

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



AARON JAMES: First-year Tuskegee head coach can claim a spot in SIAC Championship Game with win Saturday vs. rival Miles.

DOWN TO THE WIRE

TITLE GAME BERTHS UP FOR GRABS IN SIAC, CIAA; DIV. II REGIONAL RANKINGS, AFCA POLLS

Title game berths on line in CIAA, SIAC

LUT WILLIAMS BCSP Editor

The final week of regular season play in the CIAA and SIAC is upon us. Results from this Saturday will determine the final match ups in next week's league championship games.

CIAA

Defending league champion Fayetteville State with a 7-0 mark in conference play is in as the South Division's representative in the Nov. 11 CIAA Championship Game at Salem Stadium in Salem, Va.

The Broncos' opponent will be the winner of Saturday's 1 p.m. North Division showdown between Virginia Union and Virginia State at VUU's Hovey Field.

VUU and VSU come in with identical 8-1 overall and all-important 6-1 conference records. VUU's loss was to Fayetteville State 10-7 back on Sept. 23. VSU lost to Elizabeth City State 17-16 on Oct. 21.

The teams of Dr. Henry Frazier III (VSU) and Dr. Alvin Parker (VUU) are pretty evenly matched.

VUU is the highest scoring team in the CIAA at 41.8 points per game with VSU just behind at 39.3 ppg. The Panthers are surrendering a league-best 11.0 points per game. VSU gives up 17.0 ppg., fourth-best in the conference. VUU (229.5 ypg.) and VSU (217.5 ypg.) are 1-2 in rushing stats.

Individually, VUU junior running back Jada Byers leads the league in rushing at 107.8 yards per game and with 14 rushing TDs. Six-two, 215-pound teammate Curtis Allen has run for 692 yards and 8 scores. Kymani Clarke with 703 yards (74.3 ypg.) and 10 TDs leads the VSU rushing attack. VSU QB Jordan Davis (1,230 yds., 153.8 ypg, 60.3%, 11 TDs, 6 ints.) and VUU QB Christian Reid (1,438 yds., 143.9 ypg., 57.7%, 10 TDs, 3 ints.) are fourth and fifth in league passing stats.

SIAC

Defending champion Benedict with an unblemished 7-0 mark in SIAC play has wrapped



THE DOCTORS HAVE IT: Dr. Henry Frazier's (l.) Virginia State Trojans face Dr. Alvin Parker's (r.) Virginia Union Panthers Saturday for the CIAA North Division title.

up one spot in the league's Nov. 11 Championship Game at Atlanta's Lakewood Stadium. The Tigers close at home with Allen Saturday (2 p.m.).

The real battle is for the spot opposite Benedict. Heading into play Saturday two teams - 6-1 Tuskegee and Fort Valley State - have one loss in league play, and three teams - Allen, Albany State and Miles have two losses at 5-2. Allen is out of the championship picture.

The key matchups Saturday have Albany State and Fort Valley State doing battle at the Fountain City Classic in Columbus, Ga. (2 p.m. on ESPN+) and Miles hosting Tuskegee at 4 p.m. in Fairfield, Ala.

Here are the scenarios to earn the championship game spot opposite Benedict based on a story from Clutch Sports.

Tuskegee: First-year head coach Aaron James' Golden Tigers automatically secure a return to the championship game for the second year in a row with a win over rival Miles.

Fort Valley State: The Wildcats need to beat rival Albany State in the Fountain City Classic and for Miles to beat Tuskegee.

Albany State: Miles needs to beat Tuskegee for the Golden Ram's chances to be alive. Albany also must defeat Fort Valley State in the Fountain City Classic.

MEAC

2022 co-champions NC Central (over SC State) and Howard (over Delaware State) both moved to 2-0 in the MEAC Saturday. NCCU has its homecoming Saturday (3:30 p.m.) vs. Norfolk

GAMES THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2
Bethune-Cookman vs. Miss Valley State in Daytona Beach, FL - ESPN+ 7:30p
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Table listing various college football games, teams, and times for the week of October 31 to November 6, 2023.

SCORES

Table showing scores for Thursday, October 26 and Saturday, October 28, including games like Eastern New Mexico vs. Lincoln (MO) 17-0 and NC Central 62, SC State 28.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

BENEDICT TOPS REGION II RANKINGS:

Undefeated defending SIAC champion Benedict is at the top of the rankings in Super Region II as the official NCAA Div. II Football Regional rankings debuted Tuesday.

Football teams from the SIAC and CIAA are in the Div. II Super Region II along with teams from the Gulf South Conference (GSC) and the South Atlantic Conference (SAC). The top eight teams in the each of the four D2 regions advance to the 32-team NCAA Div. II playoffs. The playoff field will be announced on Sunday, Nov. 12.

