

DREW, DB, **V**IRGINIA STATE





TERRELL ALLEN, **T**ENNESSEE STATE

# **MAKIN' MOVES**

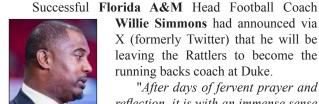
**LEADERS OF THE PACK: 2023** BCSP "Baad Team" Defensive Players of the Year are playmakers Willie Drew of Virginia State and Terrell Allen of Tennessee State.

SIMMONS LEAVES FLORIDA A&M, NEW HIRES FOR THE G-MEN, TEXAS SOUTHERN HOLDING

# UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

#### SIMMONS LEAVES FAMU FOR DUKE:



**Simmons** 

Willie Simmons had announced via X (formerly Twitter) that he will be leaving the Rattlers to become the running backs coach at Duke.

"After days of fervent prayer and reflection, it is with an immense sense of humility and gratitude to announce that my family and I have decided to transition into the next chapter of my

coaching career," Simmons said in a lengthy post where he thanked everyone at FAMU.

"Throughout my coaching career, I've checked many boxes," Simmons told HBCU Gameday reporter Vaughn Wilson in a sit-down interview after the announcement. "I've been a play-caller, I've been a head coach, I've won a championship, I've put guys in the NFL, we've recruited at a high level. We've done a lot of things and I've checked a lot of boxes off my resume.

"The one box that I haven't checked is being an FBS football coach, I mean Power 5 football coach. I've coached at the mid-major level. And so just looking at my career and looking at where I ultimately want to be in my career to have the type of platform on a national stage to lead young men, to have a voice that resonates throughout college football, not just the HBCU landscape, I think this is a pivotal step for me to take."

Simmons, 43, has led the Rattlers for five seasons and has compiled a 45-13 overall record during that span including three nine-win seasons. This year, FAMU finished 12-1 overall, 8-0 in the Southwestern Athletics Conference to win its first conference title in the Rattlers' third year in the league. They went on to post a 30-26 win over Mid Eastern Athletics Conference champion Howard in the season-ending Cricket Celebration Bowl to claim the BCSP Div. I black college national championship.

At Duke, Simmons will be joining new head coach Manny Diaz who is replacing Mike Elko who left the Blue Devils to become the new head coach at Texas A&M. Diaz was the former head coach at Miami from 2019 to 2021 and was defensive coordinator and linebackers coach at Penn State in 2022 and 2023. Diaz and Simmons worked together at Middle Tennessee from 2007 to 2009. Diaz was the defensive coordinator and Simmons was the running backs coach during their time at MTU.

Florida A&M alumni and boosters had worked feverishly to retain Simmons, reportedly raising \$100,000 towards that end. Simmons had signed a five-year contract for \$1.5 million when he took the job with the Rattlers in 2017. He reportedly earned an additional \$135,000 this year in incentives including \$100,000 for winning the Celebration Bowl.

FAMU Vice President and Director of Athletics Tiffani-Dawn Sykes held a three-minute Zoom call with the media at 3:45 p.m. Monday, when she confirmed Simmons' departure. She also named Assistant Head Coach/Cornerbacks Coach James Colzie as the program's interim head coach.

Before coming to FAMU, Simmons was the head coach at Prairie View A&M in the SWAC from 2015 to 2017, going 21-11. His overall head coaching record is 66-24. He has also served as offensive coordinator at Middle Tennessee (2011) and Alcorn State (2012-2014).

Simmons played quarterback at Clemson before finishing his playing career at The Citadel.

# STILL NO DECISION AT TEXAS SOUTHERN:

After a Thursday morning meeting of its Board of Regents, Texas Southern is still a college without a football coach, reports Chris Stevens of hbcusports.com

Board chair Brandon Simmons said in a statement, "Texas Southern University's Board of Regents is committed to taking every opportunity to elevate the University. The Board and (Athletics Director) Dr. Kevin Granger are aligned in being bold and strategic in our decision-making, and we have together decided to take additional time to consider candidates for the coaching vacancy."

