



SWAC UP FOR GRABS

FAMU/PVA&M PLAY FOR SWAC TITLE, BOWL BERTH; BENEDICT AND NC CENTRAL BOW OUT OF PLAYOFFS

SWAC Championship Game logo
WIN OR GO HOME: Florida A&M and Prairie View meet in Tallahassee with SWAC title and Celebration Bowl berth going to the winner.



FLORIDA A&M RATTLERS (10-1)

EAST DIVISION CHAMPION
SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE



Head Coach
WILLIE SIMMONS

TEAM RECORD		2023 RESULTS	
2023 Overall	10-1	FLORIDA A&M	10-1
2023 SWAC East	8-0	28... Jackson State in Miami...10 W	
2023 BCSP Ranking	1st	24.....@ South Florida38 L	
All-Time vs. Prairie View	6-3	31.....West Florida10 W	
Last Time vs. Prairie View	45-7 W, 23	23.....Alabama State10 W	
SWAC Title Games	0-0	31.....@ Miss. Valley State.....7 W	
SWAC Championships	0	31.....@ Texas Southern.....21 W	
		31.....@ Texas Southern.....21 W	
		45.....@ Alabama A&M28 W	
		28.....Lincon (CA)0 W	
		27.....Alabama A&M in Mobile, AL....13 W	
		24.....Bethune-Cookman in Orlando.....7 W	

COACH'S RECORD
Alma Mater: The Citadel '03
Record vs. PV A&M: 1-0
Record at FAMU: 42-13, 763, 6th year
Career Record: 63-24, 724, 9th year



PRAIRIE VIEW A&M PANTHERS (6-5)

WEST DIVISION CHAMPION
SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE



Head Coach
BUBBA McDOWELL

2023 RESULTS		TEAM RECORD	
PRAIRIE VIEW A&M	6-5	2023 Overall	6-5
37.....@ Texas Southern.....34 W		2023 SWAC West	6-2
16.....Abilene Christian.....45 L		2023 BCSP Ranking	4th
0.....@ SMU.....69 L		All-Time vs. Florida A&M	3-6
23.....@ Alcorn State20 W		Last Time vs. FAMU	7-45, L '23
20.....Grambling State in Dallas35 L		SWAC Title Games	2, 1-1
31.....Miss. Valley State12 W		SWAC Championships	11 (Last '09)
0.....@ Houston Christian.....30 L			
7.....@ Florida A&M45 L			
38.....Arkansas-Pine Bluff.....14 W			
27.....@ Southern.....21 W			
21.....Alabama State.....14 W			

COACH'S RECORD
Alma Mater: Miami '89
Record vs. Florida A&M: 0-1
Record at Prairie View: 12-10, 545, 2nd year
Career Record: Same

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2023 • TALLAHASSEE, FL. • BRAGG MEMORIAL STADIUM • 4 P.M. • ESPN2

Florida A&M/Prairie View play for SWAC title

LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

The Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) takes center stage this week as East Division champ **Florida A&M** (10-1, 8-0 SWAC E) hosts West Division champ **Prairie View A&M** (6-5, 6-2 SWAC W) in the 25th league championship game (4 p.m. on ESPN2). The game is the next-to-last black college football game of the 2023 season.

The winner will advance to play **Mid Eastern Athletic Conference** (MEAC) champ **Howard** (6-5) in the season-ending Dec. 16 *Cricket Celebration Bowl* at Atlanta's Mercedes Benz Stadium.

Game missing 2022 drama

This year's game has none of the drama or off-field intrigue that accompanied last year's championship game between undefeated (11-0) East Division champ **Jackson State** with head coach **Deion "Coach Prime" Sanders** and West Division champ **Southern** (7-4) led by **Eric Dooley**.

The 43-24 win by Sanders' team was almost overshadowed by the much-ballyhooed coach's postgame decision to bolt from JSU to take over the head coaching position at Colorado. Sanders, in fact, blew off the title game's postgame press conference to take his team back to campus at JSU to announce he was leaving.

The coaches

Florida A&M sixth-year head coach **Willie Simmons** and Prairie View A&M head man **Bubba McDowell**, in his second season leading the Panthers, are very familiar with each other.

Prior to moving to FAMU in 2017, Simmons led Prairie View for three seasons (2015-17). McDowell, a former seven-year NFL veteran and defensive standout, was a defensive assistant on Simmons' staff. McDowell became the Panthers' head coach in 2022 after Dooley left to take over at **Southern**. McDowell had served as Dooley's defensive coordinator.

