

FOUR IN, **ONE OUT**

ERIC DOOLEY: Let go at Southern after only two years despite 12-10 record, a 2022 SWAC West title and SWAC title game appearance.

BENEDICT AND NC CENTRAL ENTER PLAYOFFS, HOW-ARD AND PRAIRIE VIEW CLINCH POSTSEASON SPOTS

CONF ALL NORTH DIVISION L W L W L 0 8 1 10 2

PLAYOFF MVPs

Jada Byers, Jr., RB, VA. UNION - Carried 20 times for 101 yards and an 8-yard TD in 38-14 loss to Kutztown in first round NCAA Div. II playoff game. Jabrill Norman, Jr., LB, VA. UNION - Led Panthers with 11 tackles, 5 solos with one hit on the QB in

LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

MEAC MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

w L w L 4 1 6 5 \ Howard North Carolina Central 9 Morgan State 4 6 SC State 2 5 6 Norfolk State 3 Delaware State 5 1 10 Conference champ

MEAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK **OFFENSE**

Davius Richard, Gr-Sr., QB, NCCU - Completed 19 of 21 passes without an interception for 386 yards and five TDs in win over DelState Joaquin Davis, Jr., WR, NCCU - Had 5 catches for 128 yards and TD grabs of 64, 20 and 23 Jordan Toles, Sr., DB, MSU - Had game-high

14 tackles, 9 solos with .5 tackle for loss in loss to Howard. SPECIALIST Adrian Olivo, Sr., PK, NCCU - 7-of-7 on PATs with 24- and 33-yard field goals, accounting for

SIAC

2023 BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL (Standings and Weekly Honors)

9 0 11 0 ^ Benedict ^ Conference champion PLAYOFF MVPs **OFFENSE** DEFENSE

SPECIAL TEAMS

ROOKIE

SWAC SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

EAST DIVISION ^ Florida A&M 0 10 Jackson State 3 7 4 Alabama State Alabama A&M Bethune-Cookman Miss. Valley State WEST DIVISION ^ Prairie View A&M Alcorn State Grambling State Texas Southern Arkansas-Pine Bluff ^ Division champ

SWAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK **ALA&M -** 27 carries, 207 yards (7.7 ypc), 2 TDs DEFENSE - C. J. Pressley, Jr., LB, PVA&M - 8

OFFENSE - Donovan Eaglin, R-So., RB, (17, 67) in win over MVSU tackles, 4 solos, 2.5 TFL, 1.5 sacks, 1 forced fumble vs. Alabama State. NEWCOMER

INDEPENDENTS

	W CONF	L	W	L	
Florida Memorial	5	2	6	4	
VaLynchburg	0	0	1	9	
Texas College	1	7	1	10	
CAA					
Hampton (T8th)	3	5	5	6	
NC A&T (14th)	0	9	1	10	
OHIO VALLEY					
Tennessee State	2	4	6	5	
MIAA					
Lincoln (Mo.)	0	0	0	11	
MOUNTAIN EAST					
W. Va. State	6	4	7	4	
SAC (Sooner Athletic Conference)					
Langston	5	3	6	4	

BCSP PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

OFFENSE Alston Hooker, R-So., QB, NCA&T - 11-15-0, 115 yards, 1 TD vs. Campbell DEFENSE & NEWCOMER Joshua Iseah, Fr., LB, NC A&T - 13 tackles. 7 solos, 1 TFL (-3 yards) vs. Campbell.

SCORES

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16 Alabama A&M 30, Miss. Valley State 21 SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18 CIAA

NCAA DIV. II PLAYOFFS - Super Region I First Round Kutztown 38, Virginia Union 14

Howard 14, Morgan State 7 NC Central 55. Delaware State 14 SC State 44, Norfolk State 17

swer for the first-half onslaught.

Scott

to be the game winner.

yards on 16 carries.

bid.

McDowell

SWAC

PLAYOFF GAME RECAPS

NCAA DIV. II

Kutztown 38, Virginia Union 14

(PSAC) champion Kutztown scored touchdowns on its first five pos-

sessions to lead 35-7 at the half en route to downing CIAA champion

Virginia Union 38-14 in a first round NCAA Div. II playoff game.

VUU (10-2), shifted to Div. II Super Region I

The Panthers got their only first half TD on a

VUU junior RB Jada Byers (20 carries, 101

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

WASHINGTON, D. C. - Howard defeated Morgan

Celebration Bowl in Atlanta.