Granger adds in the same statement, "The hiring of a head football coach is a strategic decision that cannot be taken lightly. The Board of Regents and I engaged in positive discussions over the holidays. I am excited about our new leadership's bold, strategic direction for Texas Southern University. I will be taking a few additional days to consider candidates for the coaching vacancy and will work closely with interim president Dr. Mary Evans Sias and the board to announce a hiring decision shortly."

Texas Southern was reportedly set to hire Fred McNair after McNair resigned from Alcorn State last week, but two board members were holdouts regarding naming McNair as Clarence McKinney's replacement.

# Drew, Allen lead 2023 "Baad Team" defense

**LUT WILLIAMS BCSP Editor** 

Great defenses include great playmakers and two of the nation's best lead the 2023 Black College Sports PAGE "Baad Team" of football defensive

all-Americans. Six-foot, 185-pound Virginia State defensive back Willie Drew and 6-foot, 275-pound defensive tackle Terell Allen of Tennessee State fit the playmaker bill. They are the BCSP co-Defensive Players of the Year in 2023

black college football. Drew led the CIAA and tied for the lead among black college players with Tuskegee's Michael King with six interceptions in ten games. His .6 interceptions per game was fourth best in NCAA Div. II football.

The James Madison transfer recorded 11 interceptions over the past two seasons and earned CIAA Defensive Player of the Year honors this season playing for head coach Henry Frazier

In 2023, he totalled 34 tackles, 28 solos and his 22 pass break-ups were second among all NCAA Div. II players. Drew also stands out as the only black college and Div. II player getting to show his mettle in this year's Senior Bowl (Sat., Feb. 3 on NFL Network).

He and King were picked as firstteam NCAA Div. II American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) all-Americans. Drew was selected firstteam all-American by D2football.com and second-team Div. II all-American by the Associated Press (AP).

Allen was a game-wrecker for Eddie George's Tigers of TSU after transferring in 2022 from Austin Peay.

The Big South-OVC Defensive Player of the Year finished 2023 as the FCS leader in sacks (14.5, 1.32 per game) and Tackles For Loss (28.0, 2.5 pg.). The 28.0 tackles for loss was a TSU record. He also set a TSU single-game record with 6.5 sacks vs. Lindenwood and had a four-game span of recording 4.0 tackles for loss.

He finished the season with 65 total

tackles (5.9 tackles per game) with 44 solos. He was a consensus FCS first team all-American earning that status from the AFCA, Stats Perform, FCS Football Central and Phil Steele.

Joining Allen up front on the defense are **Benedict** senior edge rusher Loobert Denelus, fellow Benedict pass rusher Jayden Broughton and Morgan State junior defensive tackle Elijah Williams.

Denelus and Broughton led the way as the Tigers produced the most prolific pass-rushing attack in Div. II (49.0 sacks, 4.08 pg.). Denelus posted ten sacks for -57 yards while Broughton added 10.5 for -76 yards.

Williams (6-3, 270) led the stingy, hard-hitting Bears defense and topped the MEAC with seven sacks and 11 tackles for loss.

Celebration Bowl Defensive MVP, linebacker Isaiah Major of Florida **A&M** posted 106 tackles and was the lynchpin of the defense that propelled the Rattlers to the Div. I BCSP national championship. The other first team linebackers are Tennessee State junior Monroe Beard III who had a singlegame record 19 tackles vs. UT-Martin and finished with 95 tackles (10.6 pg.) on the season and Alabama State sophomore Colton Adams who had a whopping 125 tackles, tied with Arkansas-Pine Bluff junior LB Rico **Dozier** for fifth in the FCS.

Joining Drew in the defensive secondary are Howard senior Kenny Gallop Jr., (6-1, 214) who was fourth with 59 tackles in the MEAC from his cornerback position, Morgan State senior Jordan Toles (6-1, 209) who picked off three passes and registered 66 tackles on the season, and FAMU redshirt senior corner Kendall Bohler (6-0, 193) the leader in the Rattlers' secondary.