This will be FAMU's first time in the SWAC title game after leaving the **Mid Eastern Athletic Conference** in 2021 to join the SWAC. In the previous two seasons, Simmons' troops suffered their only losses in SWAC play to Sanders' undefeated Jackson State teams. FAMU earned an FCS playoff berth in 2021.

Prairie View finished at 6-5 under McDowell last season, tied for first with Southern at 5-3 in SWAC play. Southern won the West title by virtue of its 45-13 win over PV in head-to-head competition.

The Match Up – Florida A&M vs. Prairie View A&M

This year's hype is tempered by Florida A&M's 45-7 shellacking vs. Prairie View at the Rattlers' homecoming game this season on Oct. 28 in Tallahassee. In that game, FAMU scored in the last half-minute of the first half to lead 21-7 at the break. The Rattlers then shut out the Panthers in the second half, 24-0. The win clinched the SWAC East title for FAMU.

FAMU quarterback **Jeremy Moussa** was 17 for 25 for 272 yards and three touchdowns to three different receivers. Rattlers' defenders held Prairie View quarterback **Trazon Connley** to nine completions in 24 attempts with three picks. FAMU also had three sacks and nine tackles for loss while holding the Panthers to just over 200 yards while piling up 453 yards of offense.

Will it be different this time around?

After the FAMU loss, Prairie View won its final three games vs.

TOP PERFORMANCES

FROM HBCU GAMES OF NOVEMBER 23-25, 2023

PASSING	COMP-ATT-INT	Yds	TDs (YDS)
Aeneas Dennis, BEN	17-29-1	376	4 (58, 87, 29, 36)
Davius Richard, NCCU	16-27-1	262	1 (91)
Noah Bodden, SOU	13-28-1	231	1 (8)

RUSHING	CAR	YDS	TDs (YDS)
Floyd Chalk, GSU	22	172	1 (3)
Kendric Rhymes, SOU	18	103	2 (2, 73)
Johnny Morris III, TUSK	22	100	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	TDs
Reginald Harden, BEN	6	230	3 (58, 87, 36)
Devin Smith, NCCU	6	202	1 (91)
August Pitre III, SOU	4	118	0
Caden High, BEN	6	102	1 (29)

TACKLES	15
Colton Adams, ALST;	

SACKS	2.0
Aaron Miller, BEN	
1.0	11

INTERCEPTIONS	1
5	

SWAC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME YARDSTICK		
FLORIDA A&M		PRAIRIE VIEW A&M
Moussa	Sheread	Major
Connley	Antoine	Johnson
FLORIDA A&M 30.3 ppg. (1st) 14.3 ppg. (1st) 369.5 ypg. (4th) 266.6 ypg. (1st) 136.2 ypg. (11th) 88.7 ypg. (1st) 233.4 ypg. (1st) 177.9 ypg. (1st)	TEAM STATS SCORING OFFENSE 20.0 ppg. (9th) SCORING DEFENSE 30.8 ppg. (10th) TOTAL OFFENSE 342.5 ypg. (7th) TOTAL DEFENSE 391.4 ypg. (11th) RUSHING OFFENSE 158.3 ypg. (4th) RUSHING DEFENSE 133.3 ypg. (4th) PASSING OFFENSE 184.3 ypg. (8th) PASSING DEFENSE 258.1.6 ypg. (12th)	PRAIRIE VIEW A&M 20.0 ppg. (9th) 30.8 ppg. (10th) 342.5 ypg. (7th) 391.4 ypg. (11th) 158.3 ypg. (4th) 133.3 ypg. (4th) 184.3 ypg. (8th) 258.1.6 ypg. (12th)
Terrell Jennings 492 yds., 44.7 ypg., 5.9 ypc., 7 TDs	RECEIVING 182-317-8, 57.4%, 2,416 yds., 18 TDs	Ahmad Antoine 491 yds., 49.1 ypg., 4.6 ypc., 2 TDs
Jeremy Moussa 182-317-8, 57.4%, 2,416 yds., 18 TDs	TACKLES 44 rec., 9.9 ypc., 434 yds., 2 TDs	Trazon Connley 127-229-9, 55.5%, 1,972, yds, 9 TDs
Jah'Marae Sheread 44 rec., 9.9 ypc., 434 yds., 2 TDs	SACKS 94 tackles, 8.5 tpg.	Shemar Savage 426 yds., 2 TDs
Isaiah Major 94 tackles, 8.5 tpg.	INTERCEPTIONS 8.0, -36 yds.	Keyshawn Johnson 4.0, -24 yds.
Anthony Dunn Jr. 8.0, -36 yds.	PLACEKICKING Eric Smith 3, 0 TD	Derrick Ray 7.2 tpg.
Eric Smith 3, 0 TD	FLORIDA A&M 41-41 PATS, 10-12 FGs, 71 pts.	Dejuan Lewis 2, 1 TD
Cameron Gillis 41-41 PATS, 10-12 FGs, 71 pts.		Carlos Villagomez 20-21 PATS, 7-14 FGs, 41 pts

