



SWAC Championship Game logo

WHO'S IN, WHO'S OUT?

FLORIDA A&M IN CELEBRATION BOWL WITH HOWARD; MCKINNEY OUT AT TSU, JACKSON OUT AT GRAMBLING

HOT COMMODITY?: Word is that current Benedict head football coach Chennis Berry is being sought after by at least three schools.

MEN'S 2023-24 BLACK COLLEGE BASKETBALL (Standings and Weekly Honors)

CIAA				MEAC				SIAC				SWAC				INDEPENDENTS				
CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION				MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE				SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE				SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE								
CONF	ALL	W	L	CONF	ALL	W	L	CONF	ALL	W	L	CONF	ALL	W	L	CONF	ALL	W	L	
NORTH DIVISION								EAST												
Virginia Union	0	0	5	Norfolk State	0	0	6	Benedict	4	0	8	Prairie View A&M	0	0	4	Langston	0	0	7	0
Lincoln (PA)	0	0	4	N.C. Central	0	0	4	Morehouse	3	0	5	Bethune-Cookman	0	0	4	Florida Memorial	0	0	9	1
Bowie State	0	0	3	Delaware State	0	0	4	Allen	2	1	4	Alabama State	0	0	4	Lincoln (Mo.)	0	0	5	1
Virginia State	0	1	3	Howard	0	0	3	Albany State	2	2	4	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	0	0	4	Tennessee State	0	0	6	3
Elizabeth City State	0	0	3	Md. E-Shore	0	0	2	Savannah State	1	1	2	Grambling State	0	0	2	West Virginia State	0	0	4	3
Bluefield State	0	0	2	S.C. State	0	0	2	Edward Waters	1	1	2	Jackson State	0	0	2	Hampton	0	0	3	5
SOUTH DIVISION				Morgan State	0	0	2	Fort Valley State	1	3	1	Southern	0	0	2	NC A&T	0	0	0	7
Fayetteville State	1	0	3	Coppin State	0	0	1	Clark Atlanta	0	2	6	Alabama A&M	0	0	1					
Johnson C. Smith	0	0	4					Lane	3	1	3	Alcorn State	0	0	1	PLAYERS OF THE WEEK				
Winston-Salem State	0	0	5	PLAYER OF THE WEEK				Miles	2	1	5	Florida A&M	0	0	5	Tai'Reon Joseph , 6-3, Jr., G, SOU - In win over No. 21 Miss State, Joseph had 27 points on 11 of 21 shooting, 3 of 10 from 3, with 6 rebounds and 3 steals. Had 12 pts., 3 rebs., in loss to Marquette.				
Clafin	0	0	2	Martaz Robinson , 6-2, Sr., G, DSU - In wins over Chicago State and Loyola (Md.), Robinson averaged 25.0 points, 7.5 rebounds, 3.0 assists and 1.0 steals. Had 26 pts., 10 rebs., in OT win vs. Loyola, 24 points, 5 rebs. vs. CSU.				Spring Hill	2	2	5	Texas Southern	0	0	7	DEFENSIVE				
Shaw	0	0	2	NEWCOMER				LeMoyn-Owen	2	2	4	Miss. Valley State	0	0	8	Derrick Carter-Hollinger , 6-6, Sr., F/C, B-CU - Had 15 points, 12 rebounds and 3 blocks in win over Incarnate Word.				
St. Augustine's	0	0	3	Jamarii Thomas , 6-0, Jr., G, NSU - Averaged 20.0 ppg., 4.0 rebounds, 7.0 assists and 3.5 steals in two wins. Had 17 points, 3 rebounds, 5 assists and 3 steals in win over VCU, 23 points, 5 rebounds, 9 assists and 4 steals in win over William & Mary.				Tuskegee	1	3	2									
Livingstone	0	0	0	DEFENSIVE				Kentucky State	0	2	3									
				Davion Everett , 6-6, So., F, SCSU - Had 10 pts., 10 rebs. vs. Charleston Southern, 23 pts., 5 rebs., vs. Furman.				Central State	0	3	1									

BCSP Notes

Is a bidding war underway for Benedict head football coach Chennis Berry?

To say current Benedict head football coach Chennis Berry is a hot commodity in the HBCU football world right now would be an understatement.

After leading the Columbia, S. C.-based Tigers to back-to-back 10-0 regular seasons, consecutive Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) championship game wins and NCAA Div. II Super Region top seeds, the longtime assistant is being heavily sought after.

South Carolina State University has reportedly identified Berry as the top candidate to replace retiring head coach Oliver "Buddy" Pough. The South Carolina State opening is the only one so far at the six Mid Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) football playing institutions.

But Berry, 50, reportedly also has interest from multiple schools in the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) as well.