Jackson State grad senior Matt Noll's 44.3-yard average in 34 punts earns him the first-team punter designation. His average was .1 point better than FAMU junior Trey Wilhoit, the second-teamer.

### **FIRST TEAM - DEFENSE**

DL - Terrell Allen, Sr., TNST; Loobert Denelus, Sr., BEN; Elijah Williams, Jr., MSU; Jayden Broughton, Jr., BEN; LB - Isaiah Major, Sr., FLA&M; Colton Adams, R-So., ALST; Monroe Beard III, Jr., TNST; DB - Willie Drew, Sr., VSU; Kenny Gallop Jr., Sr., HOW; Kendall Bohler, R-Sr., FLA&M; Jordan Toles, Sr., MSU; P - Matt Noll, Gr., JSU;

# **SECOND TEAM - DEFENSE**

DL - Anthony Dunn, Jr., Jr., FLA&M; Ckelby Givens, So., SOU; Darrian Brokenburr, Gr., HOW; Jayden Taylor, R-Jr., NCCU; LB - B. J. Turner, Gr., NC A&T; Asmar Hasan, Jr. LANE; Eric Hunter, Jr., MSU; DB - Jason Chambers, So., NCCU; Justin Fleming, Jr., WSSU; Jae'Veyon Morton, Gr., MSU; Michael King, So., TUSK; P - Trey Wilhoit, Jr., FLA&M;

# **THIRD TEAM - DEFENSE**

DL - Isaac Anderson, R-Jr., VUU; Malachi Bailey, Jr., ALC; Patrick Godbolt, Gr., SCST; Jeremiah Owens, Sr., KSU: LB - Rico Dozier, Jr., ARKPB: Qwahsin Townsel, Gr., HAMP; Jacob Williams, Jr., TXSOU; DB - Jeremiah Josephs, Gr., TNST; Karon Prunty, Jr., NC A&T; Kolby Merritt, Jr., FSU; Javoni Melidor, Jr., BEN; P - Austin McCready, Jr., ALA&M;

# STAT CORNER II

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

#### 2023 BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL **INDIVIDUAL STAT LEADERS - DEFENSE**

TACKLES	CL	G	POS	SOLO	Ast.	тот	AVG/G
Asmar Hasan, LANE	JR	10	LB	67	51	118	11.8
Rico Dozier, ARKPB	JR	11	LB	63	62	125	11.4
Colton Adams, ALST	R-SO	11	LB	56	68	124	11.3
Monroe Beard III, TNST	JR	9	LB	53	42	95	10.6
B. J. Turner, NCA&T	GR	8	LB	56	29	85	10.5
Qwahsin Townsel, HAMP	GR	8	LB	37	42	79	9.7
Jacob Williams, TSU	JR	11	LB	51	55	106	9.6
Benari Black, JCSU	JR	9	LB	55	27	82	9.1
Lewis Matthews, GSU	SR	11	LB	49	50	99	9.0

TACKLES FOR LOSS	CL	G	POS	SOLO	AST	YDS	TOT	AVG/G
Terrell Allen TNST	SR	11	DL	25	6	149	28.0	2.55
Jayden Broughton, BEN	JR	12	DL	21	6	114	24.0	2.00
Ckelby Givens, SOU	SO	11	DL	18	6	83	21.0	1.91
Jeremiah Owens, KSU	SR	8	DE	11	7	55	14.5	1.81
Adam Aiken, STAUG	SO	10	DL	16	4	77	18.0	1.80
Mike White, CSU	SO	8	DL	13	2	70	14.0	1.75
Jacob Williams, TSU	JR	11	LB	14	9	76	18.5	1.68
Donta. Broadnax, KSU	SR	8	LB	11	4	56	13.0	1.63
Benari Black, JCSU	JR	9	LB	12	5	49	14.5	1.61

