



February 26 - March 3, 2024

CIAA Tournament logo

## LET THE COUNT BEGIN

FLORIDA A&M, BENEDICT NAME FOOTBALL COACHES; A&T GRAD TOP NFL EXEC; UNDEFEATED LANGSTON

**FEBRUARY IS HERE:** Basketball Tournament time opens with the CIAA on February 26 in Baltimore. Let the countdown begin.

## UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

### FLORIDA A&M SETTLES ON COLZIE:

Nearly one month after former Florida A&M Head Football Coach Willie Simmons resigned to become the running backs coach at Duke, the school has named interim head coach James Colzie III as his replacement.

The decision to hire Colzie was made Saturday with the official announcement coming Monday at the 50-yard line on Ken Riley Field at FAMU's Bragg Memorial Stadium.

"I am eternally grateful to President Robinson and our Vice President and Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Tiffani-Dawn Sykes for their confidence in me," said Colzie in the school's press release. "It's truly an honor to join names like William Bell, Jake Gaither, Rudy Hubbard, Billy Joe and Willie Simmons to hold the illustrious title of head football coach at Florida A&M and I am ready to do my part of carrying on the tradition of this storied university as the No. 1 public HBCU in the country."

The Miami native joined the Rattlers staff in 2022 as the defensive backs coach. He added assistant head coach to his duties in 2023 as FAMU went 12-1 and won Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC), Celebration Bowl and black college football national titles.

This is Colzie's second head-coaching job, last serving at St. Mary's University in Canada from 2016 to 2021.

His hiring culminates a somewhat dizzying set of events. Three weeks ago, FAMU Athletics Director Tiffani-Dawn Sykes had reportedly recommended Fort Valley State head man Shawn Gibbs for the job but the school's National Alumni Association (NAA) rejected his hiring. The school then hired search firm Renaissance Search and Consulting and assembled an eight-person search committee that included key Rattlers' stakeholders including one active player.

Colzie, a former Florida State football and baseball player, was identified as the best fit to lead the Rattlers. Terms of Colzie's contract were not released.

"At the end of this process, James Colzie III emerged as the right person to lead FAMU football," Sykes said as she introduced Colzie. "I ask everyone who loves FAMU to fully support our coach, his staff, and our football student-athletes."

### NC A&T GRAD NAMED TOP NFL EXEC:

Detroit Lions Executive Vice President and General Manager Brad Holmes, a 2002 North Carolina A&T graduate, has been named the 2023 NFL Executive of the Year by the Pro Football Writers of America.

Under the direction of Holmes, who played for head coach Bill Hayes at A&T, and head coach Dan Campbell, the Lions clinched their first NFC North Division championship since 1993 this season. Detroit tied a franchise record with 12 wins during the regular season and for the first time in franchise history won two playoff games before losing to San Francisco in the NFC Championship Game Sunday. It was the Lions first time in the conference championship game since 1991.

Since taking over as general manager in 2021, Holmes has built one of the top young rosters in the NFL through the draft, then supplementing with terrific free-agent acquisitions along the way.

This is the first PFWA Executive of the Year honor for Holmes and the Lions since the award was established in 1993.