Arkansas-Pine Bluff (38-14), **Southern** (27-21) and **Alabama State** (21-14) to hold off **Alcorn State** and win the West Division title. Alcorn also had a 6-2 SWAC record but lost to Prairie View 23-20 in their head-to-head meeting on Sept. 23.

In the FAMU game, Prairie View played without rushing leader **Ahmad Antoine** and top receiving threats **Shemar Savage** and **Brian Jenkins Jr.** All three are expected to play in the title game.

McDowell, in his interview on Monday's SWAC Championship Game teleconference, said he didn't recognize his team in the second half of the FAMU game.

"In the first half it was them (his team), in the second half, I don't know who that was. I told them at the end of the game, you guys were like two different teams. We can't be that second-half team that we were when we played against the Rattlers last time. We've pointed out all the mistakes and bad play that we had."

The difference for Florida A&M is simple. "We're still playing," Simmons said on the teleconference. "That's the difference. This is the longest we've played since we've been here. In 2021, we lost in the first round of the (FCS) playoffs.

"And so, the biggest difference is that in the first week after Thanksgiving we're still in preparation. Everybody else has turned in their shoulder pads, turned in their uniforms.

"We're still rolling." "And so it's a blessing to be in this position and I want to make sure our team understands that blessing, that we internalize it and allows us to go out and practice the way we should because we do get this great opportunity."

HBCU NFL PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

For NFL games of November 23 - 27, 2023

OFFENSE
- **#7 TERRON ARMSTEAD**, OT, Miami (10th season, **ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF**) - In the Dolphins' 31-13 win over the New York Jets, Armstead started at left tackle as the Dolphins rushed for 167 yards (28 carries) and two TDs and passed for 243 yards and one TD. Armstead played 49 (70%) of the offensive snaps.

DEFENSE
- **#8 JAVON HARGRAVE**, DT, San Francisco (8th season, **SOUTH CAROLINA STATE**) - Hargrave started at right defensive tackle in 31-10 win over Seattle and finished with seven tackles, two solos with 1.5 sacks for -10.5 yards while playing 40 (71%) of the defensive snaps and one (3%) special teams' snaps.

SPECIAL TEAMS
- **#6 JAMIE GILLAN**, P, New York Giants, (5th season, **ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF**) - In the Giants' 10-7 win over New England, Gillan punted eight times for 363 yards, an average of 45.4 yards with a average net of 40.3 yards. Four punts were downed inside the 20 with a long punt of 74 yards. Gillan was in on 10 (43%) of the special teams' snaps.

2023 ALL-SWAC FOOTBALL SELECTIONS

OFFENSIVE POY - Jeremy Moussa, QB, FAMU
DEFENSIVE POY - Isaiah Major, LB, FAMU
NEWCOMER OY - Jace Wilson, QB, TSU
FRESHMAN OY - Javon Robinson, WR, GSU
COACH OF THE YEAR - Willie Simmons, FAMU

All-SWAC First Team Offense - **QB:** Jeremy Moussa, FAMU; **RB:** LaDarius Owens, TSU; Jarveon Howard, ALC; **OL:** Eric Dunn, PVA&M; Cameron Covin, FAMU; Robert Alston IV, ALS; Deontae Graham, JSU; Ryan Atkins, UAPB; **WR:** Kisean Johnson, ALS; Montario Hunt, ALC; **TE:** Tavarious Griffin, ALC
All-SWAC First Team Defense - **DL:** Malachi Bailey, ALC; Anthony Dunn Jr., FAMU; Sundiata Anderson, GSU; Ckelby Givens, SOU; **LB:** Isaiah Major, FAMU; Colton Adams, ALS; Rico Dozier, UAPB; **DB:** Omari Hill-Robinson, B-CU; Kendall Bohler, FAMU; Jordan Carter, SOU; Eric Smith, FAMU **All-SWAC**