SACKS	CL	G	POS	SOLO	Ast	YDS	тот	AVG/G
Terrell Allen, TNST	SR	11	DL	13	3	123	14.5	1.3
Jayden Broughton, BEN	JR	12	DL	8	5	76	10.5	.88
Aaron Miller, BEN	R-SR	12	DE	7	7	71	10.5	.88
Mike White, CSU	SO	8	DL	7	0	49	7	.88
Shawan Lewis, BSU	JR	10	DE	7	3	61	8.5	.85
Loobert Denelus, BEN	SR	12	DE	8	4	57	10	.83
Malachi Bailey, ALC	JR	11	DL	8	2	36	9	.82
Jeremiah Owens, KSU	SR	8	DE	6	1	34	6.5	.81
Artavon Edmond, ALL	SO	8	DE	5	3	42	6.5	.81

INTERCEPTIONS	CL	G	INT	YDS	TD	LONG	AVG/G
Willie Drew, VSU	SR	10	6	27	1	27	0.60
Mikael King, TUSK	SO	11	6	9	0	9	0.55
Quedrion Miles, VSU	SO	8	4	53	1	32	0.50
William Davis, VUU	JR	12	5	73	1	50	0.42
Ja'Voni Melidor, BEN	JR	10	4	17	0	13	0.40
Hasan Mosley, BSU	JR	10	4	31	0	24	0.40
Terron Mallory, NSU	JR	10	4	46	0	24	0.40
Jaheem Hazel, JSU	GR	10	4	14	0	10	0.40
Jordan Carter, SOU	GR	8	3	9	0	9	0.38
DIINTING	CI		NO VDS	TD EC	DI K	120 50+	LNC AVC

PUNTING	CL	G	NO	YDS	ТВ	FC	BLK	120	50+	LNG	AVG
Matt Noll, JSU	GR	9	34	1507	3	2	0	12	10	65	44.3
Trey Wilhoit, FLA&M	JR	13	48	2122	7	14	0	12	15	62	44.2
Austin McCready, ALA&M	JR	11	39	1712	1	5	0	13	14	65	43.9
Robens Beauplan, SOU	GR	11	49	2135	3	8	0	14	9	63	43.6
Gilbert Brown, ALB	FR	9	45	1916	3	5	1	13	11	64	42.6
Jimmy Iles, GSU	SR	11	59	2432	2	11	0	24	9	65	41.2
Anthony Frederique, B-CU	R-SO	9	47	1934	3	11	0	16	8	62	41.1
Aaron Bickerton, HOW	SO	12	444	1807	5	16	1	15	11	60	41.1
Elan Hall, FVSU	FR	10	44	1802	3	12	0	19	8	71	41.0
PUNT RETURNS	C		G	NO	VΓ	าร	TD	1.6	ıc	AVG	

PUNI KETUKNA	CL	G	NO	YDS	טו	LNG	AVG
Brandon Codrington, NCCU	SR	11	14	275	2	85	19.6
Trenton Leary, TXSOU	SO	8	10	190	0	0	19.0
Dirk Cureton, JCSU	SR	10	14	261	2	55	18.6
Roy Jackson III, VSU	GR	10	17	300	2	66	17.6
JahT Strafford, WSSU	SO	10	18	296	1	95	16.4
Robert McMinn, ALST	SO	7	15	245	1	48	16.3
Terrell Gardner, ALA&M	SR	11	14	222	1	69	15.9
Joshua Johnson, GSU	SO	8	8	125	0	47	15.6
Jah'Mare Sheread, FLA&M	GR	13	19	272	0	50	14.3
KICKOFF RETURNS	CI	G	N	0	YDS	TD IN	G AVG

KICKOFF KETUKNO	CL	G	NO	YDS	ΙD	LNG	AVG
Barry Elliott, FSU	GR	11	14	494	2	95	35.3
Taymon Cooke, NCA&T	R-SR	11	16	547	3	94	34.1
Marcus Riley, FLA&M	GR	12	11	342	1	96	31.1
lan Wheeler, HOW	GR	11	17	494	1	88	29.1
Brian Jenkins Jr., PVA&M	GR	10	9	246	0	60	27.3
Taron Biles-Walker, NSU	FR	10	9	240	0	70	26.7
LaDarius Owens, TXSOU	SR	8	12	310	0	49	25.8
Donte Lee Jr., SHAW	R-FR	10	13	326	1	98	25.1
Dejuan Mcghee, TUSK	FR	9	13	323	1	92	24.8

