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SUPER HONORS

FSU'S JOSHUA WILLIAMS GETS SECOND SUPER BOWL RING; SONIC BOOM OF THE SOUTH JAMS WITH USHER

MARKQUESE BELL: Former Florida A&M standout and current Dallas Cowboy wins HBCU honor at Super Bowl event.

Standings and Weekly Honors table for Men's 2023-24 Black College Basketball, including divisions like CIAA, MEAC, SIAC, SWAC, and Independents.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

FAMU'S BELL WINS HBCU NFL HONOR:



BELL: At Florida A&M (l.) and with Dallas (r.).

Former Florida A&M safety and current hybrid safety and linebacker with the Dallas Cowboys' Markquese Bell was honored Saturday as the 2023 HBCU Spotlight Player of the Year at the 25th annual Super Bowl Soulful Celebration.

Bell, in his second year with Dallas after going undrafted out of FAMU in 2022, played in only five games in his rookie season. He finished this season second on the Cowboys with 84 total tackles, 50 solos with four passes defended. He started in 12 of the Cowboys' 17 games.

The 6-2, 205-pounder became a key man in the middle of the Cowboys' defense in their run to the NFC East Division title and playoff berth. Bell often lined up as an inside linebacker despite his small size for the position.

"I am humbly grateful for this honor and acknowledgment to be selected for the NFL HBCU Spotlight Player of the Year for the 2023 season," Bell told the Tallahassee Democrat. "To have it magnified at the Super Bowl is monumental."

Bell also discussed his plans to continue honing his craft as a professional football player and representing HBCU excellence in the NFL.

"As a proud FAMU alum, I hope to serve as an inspiration to every HBCU athlete and student that's striving to reach new heights," Bell said. "I am deeply committed to increasing HBCU representation in the NFL and this accolade only fuels that mission."

"I know that I must work extremely hard during this off-season to condition my body to prepare for the everyday grind as a professional football player. I am extremely excited about getting with my coaches and teammates this off-season to study my craft and add more tools to my toolbelt."

The 25th Anniversary Super Bowl Soulful Celebration was hosted by Cedric The Entertainer and Tichina Arnold and featured the Southern University Drumline, Earth, Wind & Fire, Kirk Franklin and T-Pain among musical guests. It was held at the Pearl Concert Theater at the Palms Casino Resort in Las Vegas.

Other honorees included Houston Texans quarterback C. J. Stroud (Faith in Action Award) and Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin (New Beginnings Award).

JACKSON STATE BAND ROCKED WITH USHER AT SUPER BOWL LVIII HALFTIME:

Jackson State University's Sonic Boom of the South Marching Band made a special appearance with Grammy-winning artist Usher during the Super Bowl LVIII Halftime Show in Las Vegas.

The Boom showed television viewers and football fans in Allegiant Stadium why they are known as the "Summa Cum Laude of Bands," making the most of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

"It feels surreal. It's not every day you are invited to participate in such a monumental moment," Roderick Little, director of bands at JSU, said. "The reality of the situation did not hit us until we began rehearsals in Vegas. I cannot think of anything more exciting or rewarding than walking onto the field, hearing the roar of the Super Bowl crowd, and immersing ourselves in the spirit that Usher brought to his performance."

Little says he was met with jaw-drops and wide-eyed faces when he informed the band students that they would participate in the halftime show.

"They deserve this adventure and have worked hard to be here. I am also proud that I could fulfill two of my strategic goals for our band program: provide life-changing experiences for our students and place our program on one of the most visible national stages in this country. It does not get any bigger than the Super Bowl."

"I am extremely proud of our students' performance tonight with Usher, and the precision and musicality they brought to one of America's biggest celebrations of sport was unparalleled," JSU President Marcus L. Thompson said.



ROCK HARD: Jackson State Sonic Boom of the South tuba players perform with Usher as part of halftime at Super Bowl LVIII.

BCSP Notes

Hoops Round-Up

CAA - NC A&T & Hampton

North Carolina A&T and Hampton are headed in different directions in Coastal Athletic Association (CAA) basketball.

In their second year in the conference, the A&T Lady Aggies are 15-7 overall and 9-2, tied for first in the CAA, under veteran head coach Tarrell Robinson.



Robinson

Three double-digit scorers lead Robinson's squad - 5-9 junior guard Jordyn Dorsey at 13.6 points per game, 5-10 senior guard Maleia Bricone at 11.8 and 5-11 senior guard D'Maya Tucker at 11.6. Six-foot redshirt sophomore center Chaniya Clark leads the ladies off the boards with 7.6 per game.

The A&T men under first-year coach Monte Ross are holding their own at 5-7 in the CAA, tied for 10th in the standings. The Aggies are 7-18 overall but have been playing the last five games without their leading scorer, 6-2 sophomore shooting guard Landon Glasper, who was averaging 21.3 points per game. Glasper is nursing a knee injury. The Aggies are 1-4 with him out of the line-up. Steady point guard Cam Shell (12.3 ppg.) has had to pick up the scoring slack with Glasper out.

On the other hand, both Hampton's men's and women's teams are struggling in their third year in the league. Both are at the bottom of the CAA standings with the men under 13th-year head coach Edward Joyner Jr. at 5-20 overall, winless at 0-12 in league play and the women under 15th-year head coach David Six at 2-19 overall, 2-9 in the CAA.

This is quite a contrast to Hampton's time in the MEAC where they were perennial contenders and won six tournament titles and made six NCAA appearances under Six and three tournament crowns and three trips to the Big Dance under Joyner.