Multiple sources told HBCU Gameday's Stephen Gaither that an offer was submitted to Berry's representatives last week to take over the SCSU program as Pough is on his way out the door. Pough, who led the Bulldogs for the last 22 seasons, is currently the interim AD after the resignation of Keshia Campbell from that role in late October.

Efforts to contact Pough Tuesday were unsuccessful.

Berry and Pough were seen together at SC State's Oliver C. Dawson Stadium on Thursday as the South Carolina high school football playoffs were taking place there. A multi-year contract for Berry would have to be approved by the South Carolina State University Board of Trustees. The next BOT meeting is set for Thursday, Dec. 7.

One of those sources indicated that Berry is indeed a candidate at both Texas Southern and Southern universities in the SWAC. Berry worked as an assistant coach at nine HBCUs including Howard, North Carolina A&T, Morgan State, Kentucky State and Fort Valley State. He was the offensive coordinator at Southern helping lead the Jaguars to seven consecutive winning seasons prior to getting the top job at Benedict.

The former Savannah State offensive lineman took over as Benedict head coach in 2020 and led the team to a 5-5 record during his first season. Since then he has run the table vs. SIAC competition and earned first-round byes into the NCAA Div. II playoffs.

His team lost in the second round of the playoffs to Wingate (23-6) in 2022 and this season fell in the second round to Lenoir-Rhyne (35-25). Lenoir-Rhyne went on to defeat Valdosta State 35-7 in the quarterfinals and will face Harding in the Div. II semifinals this week.

Berry is 27-7 as a head coach in three seasons. Pough, an SC State graduate, has served as head coach at South Car-



ANTICIPATION?: Benedict Head Football Coach Chennis Berry (l.) and retiring SC State Head Football Coach and current interim Athletics Director Oliver "Buddy" Pough (r.) are seen here on the sidelines at last week's South Carolina State High School football playoffs at SCSU's Oliver Dawson Stadium. Berry has reportedly been offered to succeed Pough as head coach of the Bulldogs.

olina State University since 2002. He succeeded SC State alum and Bulldog legend Willie Jeffries, who was head coach in two stints at SC State, from 1973-78 and from 1989 through 2001.

McKinney's contract not renewed at Texas Southern

HOUSTON - Texas Southern officially announced on Nov. 20 that head football coach Clarence McKinney's contract will not be renewed.

"Texas Southern University will not renew the contract of head football coach Clarence McKinney when it expires on Dec. 15, 2023," said Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics Dr. Kevin Granger. "We wish Coach McKinney well moving forward. The University will begin a nationwide search for our next head coach immediately."

McKinney was 12-35 over five seasons with the Tigers and failed to post a winning record during his tenure. His best mark was in 2022 when TSU finished 5-6, 4-4 in the SWAC West.

He was named the head coach in 2018 after serving as an assistant under Kevin Sumlin at Texas A&M and Arizona.

Texas Southern finished this season at 3-8 (2-6, sixth in SWAC West), including a loss to Arkansas Pine-Bluff in the final game of the season. The Tigers led 31-7 at halftime but allowed 21 unanswered points in the fourth quarter as the Golden Lions stormed back for a one-point win.

HBCU NFL PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

For NFL games of November 30 - December 4, 2023



OFFENSE
- #72 **TERRON ARMSTEAD**, OT, Miami (10th season, **ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF**) - In the Dolphins' 45-15 win over Washington, Armstead started at left tackle as the Dolphins rushed for 123 yards (34 carries) and three TDs and passed for 283 yards and two TDs with no sacks. Armstead played 30 (49%) of the offensive snaps.



DEFENSE
- #14 **MARKQUESE BELL**, S, Dallas (2nd season, **FLORIDA A&M**) - Bell started at safety in 41-35 win over Thursday over Seattle and led the Cowboys with eight total tackles, four solos. He was in on 58 (84%) of the defensive snaps and six (21%) of the special teams' snaps.



SPECIAL TEAMS
- #59 **JOSHUA PRYOR**, DT, Washington (1st season, **BOWIE STATE**) - In Commanders' 45-13 loss to Miami, Pryor had one solo special teams' tackle while playing 26 (93%) of the plays on special teams.



dallascowboys.com Photo

THE DRAG-DOWN!
Dallas starting safety **MARKQUESE BELL** (#14, **FLORIDA A&M**) takes down Seattle wide receiver Tyler Lockett (#16) during Thursday's 41-35 win by the Cowboys over the Seahawks. Bell led Dallas with eight total tackles, four solos while playing the majority of the defensive snaps.