# FLYING IN FOR THE STOP!

Dallas safety/linebacker MARKQUESE BELL (#14, FLORIDA A&M) goes airborne to help bring down Detroit running back David Montgomery (#5) in Saturday's 20-19 win for the Cowboys over the Lions. Bell finished second on the team with ten total tackles, eight solos in the



# BCSP NFL PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

For games of December 28 - 31, 2023



# **DEFENSE**

- #14 MARKQUESE BELL, S, Dallas (2nd season, FLORIDA A&M) - In the Cowboys' 20-19 win over Detroit Saturday. Bell played at safety and finished second on the team with ten total tackles,

eight solos with one tackle for loss. He was in on 44 (64%) of the defensive snaps and seven (27%) of the special teams' snaps.



- #33 ANTONIO HAMILTON SR., DB, Arizona (8th season, SOUTH CAROLINA STATE) Hamilton started at cornerback in Cardinals' 35-31 win over Philadelphia Sunday and tied for the team

lead with seven tackles, five solos while playing all 49 (100%) of the defensive snaps and 12 (48%) of the special teams' snaps.



**OFFENSE** - #73 TRENT SCOTT, OL, Washington (6th season, GRAMBLING STATE) - In the Commanders' 37-10 loss to San Francisco, Scott was in on all 46 (100%) of the offensive snaps and

two (10%) of the special teams' snaps. Washington ran for 62 yards and passed for 169 yards and one TD while surrendering one sack.

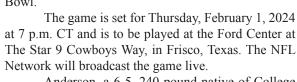
# **BCSP Notes**

Anderson

Dankwah

# Anderson, Dankway on Shrine Game roster

Grambling State all-SWAC first team defensive lineman Sundiata Anderson and Howard offensive lineman Anim **Dankwah** are the two black college players who have accepted invitations to the 99th East-West Shrine



Anderson, a 6-5, 240-pound native of College Park, Ga., was a first team all-SWAC selection after finishing second on the Tigers' squad with 60 tackles, 32 solos. He led the team with 11.5 tackles for loss for -73 yards and five sacks for -44 yards.

Dankwah, a 6-8, 362 specimen from Ontario, Canada, was a first team all-MEAC selection. The graduate senior played right offensive tackle for the MEAC champion Bison protecting the front side for quarterback Quinton Williams.

# **Grambling's Joseph names his coordinators**

According to the Lincoln Parrish Journal, new Grambling State Head Football Coach Mickey Joseph has named former Prairie View A&M and Southern head coach Eric Dooley as the G-Men's new offensive coordinator and former Southern interim head coach Jason Rollins to lead the Tigers' defense.

Dooley was Southern's head coach for the past two seasons, compiling a 12-10 overall record and a 9-6 mark in the SWAC. He was fired on Nov. 14 after a 5-5 start.

He led Prairie View from 2018 to 2021 before taking over at Southern. Dooley previously served in the same role at GSU on then head coach **Broderick Fobbs'** staff from 2014-17.

Rollins served as Southern's interim coach in 2021 following Dawson Odum's departure to Norfolk State. In 2023, Rollins was an assistant on Terry Bowden's staff at Louisiana-Monroe, which also included former Grambling head coach Fobbs.

# SPECIAL TEAMS

- #6 JAMIE GILLAN, P, New York Giants (5th season, ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF) - In the Giants' 26-25 loss to the Los Angeles Rams, Gillan punted five times for 222 yards (44.4-yard average) with 44.4yard net, with one punt downed inside the 20 and a long punt of 52 yards. He was in on 11 (37%) plays on special teams.