0 0 0	L 0 0 0 0	0 CONF	L 0 1 2 2 4 4	3 3
Fayetteville State Johnson C. Smith Livingstone Winston-Salem State Shaw Saint Augustine's	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	4 3 2 2 2 0	0 1 2 2 2 4	4 2 4 2 2 4 2 4 2 4 0 6

BCSP CIAA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK QB - Isaiah Freeman, So., LINCP - 23-32-0, 370 yds., 5 passing TDs in win over Bluefield State. OB - Jada Byers, Jr., VUU - 27 carries, 246 yards, 2 TDs (21, 40) in in over ECSU.

Kimo Clarke, Jr., VSU - 21 carries, 244 yards and 4 TDs in win over BSU. WR - Malachi Langley, So., LINCP - 6 rec., 180 yds., 3 TDs (52, 33, 18) in win over Bluefield State. Quinzel Lockart, Gr., ECSU - 9 receptions, 175

DL-Cameron Davis, So., VSU-7 tackles, 6 solos, 3.5 sacks vs. BSU. SPECIAL - Jason Zapata, LIV - 50-, 39- and 44-yard FGs, the last a game-winner vs. WSSU.

vds. 3 TDs (41, 95, 4) in loss to VUU.

MEAC MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

	CON	F	ALL	
	W	L	W	L
North Carolina Central	0	0	5	1
Howard	0	0	2	3
Norfolk State	0	0	2	3
SC State	0	0	2	3
Morgan State	0	0	1	4
Delaware State	0	0	1	5

MEAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK **OFFENSE** Davius Richard. Sr., QB, NCCU - 11 carries 114 yards, 3 TDs, 21-35-0 for 171, 1TD vs, Elon.

Carson Hinton, Sr., DB , HOW - Game-high 8 tackles, 6 solo, 2 TFL for -15 yards vs. Northwestern ROOKIE

Marqui Adams. R-Fr., QB, DSU - 16-28-2.

301 passing yards, 3 TDs, 46 yards rushing 1 TD vs. CCU **SPECIALIST** Rahkeem Smith, So., WR/KR, DSU - Returned kickoff for 96 yards for a TD and had 220 yards

on five kickoffs vs. CCU OFFENSIVE LINEMAN Toricelli Simpkins III, HOW

Fort Valley State 5 1 6 0 Benedict Tuskegee Albany State Miles Allen **Edward Waters** Savannah State Kentucky State Central State

BCSP SIAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

OFFENSE David Wright, So., QB, ALLEN - 25-44-1, 364 passing yards and two TDs (63, 12) in win over DEFENSE

Marlon Pollock. R-So., LB. ALBANY STATE - Four tackles, three solos, one forced fumble and recovery and one pass break-up in shutout of Central State SPECIAL TEAMS

Morehouse

Clark Atlanta

SWAC SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

	DIV		AL	L	
EAST DIVISION	W	L	W	L	
Florida A&M	4	0	5	1	
Jackson State	2	1	4	2	
Alabama A&M	1	2	3	3	
Alabama State	1	2	2	3	
Bethune-Cookman	0	2	1	4	
Miss. Valley State	0	2	0	5	
WEST DIVISION					
Prairie View A&M	3	1	3	3	
Grambling State	2	1	3	3	
Alcorn State	2	1	3	3	
Southern	2	1	2	3	
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	0	2	1	4	
Texas Southern	0	2	1	4	

BCSP SWAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

OFFENSE - Jeremy Moussa, Gr., QB, FAMU -31-53-0, 325 passing yards, 2 TDs vs. Southern. DEFENSE - Lewis Matthews, Sr., LB, GSU - 14 tackles, 11 solos, 2.5 TFL for -12 yards, 1.5 sacks for -9 yards vs. Alcorn State

SPECIALIST-Jayden John, So., PK, ALST-Hit on two 24-yard field goals that were the difference in 19-14 win over B-CU.

