



#### DOWN TO THE **WIRE**

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

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

#### SCORES

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26 Eastern New Mexico 62, Lincoln (MO) 17 MEAC

NC Central 62, SC State 28 **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28** CIAA

Bowie State 19, Elizabeth City State 7 Fayetteville State 21, Shaw 14 Johnson C. Smith 35, Winston-Salem State 31 Virginia State 75, Lincoln (PA) 25 Virginia Union 57, Bluefield State 14 Livingstone vs. Saint Augustine's Howard 17, Delaware State 10

Morgan State 32, Norfolk State 28

Albany State 48, Miles 7 Allen 59, Edward Waters 21 Benedict 38, Savannah State 17

Central State 17, Lane 14 Fort Valley State 37, VA-Lynchburg 26 Kentucky State 23, Morehouse 21 Tuskegee 14, Clark Atlanta 3

Alabama State 31, Alabama A&M 16 Alcorn State 24, Mississippi Valley State 3 Florida A&M 45, Prairie View A&M 7 Grambling State 28, Bethune-Cookman 14 Jackson State 40, Ark.-Pine Bluff 14 Southern 23, Texas Southern 17, OT NON-HBCU CONFERENCES Fairmont State 21, W.Virginia State 20 - MEC Florida Memorial 35. Southeastern 24 Hampton 26, NC A&T 24 - CAA Ottawa 68, Langston 27 - SAC Tennessee State 43, Lindenwood 20 - OVC Texas Wesleyan 72, Texas College 16

#### 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 NC44

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:

	OVERALL DIV. II RECORD	IN-REGION RECORD	CONF
1) Benedict	9-0	9-0	SIAC
2) Delta State	6-1	5-1	GSC
3) Valdosta State	6-1	6-1	GSC
4) West Florida	6-2	5-2	GSC
<ol><li>Lenoir-Rhyne</li></ol>	8-1	8-1	SAC
6) Mars Hill	7-1	7-1	SAC
7) Fayetteville State	7-2	7-2	CIAA
8) West Georgia	6-2	6-1	GSC
9) Fort Valley State	6-2	6-2	SIAC
10) Virginia Union	8-1	8-1	CIAA

#### **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.

#### HBCU FCS TOP FIVE

1) NC CENTRAL (7-1) Easily handled SC State Thursday, 62-28. NEXT: Homecoming vs. Norfolk State

2) FLORIDA A&M (7-1) Knocked off SWAC West co-leader Prairie View

S A&M, 45-7. NEXT: At Alabama A&M.

3) TENNESSEE STATE (6-2) - Defeated Lindenwood, 43-20. NEXT: At Charleston Southern

4) ALABAMA STATE (4-3) - Beat Alabama A&M 31-16 at Magic City Classic. NEXT: Hosting Grambling State in Mobile, AL.

5) HOWARD (4-4) - Beat Delaware State, 17-10. NEXT: At South Carolina 0

State homecoming. HBCU NCAA DIV. II / NAIA TOP FIVE

1) BENEDICT (9-0) Defeated Savannah State, 38-17. NEXT: SIAC leader and title game participant hosting Allen to end regular season. 2) FAYETTEVILLE STATE (7-2) Downed Shaw 21-14. NEXT: CIAA S. Div.

champion hosting WSSU for homecoming in end to regular season. 3) VIRGINIA UNION (8-1) No problem with Bluefield State, 57-14. NEXT: Hosting Virginia State with CIAA N. Div. title on the line.

4) VIRGINIA STATE (8-1) Walloped Lincoln (Pa.) 75-25. NEXT: Showdown in Richmond vs. Virginia Union for CIAA N. Div. title. E

5) TUSKEGEE (7-2) Took care of Clark Atlanta, 14-3. NEXT: Hosting Miles. A win earns SIAC title game spot vs. Benedict

## 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

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

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

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 leaguebest 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

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 OB Christian Reid (1,438 vds., 143.9 vpg., 57.7%, 10 TDs, 3 ints.) are fourth and fifth in league passing stats.

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

COMP-ATT-INT

**26**-36-1

18-27-1

20-29-0

23-32-**2** 

12-19-0

13-20-0

14-25-1

15-29-1

17-35-**2** 

16-32-1

CAR

36

23

15

21

16

13

25

REC

5

5

**TOP PERFORMANCES** 

**PASSING** 

Jacorian Morgan, JSU

Davius Richard, NCCU

David Wright, ALL

Joe Owens Jr., FSU

Christian Reid, VUU

Jordan Davis, VSU

Jeremy Moussa, FLA&M

Diontae Bonneau, ALB

Isaiah Freeman, LINCP

LeDarius Owens, TXSOU

Kendric Rhymes, SOU

Jawarn Howell, SCSU

Jadon Adams, SAVST

Isaiah Saleem, KSU

Beau Herrington, ALL

Jarveon Howard, ALC

DaShon Davis, TNST

Ralph Lovett III, ALB

Fabian McCray, JSU

Kasey Hawthorne, HOW

Dah'mear Triplett, LINCP

Chazz Hunter, CSU;