WOMEN'S 2023-24 BLACK COLLEGE BASKETBALL (Standings and Weekly Honors)

CIAA				MEAC				SIAC				SWAC				INDEPENDENTS				
CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION				MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE				SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE				SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE								
CONF	ALL	W	L	CONF	ALL	W	L	CONF	ALL	W	L	CONF	ALL	W	L	CONF	ALL	W	L	
NORTH DIVISION								EAST												
Virginia State	0	0	6	Norfolk State	0	0	7	Fort Valley State	3	1	3	Jackson State	0	0	5	Langston	0	0	6	2
Bluefield State	0	0	6	Md. E-Shore	0	0	4	Savannah State	1	2	3	Bethune-Cookman	0	0	4	Florida Memorial	0	0	5	2
Virginia Union	0	0	4	N.C. Central	0	0	3	Edward Waters	2	4	4	Prairie View A&M	0	0	3	Lincoln (Mo.)	0	0	4	3
Elizabeth City State	0	0	3	Morgan State	0	0	3	Allen	1	3	4	Alabama A&M	0	0	3	West Virginia State	0	0	4	3
Bowie State	0	0	4	Coppin State	0	0	3	Albany State	1	3	1	Grambling State	0	0	3	NC A&T	0	0	3	4
Lincoln (PA)	0	0	3	Delaware State	0	0	1	Clark Atlanta	0	3	5	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	0	0	3	Tennessee State	0	0	2	6
SOUTH DIVISION				Howard	0	0	1	Benedict	0	4	1	Alcorn State	0	0	2	Hampton	0	0	0	6
Fayetteville State	0	0	6	S.C. State	0	0	1	WEST				Texas Southern	0	0	1					
Shaw	0	0	4					Kentucky State	4	0	7	Florida A&M	0	0	1	PLAYERS OF THE WEEK				
St. Augustine's	0	0	4	PLAYER OF THE WEEK				Miles	5	0	5	Miss. Valley State	0	0	1	Zaay Green , 6-2, Gr., G, UAPB - Had a triple-double with 19 points, 11 rebounds and 16 assists with six steals in win vs. Ark. Baptist then threw in 23 points with 8 rebounds and 9 assists in win over SMU.				
Winston-Salem State	0	0	5	Kiaria Wheeler , 6-1, Jr., F, NSU - Averaged 21.5 points, 8 rebounds and 11.5 assists in two wins. Had 14 points, 8 rebounds in win over Radford, 29 points, 15 rebounds in win over Chicago State.				Spring Hill	2	1	4	Alabama State	0	0	7	DEFENSIVE				
Clafin	0	0	2	Denijsha Wilson , 5-3, Gr., G, DSU - Finished with 17 points, 8 rebounds, 3 steals in win over LIU, 7 points, 4 rebounds vs. Rutgers.				LeMoyn-Owen	3	1	6									
Johnson C. Smith	0	0	1	DEFENSIVE				Tuskegee	2	1	4									
Livingstone	0	0	0	Deyonce Thompson , 6-0, Jr., G, DSU - 22 points and 6 rebounds in loss to Rutgers, 7 points, 3 rebounds in win vs. LIU.				Spring Hill	2	2	2									
				ROOKIE				Lane	2	2	5									
				Jada Jackson , Fr., G, SAU - Had 11 points, 2 assists and 1 steal vs. Clinton.				Central State	2	3	7									

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

HUE JACKSON OUT AT GRAMBLING:

Grambling State has parted ways with head football coach Hue Jackson after just two seasons at the helm.

Jackson's team finished 5-6 overall this season including a 27-22 loss to rival Southern in the season-ending Bayou Classic in New Orleans. Jackson was 0-2 vs. the Jaguars in the Classic. The Tigers were 4-4 this season in the SWAC West in fourth place behind Prairie View A&M, Alcorn State and Southern. In his first season, Grambling finished 3-8 overall, in fifth place in the SWAC West at 2-6.

Jackson replaced Broderick Fobbs as Grambling's head coach in December 2021 and agreed to a four-year \$1.6 million contract that paid him an annual salary of \$400,000. However, only the first two years of Jackson's contract are guaranteed. Grambling will pay the remaining portion of his second-year salary over the current fiscal year.

Speaking at a press conference last Tuesday, Grambling athletic director Trayvean Scott explained the decision to fire Jackson. Scott said he informed Jackson during a 9 a.m. meeting of his dismissal before meeting with the players and coaching staff.

"There will be a focused search for the next leader of the Grambling State University Tigers football team, and it is at that point where we'll move forward as a staff in time for recruiting and get ready to prepare our men for the 2024 football season," Scott said. "I hadn't slept much over the past couple of days. I really, since Saturday just kind of been thinking and really pulling as much data and information as possible to try and make the best, informed decision."

Scott said he knew it was "time to move the football program forward" after talking with school President Rick Gallot. "We're looking at about seven to 10 days," Scott said about a timeline for a replacement. "I think that search has to be very intentional - very focused on certain attributes and specific characteristics that we want the next coach to have."

John Simon, a current assistant, was named interim coach.