NEWCOMER - Jason Brown, Gr, QB, JSU - Hit

INDEPENDENTS

	W	L	W	L
	CON	F	ALL	
Florida Memorial	0	0	3	2
VaLynchburg	0	0	0	6
Texas College	0	0	0	6
CAA				
Hampton	1	1	3	2
NC A&T State	0	2	1	4
OHIO VALLEY				
Tennessee State	0	1	3	2
MIAA				
Lincoln (Mo.)	0	0	0	6
MOUNTAIN EAST	Ī			
W. Va. State	4	1	4	2
SAC (Sooner Ath	letic	Cor	feren	ice)
Langston	3	1	3	2

OFFENSE Jordan Gant, RB, TSU-11 carries for 95 yards including a 63-yard TD run vs. KSU

nesaw State

DEFENSE Monroe Beard III, Jr., LB, TSU - Game-high 14 tackles, four solos and half-sack vs. Ken-

SPECIAL TEAMS James Lowery, PK, TSU - 51- and 41-yard

an interception in win over Alabama A&M.

16 homecomings, big SIAC game on tap

LUT WILLIAMS BCSP Editor

Amidst a slew of 16 homecomings this Saturday, the featured black college game this week could be the first one on the schedule.

That would be Thursday when undefeated defending SIAC champion Benedict hosts oncebeaten Fort Valley State in a key SIAC match up (7:30 p.m. on ESPN2).

Benedict (6-0, 4-0), led by head coach Chennis Berry, enters the game with the stingiest defense in all of Div. II football.

The Tigers, led by pass-rushing specialists in defensive end Loobert Denelus and defensive lineman **Jayden Broughton**, are giving up just 37 points (6.17 ppg.) thru their six contests. Denelus, a first team AFCA Div. II all-American, tops Div. II with 9.0 sacks (1.50 per game) while Broughton is third nationally with 7.5 (1.25 per game). As a team, Benedict is best in the nation with 27.0 sacks (4.5 pg.) and tackles for loss at 67.0 (11.2 pg.).

FVSU (5-1, 5-0), led by second-year head coach Shawn Gibbs, tops the SIAC and is 22nd nationally in scoring at 37.2 points per game. Wildcats' QB Kelvin Durham leads the league in passing efficiency (157.9) and is tied for the SIAC lead with 14 passing TDs with just four interceptions. He is passing for 226.0 yards per game. Running back Brandon Marshall is also among the league leaders averaging 84.5 rushing yards per game (3rd) and 5.0 yards per carry.

The Benedict offense counters with 36.5 points per game led by grad senior QB Aeneas **Dennis** (64.0%, 244.7 ypg., 10 TDs, 2 ints.). Running back **Zaire Scotland** leads the SIAC with 11 rushing TDs

FVSU is giving up a league-worst 271.5 passing yards per game. En route to its 11-0 regular season in 2022, Benedict downed FVSU 45-13.

Tuskegee (vs. Edward Waters), Allen (vs. Albany State), Lane (vs. Kentucky State) and Savannah State (vs. Central State) all have conference games before starting conference play homecomings Saturday. The other SIAC game has Miles at Morehouse.

CIAA







OFFENSE VS. DEFENSE: (L. to r.) Fort Valley State QB Kelvin Durham and RB Brandon Marshall will have their hands full dealing with Benedict defensive stalwarts DE Loobert Denelus and DL Jayden Broughton Thursday.

divisional games to the end of the season.

On Saturday, Virginia Union (5-1, 3-1 CIAA N) tries to keep pace with undefeated Virginia State (6-0, 4-0 N) in the North, when it hosts Bowie State (1 p.m.). VSU has Bluefield State for homecoming Saturday (2 p.m.). Also celebrating homecoming in the North is Lincoln (Pa.) (vs. Elizabeth City State).

Johnson C. Smith (vs. St. Augustine's) is the lone homecoming game in the South. **Livingstone** (2-4, 2-2 S), coming off two straight wins, is at South division leader Fayetteville State (4-2, 4-0 S) and Winston-Salem State is at Shaw.

SWAC

With division leader Florida A&M (5-1 4-0 E) idle this week, the **Jackson State** homecoming vs. Alabama State (2 p.m. on ESPN+) takes center stage in the East.