Elijah Juarez, LINCM;

Derrick Williams, SOU;

Daylon Land, MHS;

Terrell Allen, TNST;

Jalen Mayo, VUU;

Kylan Duhe, LANE

**RECEIVING** 

Said Sidibe, VUU

Jalen Jones, BEN

Devin Smith, NCCU

J'Mari Taylor, NCCU

D. Stevens, JSU

**TACKLES** 

15

14

13

4.5

2.0

1.5

**SACKS** 

Caden High, BEN

Zina Mulbah, TUSK

Jyron Russell, EWU

**RUSHING** 



0 0  $C\ V\ C$ TST 0 0 R

THE DOCTORS HAVE IT: Dr. Henry Frazier's (I.) 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

FROM HBCU GAMES OF

OCTOBER 26-28, 2023

**5** (60, 60, 30, 26, 16)

**5** (70, 4, 25, 32)

4 (43, 26, 5, 45)

4 (20, 69, 31, 14)

3 (36, 4, 52)

3 (47, 61, 18)

3 (27, 16, 53)

2 (22, 25)

TDs (YDS)

**2** (**69**, 16)

1 (21)

1 (51)

1 (31)

1 (30)

TDs

1 (90)

1 (10)

1 (32)

1 (44)

1 (19)

1 (60)

1 (26)

2 (22, 25)

2 (60, 26)

3 (70, 25, 4)

3 (47, 61, 18)

2 (33, 23)

TDs (YDS

1 (60)

1 (81)

YDS

373

352

308

280

272

272

262

241

240

YDS

244

136

134

126

102

98

97

94

YDS

200

165

154

136

107

104

103

100

99

Kolby Merritt, FSU; Shawan Lewis, BSU; Isaiah Ward, ARKPB;

Chris Walker, TNST; Jacob Williams, Javius Williams, TXSOU;

Ryan Mells, CSU; Antwan Davis and Kaven Mwikuta, FMU;

Quran Blount, FSU; Maurice McDonald, ALB;

Tim Alderman, FVSU; Stemarion Edwards, ALC:

## CIAA Elizabeth City State vs. Bluefield State in Elizabeth City, NC

#### GAMES THIS WEEK

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

Johnson C. Smith vs. Livingstone in Charlotte, NC Saint Augustine's vs. Shaw in Raleigh, NC Virginia Union vs. Virginia State in Richmond, VA - HBCU Go Fayetteville State (HC) vs. Winston-Salem State in Fayetteville, NC - ESPN+ MEAC	1p 1p 1p 2p
Morgan State vs. Delaware State in Baltimore, MD SC State (HC) vs. Howard in Orangeburg, SC NC Central (HC) vs. Norfolk State in Durham, NC - ESPN+ SIAC	1p 1:30p 3:30p
Kentucky State vs. Central State in Frankfort, KY - ESPN+ Lincoln (PA) vs. Bowie State in Lincoln University, PA Fountain City Classic	1p 1p
Albany State vs. Fort Valley State in Columbus, GA - ESPN+ Lane vs. Savannah State in Jackson, TN Benedict vs. Allen in Columbia, SC - Black College Sports Network Clark Atlanta vs. Morehouse in Atlanta, GA	2p
Miles vs. Tuskegee in Fairfield, AL Edward Waters vs. VA-Lynchburg in Jacksonville, FL SWAC	4p 6p
Alabama A&M vs. Florida A&M in Huntsville, AL - ESPN+ Alcorn State vs. Southern in Lorman, MS - ESPN+ Jackson State vs. Texas Southern in Jackson, MS - ESPN+	1p 2p 2p

Prairie View A&M (HC) vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff in Prairie View, TX - HBCU Go Port City Classic Alabama State vs. Grambling State in Mobile, AL

4p **NON-HBCU CONFERENCES** Nebraska Kearney vs. Lincoln (MO) in Kearney, NE 12n Thomas vs. Florida Memorial in Thomasville, GA 12n Wheeling vs. West Virginia State in Wheeling, WV NC A&T (HC) vs. Towson in East Greensboro, NC - FLOSports Maine vs. Hampton in Orono, ME - FLOSports Langston vs. Texas Wesleyan in Langston, OK 2p Wayland Baptist vs. Texas College in Plainview, TX

Ch'ston Southern vs. Tenn. State in North Charleston, SC - ESPN+

State while Howard is at SC State's homecoming (1:30 p.m.). NCCU and Howard are looking to stay on course for their meeting next week (Nov. 11) in Washington, DC.