The tough defensive battle vs. MSU saw grad senior

Running back Jarett Hunter rushed for 108 yards

The Bison (6-5), under third-year head coach Larry

Howard defeated NCCU 50-20 in their head-to-head

quarterback Quinton Williams (12-22-0) throw for 143

yards and score on a 34-yard third-quarter run that proved

on 20 carries and scored the game's first touchdown on

an 8-yard first-quarter run. Eden James added 90 rushing

Scott, finished with a 4-1 conference record, the same as

N. C. Central. The league changed the rule this season that

declared co-champs based on conference record. The head-

match up on Nov. 11. Howard and NCCU shared the 2022

title with 4-1 records. NCCU defeated Howard 50-21 in

their head-to-head meeting to earn the Celebration Bowl

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M IN FOR SWAC TITLE GAME:

years.

Dec. 2 for the league's championship game.

yard drive with 6:08 left in the third quarter.

PRAIRIE VIEW, TX - Prairie View A&M got two

1-yard scoring runs from **David Murray**

to build a 14-0 lead and added a 54-yard TD pass midway thru the fourth-quarter

to hold off Alabama State 21-14 and

claim its second SWAC West title and

league championship game berth in three

The Panthers (6-5, 6-2 W), under

to-head winner is now declared the outright winner.

State 14-7 Saturday to claim its first

outright MEAC championship since 1993

and earn the league's berth in the Dec. 16

will face the winner of the Dec. 2 SWAC

Championship Game between East

Division winner Florida A&M and West

In the Celebration Bowl, the Bison

HOWARD EARNS MEAC TITLE,

CELEBRATION BOWL BERTH:

Division winner Prairie View A&M.

from Super Region II for travel purposes, had no an-

blocked punt by Epraim Moore than Kenneth Da-

vis returned 10 yards to paydirt with 3:26 left in the

yards) scored the only third quarter TD on an 8-yard

run at the end of a nine-play, 76-yard drive.

KUTZTOWN, PA - Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference

Alcorn State 28, Jackson State 24 Arkansas-Pine Bluff 35. Texas Southern 34 Florida A&M 24, Bethune-Cookman 7 Prairie View A&M 21, Alabama State 14 Campbell 28, NC A&T 14

Elon 51, Hampton 14

Tennessee Tech 35. Tennessee State 0

Byers

It's win or go-home time for both **Benedict** and North Carolina Central this week. The two teams will enter NCAA championshp playoff fields this week in Div. II and FCS respectively.

SIAC champion Benedict (11-0, 9-0 SIAC) is one of the four teams ranked first in each of the Div. II Super Regions in the 28-team playoff field. The Tigers are the top-ranked team in Super Region II and received a bye thru Saturday's first round.

NC Central (9-2, 4-1 MEAC) received one of the ten at-large bids to the 24-team FCS playoff field.

Both Benedict and NCCU will be seeking their first such playoff wins in history.

NCAA Div. II Playoffs

Benedict puts its undefeated mark and top ranking in Super Region II on the line when it hosts South Atlantic Conference (SAC) champion, fourth-seed Lenoir-Rhyne (11-1), Saturday in Columbia, S. C. (1 p.m.).

This will be Benedict's and third-year head coach Chennis Berry's second straight trip to the playoffs and second straight time they will be hosting after receiving the region's top seed.

After an 11-0 season in 2022, the Tigers received the first-round bye but fell at home to SAC member Wingate, 23-6, in the second round.

The Match Up Lenoir-Rhyne at Benedict

Lenoir-Rhyne junior QB Sean White passed for a school-record 398 yards and five TDs and rushed for two scores as the Bears walloped Shepherd, 63-14 in a first-round home playoff game Saturday. LR-U is led by fourth-year head

coach Mike Jacobs. White has thrown for 1,324 yards and 16 touchdowns with just three interceptions while completing 64.7% of his passes. He has passed for ten TDs over the Bears' last two victories including 308 yards and five TDs in a 48-7 SAC title-clinching win over Tusculum.

But LR-U redshirt sophomore QB Jalen Ferguson has been perhaps more productive. Ferguson has passed for 1,468 yards and 16 TDs with just two interceptions while completing 72% of his passes. It is not clear who will start Saturday between the two prolific passers.

The Bears boast three receivers with over 30 receptions - DeAree Rogers (43 rec., 621 yds., 6 TDs), Senga Yates (35 rec., 516 yds., 7 TDs) and Deondre Lester (33 rec., 471 yds., 5 TDs). Opening things up for the Bears' passing attack is junior running back Dwayne McGhee who has rushed for 1,213 yards and 9 TDs while averaging 6.8 yards per carry.