Alabama A&M (vs. Grambling State), Arkansas-Pine Bluff (vs. Miss. Valley State), Texas Southern (vs. Bethune-Cookman) and Southern (vs. Lincoln Ca.) are also celebrating

West Division leader Prairie View A&M (3-3, 2-1) has a non-conference home date vs. Houston Christian.

MEAC

The MEAC has its final week of nonnext week. Defending champion North Carolina **Central** (5-1), up to ninth this week in the AFCA FCS national coaches poll, is off this week.

24)

36)

Games Saturday have **Norfolk State** at plays at Monmouth (2-3, 1-1). In the CIAA, the schedule now shifts to intra- **Tennessee State's** homecoming (5 p.m.), **South**

GAMES THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12	
Benedict vs. Fort Valley State in Columbia, SC - ESPN2	7:30p
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14	
Shorter vs. Clark Atlanta in Rome, GA	12n
St. Thomas vs. Florida Memorial in Miami Gardens, FL	12n
Virginia Union vs. Bowie State in Richmond, VA	1p
North American vs. Langston in Houston, TX	2p
Fayetteville State vs. Livingstone in Fayetteville, NC	2p
Delaware vs. NC A&T in Newark, DE	3р
Morehouse vs. Miles in Atlanta, GA	3р
Houston Christian vs. Prairie View A&M in Houston, TX	6р
TV / STREAMING GAMES	
Harvard vs. Howard in Cambridge, MA - ESPN+	1p
Monmouth vs. Hampton West Long Branch, NJ - FLOSports	1p
Shaw vs. Winston-Salem State in Durham, NC - HBCU GO	1p
SC State vs. Tennessee Tech in Orangeburg, SC - ESPN+	1:30p
HOMECOMINGS	
Tuskegee vs. Edward Waters in Tuskegee, AL	1p
Central State vs. Savannah State in Wilberforce, OH	1p
Johnson C. Smith vs. Saint Augustine's in Charlotte, NC	1p
Lincoln (PA) vs. Elizabeth City State in Lincoln University, PA	1p
VA-Lynchburg vs. Fort Lauderdale in Lynchburg, VA	1p
Jackson State vs. Alabama State in Jackson, MS - ESPN+	2p
Central Oklahoma vs. Lincoln (MO) in Edmund, OK	2p
Lane vs. Kentucky State in Jackson, TN	2p
Miss Valley State vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff in Itta Bena, MS	2p
Texas College vs. Louisiana Christian in Tyler, TX	2p
Albany State vs. Allen in Albany, GA	2p
Virginia State vs. Bluefield State in Ettrick, VA	2р
Grambling State vs. Alabama A&M in Grambling, LA - ESPN+	3р
Bethune-Cookman vs. Texas Southern in Daytona Beach, FL - HBCUGO	3р
Southern vs. Lincoln (CA) in Baton Rouge, LA	4р

Carolina State entertaining Tennessee Tech (1:30 p.m.) and **Howard** at Harvard (1 p.m.). All three games are being streamed on ESPN+

CAA

Tennessee State vs. Norfolk State in Nashville, TN - ESPN+

North Carolina A&T (1-4, 0-2) and **Hampton** (3-2, 1-1) continue their trek thru the Coastal Athletic Association (CAA).

NC A&T travels to meet CAA co-leader and AFCA FCS No. 8 Delaware (4-1, 2-0), Hampton