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

CIAA	CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION	MEAC	MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	SIAC	SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	SWAC	SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	INDEPENDENTS																	
CONF		CONF		CONF		CONF		CONF																	
W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L																
<b>NORTH DIVISION</b>	6	4	10	10	Norfolk State	4	1	14	8	<b>EAST</b>	10	2	16	2	Southern	5	2	11	9	Langston (1st, SAC)	13	0	19	0	
Lincoln (PA)	4	5	9	12	N. C. Central	4	1	12	8	Morehouse	10	3	13	7	Alabama State	5	2	10	10	W. Va. State (T3rd, MEC)	8	3	12	5	
Virginia Union	4	6	9	11	Delaware State	3	2	10	11	Clark Atlanta	9	3	15	3	Grambling State	5	2	8	12	Tenn. State (T3rd, OVC)	5	3	12	9	
Virginia State	3	6	6	14	S. C. State	3	2	7	14	Edward Waters	7	6	11	9	Texas Southern	5	3	7	12	Fla. Mem'l (T2nd, Sun)	4	3	16	4	
Elizabeth City State	2	8	7	13	Howard	3	3	9	13	Allen	6	6	10	9	Bethune-Cookman	4	3	9	11	Lincoln (Mo.) (T6th, MIAA)	7	6	12	7	
Bowie State	3	7	6	14	Morgan State	2	3	6	15	Savannah State	6	7	8	9	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	4	3	9	11	NC A&T (T5th, CAA)	4	4	6	15	
Bluefield State	4	6	10	8	Coppin State	1	4	2	17	Albany State	5	8	7	12	Jackson State	4	3	8	12	Hampton (15th, CAA)	0	9	4	17	
<b>SOUTH DIVISION</b>	7	2	10	6	Md. E-Shore	1	5	5	14	Fort Valley State	4	8	4	14	Alcorn State	4	3	5	15						
Winston-Salem State	7	3	13	6						<b>WEST</b>	8	4	13	5	Prairie View A&M	3	4	8	12	<b>PLAYERS OF THE WEEK</b>					
Fayetteville State	6	4	11	9	<b>OFFENSIVE PLAYER</b>					Miles	8	5	11	8	Florida A&M	2	5	4	14	<b>Cortez Mosley</b> , 6-5, Sr., G, LANG - In two wins, averaged 19.5 points and 7.5 rebounds with 19 points, 9 rebounds in win over OCC, 20 points, 6 rebounds vs. JBC.					
Shaw	6	4	10	8	<b>Ja'Darius Harris</b> , 6-2, R-Sr., G, NCCU - Shot 8 of 14, 2 of 4 3s, and 5 of 6 FTs for 21 points in close win over DSU. had another 21 points including 13 of 14 FTs in win over UMES. NCCU tied for first with NSU.					Spring Hill	7	6	8	11	Alabama A&M	2	5	3	17	<b>Anthony Pittman</b> , 6-5, R-Sr., WVSU - Averaged 17.0 points and 8.5 rebounds in two wins getting 34 points, 9 rebounds in win over Charleston, 20 points, 8 rebounds vs. Glenville State.					
St. Augustine's	6	4	10	10	<b>DEFENSIVE PLAYER</b>					Tuskegee	6	7	10	9	Miss. Valley State	0	8	0	21						
Livingstone	5	5	7	7	<b>Bryce Harris</b> , 6-4, Jr., G, HOW - In 1-1 week, Harris averaged double-double of 19.0 points and 11.0 rebounds with 20 points and 7 rebounds in loss to Morgan State, 18 points and 15 rebounds in win over Coppin State.					Lane	6	7	7	10											
Johnson C. Smith	5	6	10	8	<b>DEFENSIVE PLAYER</b>					LeMoyné-Owen	5	8	7	12	<b>PLAYERS OF THE WEEK</b>					<b>P. J. Henry</b> , 5-10, Sr., G, TSU - Averaged 17.5 ppg., in two wins with 21 points, 3 assists and a steal in 1-point win over 'Bama State, 14 points in win over AA&M					
					<b>Zion Obanla</b> , 6-8, Jr., G/F, CLAF - Averaged double-double of 11.0 points and 10.5 rebounds in 1-1 games getting 18 points, 13 rebounds in home win over JCSU, 4 points and 8 boards in loss on road at St. Aug.s					Central State	3	10	6	11	<b>Grayson Carter</b> , 6-10, R-So, F, TSU - In two wins, averaged 10.5 points and 7.0 rebounds with 10 points, 7 rebounds vs. 'Bama State, 11 pts., 7 rebs. vs. AA&M										
										Central State	1	12	2	18	<b>DEFENSIVE</b>										
															<b>Asanti Price</b> , 6-5, Sr., G, BEN - In two wins, avgd. 20.5 points and 3.5 boards with 25 points, 3 boards vs. Allen, 16 points, 4 rebounds vs. EWC.										

## BCSP Notes

### Dickerson new man at Benedict

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Benedict College President Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis and Director of Athletics Willie Washington announced last week the hiring of Ron Dickerson Jr. as head football coach for the Tigers.

Dickerson has a long successful history as a football coach, bringing more than 27 years of coaching experience to the Tigers.

He comes to Benedict after serving the last two seasons at the University of West Florida, helping the Argonauts to back-to-back Gulf South Conference championships, a 20-6 record and a berth into the NCAA Division II national semifinals in 2022.

He served as the UWF Offensive Coordinator and wide receivers coach last season, helping the Argos rank 17th in the nation in passing offense, and 20th in the nation in total offense. As the team's wide receivers coach in 2022, he guided a passing attack that ranked fifth in the nation in passing yards per completion.

"After reviewing hundreds of applicants for the head coaching position, Coach Dickerson quickly stood out as someone who could step in immediately and continue the successful ways of this program," Washington said. "His experience at a wide variety of football levels, as well as at both HBCU and non-HBCU programs, will enhance our football program and take us to new heights. I believe his hard work ethic runs in his blood, learning from his father, who was a legendary coach."

"I have an incredible respect for Benedict College and its commitment to excellence," Dickerson said. "The tradition-rich history of this program is unmatched across the landscape of HBCUs, and I look forward to continuing that moving forward."