On Thursday (7 p.m.), A&T's men play at UNC-Wilmington who is tied with Charleston atop the conference at 9-3. The Aggies then host Delaware, among four teams tied at 8-4 in third place, on Saturday (2 p.m.). The Hampton men are at Stony Brook Thursday (6:30 p.m.) and host Towson Saturday (2 p.m.). The Jersey Mike's CAA men's tournament is March 8-12 at the Entertainment and Sports Arena in Washington, D.C.

The Lady Aggies host Hampton Friday (6 p.m.) and Monmouth Sunday (2 p.m.). The women's CAA Tournament will be held on March 13-17 at the same venue as the men.

CIAA

There are less than two weeks of regular season play before the CIAA Men's and Women's Tournaments tip off at the CFG Bank Arena in Baltimore from Feb. 26 - March 2.

This week Virginia Union got a 78-64 home win over N. Div. men's leader Lincoln (Pa.) and an 89-77 win over Bluefield State to move to 5-2 in the North and to within a game of Lincoln (6-1). VUU is at Bowie State Wednesday (7 p.m.) and hosts WSSU Saturday (2 p.m.) in Richmond. Lincoln was at Elizabeth City State Wed. (7 p.m.).

MEAC

The MEAC took a week off of conference play as it heads towards its men's and women's tournament at the Norfolk Scope from March 13-16.

League play resumes this week with men's leaders Norfolk State at home and N. C. Central on the road. Both stand at 5-2 in the MEAC. Norfolk State hosts S. C. State Saturday (4 p.m.) and has a showdown with NCCU Monday (9 p.m.). NCCU is at 4-3 Howard Saturday (4 p.m.).

Norfolk State continues to set the pace in the women's race at 6-1. Three 5-2 teams follow them - Howard, Coppin State and NCCU. The Howard/NCCU women's game is at 2 p.m. Saturday. The NSU/NCCU women's game tips at 7 p.m. Monday

SIAC

The Clark Atlanta men's team's winning streak is up to 12 after its 72-54 win over Savannah State Saturday. The Panthers, at 13-3 in the SIAC East, are now a half-game ahead of Morehouse at 12-3. Benedict, at 13-4, is keeping pace with wins this past week at Fort Valley State and Albany State.

CAU will travel to S. Div. leader Miles (11-4) on Thursday (7 p.m., CT) before a showdown at Morehouse on Saturday (1 p.m.).

SSU (12-4) has a two-game lead over FVSVU (10-6) in the women's East. Miles (13-2) is just a half-game ahead of Kentucky State in the wom-

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

Standings and Weekly Honors table for Women's 2023-24 Black College Basketball, including divisions like CIAA, MEAC, SIAC, SWAC, and Independents.

en's West. In key match ups this week, Miles hosts CAU on Thursday (5:30 p.m. CT) and Allen Tuesday (6:30 p.m., CT). Savannah State hosts Edward Waters Saturday (2 p.m.). FVSVU is at Albany State Saturday (2 p.m.).

The SIAC Men's and Women's Tournament time is March 3-9 at Savannah State's campus arena.

SWAC

Three teams got two wins to tighten up the men's race in the SWAC. Conference leader Southern (9-2) beat Alabama A&M (69-62) and Alabama State (73-62) to open up a one-game lead over Grambling State (8-3). The G-Men fell to A&M Monday (60-50) after dispatching 'Bama State Saturday (74-68). Bethune-Cookman and Texas Southern are next in the standings at 7-4.

B-CU defeated TSU 83-79 at home Monday after downing Prairie View Saturday (84-78). Alcorn State is one of three teams at 6-5 after getting wins over Ark.-Pine Bluff Saturday (68-56) and Miss. Valley St. (72-55) Monday. Jackson State and Alabama State are also at 6-5, tied for fifth. UAPB, PVA&M and Alabama A&M are all at 5-6 as the battle for the top eight to enter the March 13-16 Tournament in Birmingham will likely come down to the final regular season games.

Jackson State (11-0) stayed unbeaten in SWAC women's play with wins at MVSU (70-54) and UAPB (72-56) and now has three-game leads over GSU and UAPB (8-3). The Lady Tigers host B-CU (Sat.) and FAMU (Mon.).



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WILLIAMS, CHIEFS FINISH ON TOP, AGAIN! Kansas City second-year defensive back JOSHUA WILLIAMS (#2, FAYETTEVILLE STATE) tackles San Francisco punt returner Ray Ray McLeod (#3) during the first quarter of Sunday's Super Bowl LVIII in Las Vegas. Williams also had an assisted tackle on defense in the game which saw the Chiefs win their second-straight Super Bowl and second straight for Williams, 25-22 in overtime vs. the Niners.

BCSP NFL PLAYERS OF THE WEEK in Super Bowl LVIII on February 11, 2024



DEFENSE - #98 JAVON HARGRAVE, DT, San Francisco (8th season, SOUTH CAROLINA STATE) - In the Niners' 25-22 loss in overtime to Kansas City, Hargrave started at defensive

tackle and had six total tackles, three solos, one sack for -3 yards and one fumble recovery while playing 48 (61%) of the defensive snaps.



SPECIAL TEAMS - #2 JOSHUA WILLIAMS, DB, Kansas City (2nd season, FAYETTEVILLE STATE) - In the Chiefs' 25-22

overtime win over San Francisco, Williams had one assisted tackle on defense and one solo tackle on special teams while playing 20 (27%) of the defensive snaps and 26 (79%) of the special teams' snaps.