FROM HBCU GAMES OF TOP PERFORMANCES — PASSING COMP ATT INT VDS

PASSING	COMP-ATT-INT	YDS	TDs (YDS
Isiah Teal, BLST	19-40-1	434	5 (61, 61, 42, 3,
Isaiah Freeman, LINCP	23-32-0	370	5 (52, 8, 33, 18,
David Wright, ALL	25-44-1	364	2 (63, 12)
Jeremy Moussa, FLA&M	31-53-0	325	2 (3, 12)
Marqui Adams, DSU	16-28-2	301	3 (38, 17, 57)
Donovan Davenport, ECSU	20-40-4	301	3 (41, 95, 4)
Aeneas Dennis, BEN	21-37-2	286	1 (73)
Xavier Lankford, ALA&M	21-36-2	265	2 (17, 7)
Trazon Connley, PVA&M	11-18-0	259	2 (28, 74)
Aaron Allen, ALC	20-31-1	248	3 (15, 20, 15)
RUSHING	0.15	\/D0	TD 0/D0)
Jada Byers, VUU	car 27	YDS 246	TDs (YDS) 2 (21, 40)
Kimo Clarke, VSU	21	244	, , ,
,	20	2 44 188	4 (3, 6, 65, 75)
George Morris, TUSK	28		1 (33)
Brandon Marshall, FVSU		187	1 (56)
Eden Janes, HOW	21 22	177 156	1 (64)
Beau Herrington, ALL	24	156	3 (1, 10, 8)
Charles, Daniels, MHS	— ·	131	1 (19)
Quino Mauricette, FMU	14	126	1 (1)
Darran Butts, HAMP	17	124	1 (4)
Daquan Kincey, CAU	15	119	1 (51)
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	TDs
Malachi Langley, LINCP	6	180	3 (52, 33, 18)
Quinzel Lockhart, ECSU	9	175	3 (41, 95, 4)
Nicholas Sowell, BEN	9	174	1 (73)
Devion Newson, CAU	5	124	1 (16)
Antonio Jones, GSU	3	118	0
Per Wilder III, BLST	5	116	1 (61)
Darius Thompson, BLST	4	115	2 (3, 24)
Devontay Deloatch, LIV	11	110	0
	•	440	4 (4-)

TACKLES

14

13

12

11

Cameron Young, ALA&M

Jaih Andrews, MILES

17

Qwahsin Townsel, HAMP; Monroe Beard III, TNST; Lewis Matthews, GSU; Colton Adams, ALST; Jordan Mitchell, ALA&M; D. Cunningham, ALST; Ian Hackney, LINCM;

Jeffrey Broughton, DSU; De'von Grant, ECSU; Kade Moledor, NCA&T; Adrian Hopper, LINCM; Sourie Blakely, VUL; Jaylen Johnson, Dontavius Broadnax, KSU;

110

106

1 (17)

SACKS

Cameron Davis, VSU;

3.5 Armonii Burden, VUU; Tolu Anoyemi, LINCP; Aaron Smith, SCST; 2.0 Quantez Mansfield, Kendrick DuJour, NCCU; Eriq George, TNST; 1.5 Sundiata Anderson, Lewis Matthews, GSU; R. Quinney, MVSU;

INTERCEPTIONS

Christian Ramsey, TUSK;



PEACE OR DEUCES?!: Atlanta wide receiver KHADAREL HODGE (#12, PRAIRIE VIEW A&M) throws up two fingers on each hand not sure why - perhaps to indicate that he's OK with the Falcons' 21-19 win over Houston. Hodge had one catch for 11 yards, a fumble recovery and a special teams' tackle in the win.

HBCU NFL PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

For NFL games of September 28 - October 2, 2023



DEFENSE - #33 ANTONIO HAMILTON, CB, Arizona (8th season, SOUTH CAROLINA STATE) - Started at cornerback in 34-20 loss to Cincinnati and finished with seven tackles, six solos and also had one special teams' tackle. Hamilton played on 66 (80%) of the

defensive snaps and eight (30%) special teams' snaps.



- #12 KHADAREL HODGE, WR, Atlanta (6th season, PRAIRIE VIEW A&M) - In Falcons' 21-19 win over Houston, Hodge had one reception on one target for 11 yards. He fumbled but recovered the fumble on the play. He was in on 37 (48%) of the snaps on offense and 17 (59%) of the snaps on

OFFENSE

special teams.

SPECIAL TEAMS

-#6 JAMIE GILLAN, P, New York Giants, (5th season, ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF) - In Giants 31-16 loss to Miami, Gillan punted four times for 161 yards, a 40.3-yard average with a net of the same. He downed three of the kicks inside the 20. He was on nine (35%) of the special teams' snaps.