Dickerson takes over a Benedict program that is coming off back-to-back SIAC championships and HBCU Division II national championships under former head coach Chennis Berry who left to lead the South Carolina State program. The Tigers went undefeated during the regular season in 2022 and 2023 and advanced to the NCAA Division II playoffs both years.

Prior to joining West Florida, Dickerson spent the 2019 season as the Assistant Head Coach and Special Teams Coordinator at Jackson State. He worked for two seasons at Morgan State from 2017-18 and was the head coach at Gardner-Webb from 2011-12 where he compiled a 7-15 record. He coached under Houston Nutt at Mississippi for four seasons from 2007-10. He also spent six seasons at Louisiana-Monroe and Missouri State from 2002-07 working with running backs.

He started his coaching career under his father, Ron Dickerson, at Alabama State in 1997 as the Run Game Coordinator.

Dickerson had a strong collegiate and professional playing career as a running back and kick return specialist. Following a four-year career in football and track at Arkansas, he spent two seasons with the Kansas City Chiefs and one with the Philadelphia Eagles. Dickerson then played two years with NFL Europe, playing for the London Monarchs and Scottish Claymores, winning the NFL Europe Championship in 1996 with the Claymores.

### Hoops Report - watch the Langston Lions

As teams enter February of the 2023-24 basketball season, there's just one thing clear.

Nothing. The teams leading the men's races of the four HBCU conferences – the CIAA, MEAC, SIAC and SWAC – change from week to week. There are no teams undefeated in conference play and the top teams only have slight edges over their pursuers.

One has to look further west into the NAIA Sooner Athletic Conference (SAC) to find a team with an unblemished record in the Langston Lions.

At 13-0 in SAC play and 19-0 overall, Head Coach Chris Wright's senior-laden squad has a three-game lead in the league over Mid-American Christian. The Lions were ranked second nationally in the NAIA Coaches Top 25 on Jan. 17. The next poll was due out Wednesday (1/31/24).

Wright, in his second year, led the Lions to a 31-3 record in his first season (2022-23). The team won the SAC Tournament Championship – the first HBCU to take the SAC title – and made it to the Sweet 16 of the NAIA



Wright

National tournament.

Hoops success is not new to Wright. Before coming to Langston, Wright turned another HBCU, Talladega College of the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference (GCAC), into a national NAIA power.

In his four seasons there, he compiled a 106-25 record and made four straight appearances in the NAIA National Tournament. In the 2021-22 season, the Tornadoes became the first HBCU to make it to the NAIA national championship in 35 years before losing to fellow GCAC member Loyola-New Orleans in the title game.

Six-five guard Anthony Roy, a New Mexico State transfer, leads the guard-heavy line-up and tops four Lions that score in double-digits at 19.4 points per game. He pulls down an additional 5.3 rebounds per contest.

Six-five senior swingman Cortez Mosley (11.8 ppg.) out of Colby CC, 6-3 senior guard Ronald Mitchell (10.6), a transfer from Sam Houston State and 6-4 senior D'Monte Brown (10.0), who started at Miami Dade CC, are the others who average double-digits. Point guard Toru Dean gets 9.6 points per game and hands out a team-best 5.2 assists per contest. Brown leads the team getting 6.3 rebounds per game.

Here's how the other men's races are looking.

SWAC Southern had a 2-0 week with wins over Miss. Valley and Arkansas-Pine Bluff while Jackson State and Alabama State had 1-1 weeks. SU, GSU and 'Bama State are now tied for first with 5-2 conference records. Five more teams have three conference losses.

MEAC With close losses on its home floor to South Carolina State (66-64) and N. C. Central (69-66), Delaware State went from 3-0 atop the conference to 3-2 in a third-place tie with SCSU. Norfolk State and NCCU got two wins to take over first-place at 4-1. Howard and Morgan State have three losses.

SIAC Benedict (10-2), Morehouse (10-3) and Clark Atlanta (9-3) are tightly bunched atop the SIAC East. Benedict got easy wins over Allen (81-62) and Edward Waters (97-74) while CAU had tough wins over Morehouse (70-62) and Albany State (72-71). Morehouse came back to nip Fort Valley State 69-65 Monday.

In the West, first-place Miles (8-4) had a relatively easy time beating second-place Spring Hill 65-46 Monday after losing at home on a last second bucket to Tuskegee Saturday, 54-53. The loss broke a 14-game home winning streak. Tuskegee (7-6) is currently third in the West.