Here are the first official rankings from Tuesday:

Table showing regional rankings for SIAC, GSC, SAC, and CIAA, listing teams like Benedict, Delta State, Valdosta State, West Florida, Lenoir-Rhyne, Mars Hill, Fayetteville State, West Georgia, Fort Valley State, and Virginia Union.

HBCU TEAMS IN AFCA TOP 25s:

North Carolina Central (7-1) has moved up to ninth from 10th in the latest American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) FCS Top 25 Coaches Poll after its 62-28 rout of South Carolina State Saturday.

Florida A&M is also 7-1 and moved from 14th to a tie for 13th in the poll with 7-1 Chattanooga after the Rattlers' 45-7 pasting of Prairie View A&M Saturday.

NCCU is tied with Howard at 2-0 atop the MEAC race with three weeks left in the regular season. The Eagles and Bison meet next week (Nov. 11) in Washington, D.C.

FAMU has clinched the SWAC East title and a berth in the Dec. 2 league title game. At this point, NCCU and FAMU appear the favorites to win the MEAC and SWAC titles and meet in the postseason Celebration Bowl in Atlanta's Mercedes Benz Stadium on Dec. 16.

In the NCAA AFCA Div. II Top 25 Coaches Poll, undefeated SIAC leader Benedict at 9-0 is down from fifth to sixth after a 38-17 win over Savannah State.

CIAA members Virginia Union (8-1) and Virginia State (8-1) are 19th and 22nd in the Div. II poll. VUU and VSU meet Saturday in Richmond with the winner taking the league's North Division title and a spot opposite South Division winner Fayetteville State in the Nov. 11 CIAA Championship Game.

TOP PERFORMANCES

FROM HBCU GAMES OF OCTOBER 26-28, 2023

Table showing passing statistics for players like Jacorian Morgan, Davius Richard, David Wright, Joe Owens Jr., Christian Reid, Jordan Davis, Jeremy Moussa, Diontae Bonneau, Jyron Russell, and Isaiah Freeman.

Table showing rushing statistics for players like LeDarius Owens, Kendrick Rhymes, Zina Mulbah, Jawam Howell, Jadon Adams, Isaiah Saleem, Beau Herrington, Jarveon Howard, Kylan Duhe, and Jacorian Sewell.

Table showing receiving statistics for players like DaShon Davis, Said Sidibe, Ralph Lovett III, Fabian McCray, Kasey Hawthorne, Jalen Jones, Devin Smith, Dah'mear Triplett, J'Mari Taylor, D. Stevens, and Caden High.

Table showing tackle statistics for players like Chazz Hunter, Elijah Juarez, Daylon Land, and Derrick Williams.

Table showing sack statistics for players like Terrell Allen, Kolby Merritt, Chris Walker, Ryan Mells, Quran Blount, and Tim Alderman.

Table showing interception statistics for Jalen Mayo.



atlantafalcons.com Photo

HODGE BREAKS FREE! Atlanta wide receiver KHADAREL HODGE (#12, PRAIRIE VIEW A&M) gets loose for a 52-yard catch and run Sunday vs. Tennessee. The Prairie View product had three catches on three targets for 75 yards in the Falcons' 28-23 loss to the Titans.

HBCU NFL PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

For NFL games of October 26 - 30, 2023



OFFENSE - #12 KHADAREL HODGE, WR, Atlanta (6th season, PRAIRIE VIEW A&M) - In Falcons' 28-23 loss to Tennessee, Hodge had a season-high three receptions in three targets for 75 yards (25.0 yards per catch) with a long reception of 52 yards.

He got in on 29 (43%) of the offensive plays and 20 (57%) plays on special teams.



DEFENSE - #53 SHAQUILLE LEONARD, ILB, Indianapolis (6th season, SOUTH CAROLINA STATE) - Leonard started at will linebacker in 38-27 loss to New Orleans and finished with 11 tackles, six solos while playing 55 (83%) of the Colts defensive snaps.

SPECIAL TEAMS

- #6 JAMIE GILLAN, P, New York Giants, (5th season, ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF) - In the Giants' 13-10 OT loss to the NY Jets, Gillan punted 13 times for 549 yards (42.2 avg.) with an average net of 40.7 yards. Five of his punts were downed inside the 20 with a long punt of 58 yards. Gillan was in on 17 (46%) of the special teams' snaps.

2023 BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL (Standings and Weekly Honors)

Large table showing standings and weekly honors for CIAA, MEAC, SIAC, SWAC, and Independents conferences, including team records and player achievements.

Table showing HBCU FCS Top Five, HBCU NCAA Div. II / NAIA Top Five, and BCSP CIAA Players of the Week.