#### **SWAC**

With Florida A&M already in with the East Division title, the battle in the SWAC is in the West. Alcorn State and Southern are currently tied atop the division with 4-1 records as they meet



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 Tennesse, 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 a 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)

### CI

**INTERCEPTIONS** 

	CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION					MEAC		
	DIV		CON	4F	ALL			
TH DIVISION	W	L	W	L	W	L		
nia Union	4	0	6	1	8	1	North Carolina	
nia State	3	1	6	1	8	1		
oln (PA)	2	2	3	4	4	5	Howard	
e State	2	2	4	3	5	4	SC State	
beth City State	1	3	1	6	2	7	Morgan State	
field State	0	4	0	7	1	8	Norfolk State	
TH DIVISION							Delaware State	
etteville State	4 2	0	7	0	7	2	Delaware State	
son C. Smith	2	2	5	2	6	3		
gstone	3	1	4	3	4	5	MEAC PLAYERS	
ton-Salem State	2	2	4	3	4	5	OFFENSE & ROO	
V	1		2	5	2	7		
t Augustine's	0	4	0	7	0	9	Davius Richard,	

**BCSP CIAA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK** OL - Justin Meade, Sr., VUU - Anchored line with 520 yards of total offense vs BLST. QB - Jordan Davis, Gr., VSU - 13-20-0, 272 vards. 4 TDs (20, 69, 31, 14) in win vs. Lincoln (Pa.). OB - . Tim Newman, Sr., RB, JCSU - 24 carries, 80 yards, 2-yard game-winning TD vs. WSSU.

WR - Dah'mear Triplett, Sr., LINCP - 5 catches, 101 yards, TDs of 22 and 25 yards vs. VSU. DB -.Kolby Merritt. R-Jr., FSU - Led Broncos with 10 tackles, 7 solos, with 2 sacks for -11 yards vs. BLST. ROOKIE - Javlen Mavo. R-Fr., VUU - One solo tackle and 2 interceptions vs. Bluefield State

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2 S OF THE WEEK

OKIE Sr., QB, NCCU - 18 of 27 for 352 passing yards, 5 TDs, 26 rushing yards, 2 TDs vs. SCSU. DEFENSE

Eric Hunter, Jr., LB, MSU - 60-yard interception return TD, 3 solo tackles, 1 break-up vs. NSU. SPECIALIST Kenneth Jenkins Jr., Sr., RB/RS, MSU - KO

return 90 yards for TD, 4 returns for 158 yards OFFENSIVE LINEMAN Torricelli Simpkins III, Jr., NCCU - 90% grade, 7 pancades as Eagles put up 482 yards vs. SCSU

Jawarm Howell, Fr., RB, SCSU - 126 rushing yards on nine carries, 1 TD vs. NCCU

## SIAC SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

^ Benedict 0 Tuskegee Fort Valley State Miles Albany State 5 4 **Edward Waters** 5 Central State Kentucky State 2 6

0 9

7 0 9

Clark Atlanta ^ Clinched first place SIAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Morehouse

Deondra Duehart, So., RB, BENEDICT - 18 carries, 107 yards, 3 TDs vs. KSU DEFENSE Cedric Hillsman, R-Jr., DE, FVSU - Six tackles, 1 sack (-7), 3 TFL (-11), forced fumble and QB hurry vs. Morehouse

SPECIAL TEAMS Elan Hall, Fr., P. FVSU - Averaged 46.0 yards on four punts, three downed inside 20 vs. Morehouse.

## SWAC SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

EAST DIVISION W L 0 Jackson State Alabama State Alabama A&M Miss. Valley State Bethune-Cookman WEST DIVISION Southern Alcorn State Prairie View A&M Grambling State Texas Southern Arkansas-Pine Bluff

SWAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK OFFENSE - Aaron Allen, Jr., QB, ALCORN STATE - 14-26-0, 219 yards, 2 TDs, 5 car.s, 37

^ Clinched division title

vds., 1 TD vs. MVSU DEFENSE - Malachi Bailey, Jr., DL, TEXAS SOUTHERN-Fourtackles, 3 solos, 2 TFL, 1 sack, 1 forced fumble, 1 break-up, 1 hurry vs. UAPB. NEWCOMER - Jacorian Morgan, Fr., QB, JACKSON STATE - 26-36-1, 373 yards, 5 TDs. 10 carries, 75 yards, 1 TD vs. MVSU.

#### **INDEPENDENTS**

	VV	L	VV	L
	CON	IF	ALL	
Florida Memorial	4	1	5	3
VaLynchburg	0	0	1	8
Texas College	0	0	0	7
CAA				
Hampton	2	3	4	4
NC A&T State	0	5	1	7
OHIO VALLEY				
Tennessee State	2	1	6	2
MIAA				
Lincoln (Mo.)	0	0	0	8
MOUNTAIN EAST				
W. Va. State	4	3	4	4
SAC (Sooner Ath	letio	Con	feren	ice)
Langston	4	2	5	3
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PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Da'Shon Davis, Sr., WR. TSU - 5 rec., 200 vards, 90-vard TD vs. Lindenwood. DEFENSE Terrell Allen, Sr., DL, TSU - 10t, 7s, 4.5 sacks,

SPECIAL TEAMS James Lowery, PK, TSU - 13 points on 35-, 29-, 37-yard FGs, 4 PATs vs. Lindenwood

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