CIAA Lincoln (Pa.) (6-4) is the only team in the N. Div. with a winning conference record. Virginia Union (4-5) and Virginia State (4-6) follow. Lincoln won at VSU Saturday 63-61. VUU had big wins over Bluefield State (76-60) and Bowie State (70-48). In the tight S. Div., Claflin (7-2) has a half-game lead over Winston-Salem State (7-3) with three others (Fayetteville State, Shaw and Saint Augustine's with four losses.

The CIAA Tournament tips in Baltimore on Feb. 26.



## BCSP NFL PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

For Conference Championship Games of Jan. 28, 2024



**DEFENSE**  
- #98 JAVON HARGRAVE, DT, San Francisco (8th season, SOUTH CAROLINA STATE) - In the Niners' 34-31 win over Detroit, Hargrave had four total tackles, one solo, while playing 51 (71%) of the defensive snaps and one (4%) snap on special teams.



**SPECIAL TEAMS**  
- #2 JOSHUA WILLIAMS, DB, Kansas City (2nd season, FAYETTEVILLE STATE) - In the Chiefs' 17-10 win over Baltimore, Williams had two solo tackles on defense and one tackle on special teams playing 23 (43%) of the defensive snaps and 19 (74%) of the special teams' snaps.

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

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CONF		CONF		CONF		CONF		CONF																
W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L															
<b>NORTH DIVISION</b>	8	2	17	2	Norfolk State	4	1	14	5	<b>EAST</b>	9	3	12	4	Jackson State	7	0	12	6	NC A&T (T1st, CAA)	6	1	12	6
Virginia State	7	3	14	6	Coppin State	4	1	7	12	Fort Valley State	8	4	9	7	Grambling State	5	2	11	7	Langston (3rd, SAC)	10	3	15	4
Virginia Union	5	4	13	6	Md. E-Shore	3	2	10	9	Clark Atlanta	6	6	8	9	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	5	2	10	10	W. Va. State (T4th, MEC)	6	5	10	8
Lincoln (PA)	4	6	8	9	N. C. Central	3	2	9	11	Edward Waters	4	8	6	13	Bethune-Cookman	4	3	13	7	Tenn. State (9th, OVC)	2	6	5	13
Bowie State	5	5	11	9	Howard	3	2	6	13	Albany State	4	9	4	17	Prairie View A&M	4	3	8	9	Lincoln (Mo.) (13th, MIAA)	2	11	6	13
Bluefield State	4	6	10	8	Delaware State	2	3	6	12	Allen	2	9	5	11	Southern	4	3	6	12	Hampton (13th, CAA)	2	5	2	15
<b>SOUTH DIVISION</b>	9	1	16	2	Morgan State	1	4	6	14	Benedict	1	11	3	16	Alabama A&M	3	4	8	11	Fla. Mem'l (T7th, Sun)	1	6	9	11
Fayetteville State	9	1	16	2	S. C. State	0	5	1	19	<b>WEST</b>	12	0	16	1	Florida A&M	3	4	4	15					
Johnson C. Smith	6	4	9	8						Miles	10	2	14	4	Texas Southern	3	5	4	15	<b>PLAYER OF THE WEEK</b>				
Shaw	6	4	11	8	<b>PLAYER OF THE WEEK</b>					Kentucky State	10	2	14	4	Alcorn State	2	5	4	14	<b>Jordyn Dorsey</b> , 5-9, Jr., G, NCA&T - Averaged 18.0 points, 4.5 rebounds in two wins with team-highs of 21 points and 5 boards in home win over Campbell, 15 points, 4 rebounds in win over Elon.				
St. Augustine's	5	5	11	7	<b>Diamond Johnson</b> , 5-5, Jr., PG, NSU - In two wins, averaged 20.5 points and 5.0 rebounds with 19 points, 7 rebounds, 4 steals in win over MSU, 22 points, 3 rebounds, 1 steal in handing CSU its first MEAC loss (61-53).					Lane	8	4	10	9	Alabama State	2	5	2	16					
Livingstone	3	7	9	9	<b>DEFENSE</b>					Tuskegee	7	5	10	6	Miss. Valley State	1	7	2	19	<b>DEFENSIVE</b>				
	1	9	7	13	<b>Lainey Allen</b> , 6-2, So., F, UMES - In two wins, averaged double-double of 11.0 points, 10.0 rebounds with 12 points, 7 rebounds vs. SCSU, 10 points, 13 rebounds, 3 blocks in win over NCCU.					LeMoyné-Owen	5	7	9	9	<b>OFFENSIVE PLAYERS OF THE WEEK</b>					<b>Ryann Payne</b> , PV - In two wins, averaged 22.0 points with game-high 27 points, 2 rebounds, 4 assists vs. AA&M, 17 points, 4 boards in win over 'Bama State.				
					<b>DEFENSIVE</b>					Central State	4	8	7	12	<b>Mya Crump</b>									