First Team Specialist - **PK:** Cameron Gillis, FAMU; **P:** Jimmy Iles, GSU; **RS:** Terrell Gardner, AA&M; **LS:** Braxton Blackwell, Southern
All-SWAC Second Team Offense - **QB:** Aaron Allen, ALC; **RB:** Chance Williams, GSU; Donovan Eaglin, AA&M; **OL:** Ashton Grable, FAMU; Arrington Taylor, PVA&M; Dominic Boyd, ALS; Arelious Dunn, ALS; Evan Henry, JSU; **WR:** Jah'Marae Sheread, FAMU; Marcus Riley, FAMU; **TE:** D.J. Stevens, JSU
All-SWAC Second Team Defense - **DL:** Tahj Brown, SOU; Gentle Hunt, FAMU; Trequan Thomas, ALS; Zareon Hayes, Alabama A&M; **LB:** Isaac Peppers, JSU; Jacob Williams, TSU; Johnny Chaney Jr., FAMU; **DB:** - Emari Pait, AA&M; Keenan Leachman, ALC; Mikey Victor, ALS; Lovie Jenkins, FAMU -
All-SWAC Second Team Specialist - **PK:** Joshua Griffin, SOU; **P:** Matt Noll, JSU; **RS:** Robert McClinn, ALS; **LS:** Clayton Thomas Jr., B-CU

2023 ALL-MEAC FOOTBALL SELECTIONS

OFF LINEMAN OY - Toricelli Simpkins II, C, NCCU
ROOKIE OY - Jawarn Howell, RB, SCSU
COACH OY - Trei Oliver, NCCU

First Team Offense - **QB:** Davius Richard, Sr., NCCU; **RB:** Latrell Collier, R-Sr., NCCU; Jawarn Howell, Fr., SCSU; **WR:** Kasey Hawthorne, Sr., HOW; Devin Smith, Jr., NCCU; **TE:** Keshawn Toney, Gr., SCSU; **C:** Toricelli Simpkins III, Jr., NCCU; **OL:** Amin Dankway, Gr., HOW; Nick Taiste, R-Jr., SCSU; DaQuan Thomas, R-Jr., NCCU; DeMetrius Wither- spoon, R-So., HOW;
First Team Defense - **DL:** Darren Brokenbur, Gr., HOW; Jaden Taylor, R-Jr., NCCU; Elijah Williams, Jr., MSU; Patrick Godbolt, Gr., SCSU; **LB:** Erick Hunter, Jr., MSU; Terrance Holton, Jr., HOW; Jayden Flaker, So., NCCU; **DB:** Kenny Gallop Jr., Sr., HOW; Jordan Toles, Sr., MSU; Jason Chambers, So., NCCU;

JaeVeyon Morton, Gr., MSU; **P:** Aaron Bickerton, So., HOW; **PK:** Adrian Olivo, Sr., NCCU; **RS:** Brandon Codrington, Sr., NCCU
Second Team Offense - **QB:** Quinton Williams, Sr., HOW; **RB:** Eden James, So., HOW; Jarett Hunter, Sr., HOW; Marquis Gillis, R-So., DSU; **C:** Eric Brown Jr., Jr., SCSU; **OL:** Darius Fox, Jr., HOW; Cam Johnson, R-Jr., SCSU; Trevon Humphrey, R-Fr., NCCU; Treyvon Branch, Jr., MSU; **Second Team Defense** - **DL:** Trey Middleton, R-Jr., NCCU; Naejuan Barber, R-So., SCSU; **Jamel Stewart**, Jr., HOW; Keyshawn Lynch, R-So., NSU; **LB:** Aaron Smith, R-Jr., SCSU; Lawrence Richardson, Sr., MSU; Daylan Long, R-So., NSU; AJ Richardson, Fr., NSU; **DB:** Kole Jones, Jr., NCCU; Devon Allen, Jr., NSU; Carson Hinton, Sr., HOW; R. J. Coles, R-Jr., NSU; **P:** Jonathan Cardozo-Chicas, Sr., DSU; **PK:** Aaron Bickerton, So., HOW; **RS:** Keith Jenkins Jr., So., MSU; Ian Wheeler, Gr., HOW