OR GO **HOME!**



Benedict, NC Central enter playoff fray

STAYIN' ALIVE?: Benedict head coach Chennis Berry (I.) and North Carolina Central coach Trei Oliver (r.) take their teams into battle Saturday in the NCAA Div. II and FCS playoffs respectively.

The Benedict defense leads the nation in scoring defense giving up just 8.4 points per game. It will have its hands full slowing down the L-RU offense that comes in averaging 40.2 points per game, 14th-best in Div. II. The Tigers also are second in the nation in sacks (45, 4.0 per game) led by 10 sacks from defensive ends Loobert Denelus and 9.5 by DE Jayden

Benedict has been even more prolific than the Bears on offense scoring 41.1 points per game, 11th-best in Div. II. The offense is led by grad senior QB Aeneas Dennis who has completed 63.2% of his passes for 2,722 yards, 19 TDs and five interceptions.

Sophomore Deondra Duehart (591 yards, 7 TDs) leads the rushing attack while 6-foot, 215-pound redshirt freshman Noah Zaire **Scotland** has rushed for 295 yards and 13 TDs.

Benedict is 0-2 historically vs. L-RU. The Tigers lost 17-0 to the Bears in 2006 and 38-17 in 2007.

FCS Playoffs

North Carolina Central will travel down to Richmond, Va.'s Robins Stadium Saturday (2 p.m., ESPN+) to face the University of Richmond (8-3, 7-1 CAA), one of three co-champions of the Coastal Athletic Association

The Match Up NC Central @ Richmond

NCCU and Richmond have four common opponents this season – MEAC members Morgan State and Delaware State, CAA member Elon and former MEAC member and now CAA member North Carolina A&T.

UR was 3-1 vs. those common opponents. The Spiders lost a stunning 17-10 decision to Morgan State to open the season, defeated Delaware State 38-6 on Sept. 16, beat NC A&T 33-10 on Oct. 21 and won over Elon 38-24 on Nov.

NCCU was 4-0 against the same teams, beating NC A&T 30-16 on Sept. 9, handling Elon 34-23 on Oct. 7, getting by Morgan State 16-10 on Oct. 19 and dispatching Delaware State 55-14 on Nov. 18.

GAMES THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Turkey Day Classic

NCAA Div. II Playoffs, Second Round

Alabama State vs. Tuskegee in Montgomery, AL - ESPN+ **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25** SIAC

Lenoir-Rhyne vs. Benedict in Columbia, SC

Bayou Classic Grambling State vs. Southern in New Orleans, LA - NBC 1p

FCS Playoffs, First Round

NC Central vs. Richmond in Richmond, VA - ESPN+

After the loss to Morgan State, Richmond lost at Michigan State (45-14 on Sept. 9) and at home **Hampton** (31-14 on Sept. 30) before running off six straight wins.

After beginning the season as the starter, redshirt sophomore quarterback Kyle Wickersham has started the last two UR wins over Elon and William & Mary that clinched a tie for the CAA title. Freshman Camden Coleman has been at the controls during six games. Wickershap has thrown for 1,038 yards and 7 TDs and added 333 rushing yards and four TDs. Coleman has passed for 975 yards and 10 scores.

Redshirt junior Nick DeGennaro is the top receiver with 54 receptions for 702 yards and eight TDs. Redshirt senior running back Savon Smith has also taken a number of snaps when the Spiders run out of a Wildcat formation. Smith has rushed for 612 yards and six TDs to lead UR.

Defensively, the Spiders are led by redshirt senior linebacker Tristan Wheeler's 104 tack-

The Eagles' attack is engineered by grad senior quarterback Davius Richard who has passed for 1,915 yards and 20 TDs with just 3 interceptions while completing 61.0% of his passes. Richard has rushed for another 578 yards and 15 TDs. Senior RB Latrell Collier is the team's rushing leader with 684 yards including 8 rushing touchdowns. Sophomore wideout Devin Smith (34 rec., 4 TDs) and junior Joaquin Davis (33 rec., 6 TDs) are Richard's top targets.

The NCCU defense is led by sophomore linebacker Jayden Flaker (74 tackles, 4.5 sacks), junior defensive back Kole Jones (53 tackles) and senior safety Manny Smith (46 tackles).

NCCU is the first black college team to make the FCS playoffs since Florida A&M, playing out of the SWAC, was selected in 2021. The Eagles are the second MEAC squad to go the FCS playoffs since the league gave up its automatic bid in 2015 to start the postseason Celebration Bowl. MEAC runners-up North Carolina A&T was made the FCS playoffs in 2016.

TOP PERFORMANCES -

FROM HBCU GAMES OF NOVEMBER 16-18, 2023

Davius Richard, NCCU	19-21-0	386	5 (64, 20, 2
Damon Stewart, ALST	27-38- 0	372	2 (76 , 16)
Aaron Allen, ALC	16-24-1	225	3 (55, 33, 1
Ty'Jarian Williams, MVSU	10-18-1	223	2 (64, 62)
Mekhi Hagens, ARKPB	15-37-0	193	1 (17)
RUSHING	CAR	YDS	TDs (YDS)
Donovan Eaglin, ALA&M	27	203	2 (17, 67)
Donovan Eaglin, ALA&M LaDarius Owens, TXSOU	27 25	203 140	2 (17, 67) 3 (3, 2, 30)
o ,			, , ,
LaDarius Owens, TXSOU	25	140	3 (3, 2, 30)
LaDarius Owens, TXSOU Marquis Gillis, DSU	25 14	140 133	3 (3, 2, 30) 1 (62)
LaDarius Owens, TXSOU Marquis Gillis, DSU Michael Jamerson, ARKPB	25 14 10	140 133 113	3 (3, 2, 30) 1 (62) 0

RECEIVING YDS Murray scored late in the first quarter for the only first-Joaquin Davis, NCCU 128 half score and added his second tally after a 15-play, 86-Tyree Saunders, ALST 6 120 Jacoby Hewitt, ALA&M 115 Fabian McCray, JSU 109 Behind Damon Stewart (27-38-0, 372 yards), ASU E. J. Core, DSU 99

(6-4, 5-3 E) got back in the game as he hit **Tyree Saunders** on a 76-yard scoring pass on the first play of the fourth quarter. PV responded a couple possessions later when QB Trazon Connley (5-11-1, 108 yards) hit Chris Herron on a 54-yard scoring pass for a 21-7 lead with 8:53 left.

second-year head coach Bubba McDowell, will travel to

East Division winner Florida A&M in Tallahassee, Fla. on

ASU pulled within 21-14 as Stewart hit Saunders with a 16-yard score but it came with just :16 seconds left. PV was able to recover the ensuing onsides kickoff to seal the

Jackson State defeated Prairie View, then under head coach Eric Dooley, 27-10 in the 2021 SWAC title game. Dooley, who then left PV to take over at Southern, was let go by the Jaguars last week after only two years at the helm.

2 (76, 16)

2 (26, 38)

PASSING COMP-ATT-INT YDS TDs (YDS) 23, 27, 23) 12) 3 (64, 20, 23)

TACKLES Grant Ewell Jr., ARKPB; Jabril Norman, VUU; Keyshawn Johnson, PVA&M; 14 Jordan Toles, MSU;

13 Joshua Iseah, NCA&T; **SACKS**

1.5 C. J. Pressley, PVA&M; 1.0

INTERCEPTIONS

Eric Smith, FLA&M;

HBCU NFL PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

For NFL games of November 16 - 20, 2023



OFFENSE

71 TYTUS HOWARD, OL, Houston (5th season, ALABAMA STATE) - In 21-16 win over Arizona, Howard started at left offensive guard as the Texans rushed for 111 yards on 25 carries and rookie QB C. J. Stroud

passed for 336 yards and two TD while being sacked three times (-29 yards). Howard was in on all 67 plays (100%) on offense and four plays (22%) on special teams.



DEFENSE

- #14 MARKQUESE BELL, S, Dallas (2nd season, FLORIDA A&M) - Bell started at safety in 33-10 win over the Carolina and led the Cowboys with 10 total tackles, six solos. He was in on 50 (85%) of the defensive snaps and five 19%) of the special teams' snaps.



- #33 ANTHONIO HAMILTON, DB, Arizona (8th season, SOUTH CAROLINA STATE) - Hamilton started at cornerback in Cardinals' 21-16 loss to Houston and finished with four tackles, three solos, one interception of QB C. J. Stroud and a lost fumble on a punt return.

He went out with a hamstring injury after his fourth-quarter interception. He was in on 51 plays on defense (76%) and seven (39%) on special teams.

SPECIAL TEAMS

- #6 JAMIE GILLAN, P, New York Giants, (5th season, ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF) - In the Giants' 31-19 win over Washington, Gillan punted seven times for 318 yards, an average of 45.4 yards with a average net of 42.6 yards. Two punts were downed inside the 20 with a long punt of 56 yards. Gillan was in on 12 (41%) of the special teams' snaps.