



HBCU Legacy Bowl photo

CASUALTY OF BATTLE

DAVIUS RICHARD: NC Central QB and MEAC two-time offensive player of the year hurt in first drive of HBCU Legacy Bowl.

CIAA TIPS HOOPS TOURNEY SEASON IN B'MORE; PLAYERS GOT LESSONS, EXPOSURE IN NAWLINS AT HBCU LEGACY BOWL

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																			
FINAL & SEEDING	DIV W L W L W L		CONF ALL W L W L		CONF ALL W L W L		CONF ALL W L W L																				
NORTH DIVISION	1) Lincoln (PA) 7 3 10 7 14 13	Norfolk State 10 2 20 9	2) Virginia Union 7 3 8 9 13 17	N. C. Central 7 4 15 11	EAST	Clark Atlanta 16 5 22 5	3) Virginia State 5 5 8 9 14 14	Howard 7 4 13 15	Morehouse 16 5 19 9	Benedict 15 6 21 6	Southern 10 3 15 10	Langston (1st, SAC) 21 1 27 1	W. Va. State (4th, MEC) 13 5 18 7														
4) Bowie State 5 4 6 11 11 15	5) Elizabeth City State 5 5 7 10 10 18	S. C. State 7 4 12 16	Morgan State 5 6 9 18	Allen 10 11 14 14	Savannah State 10 11 12 13	Grambling State 9 3 12 13	Jackson State 8 5 12 14	6) Bluefield State 1 9 4 13 8 21	Delaware State 5 7 12 16	Edward Waters 9 12 10 17	Texas Southern 8 5 10 14	Fla. Mem'l (T2nd, Sun) 9 5 22 6	Tenn. State (5th, OVC) 10 6 17 12														
SOUTH DIVISION	1) Fayetteville State 8 4 11 7 16 12	Md. E-Shore 3 8 8 17	Coppin State 1 10 2 23	Albany State 7 14 9 18	Fort Valley State 7 14 7 20	Alcorn State 8 5 9 17	Bethune-Cookman 7 6 12 14	2) Clafin 8 4 13 5 16 9	3) Winston-Salem State 7 5 13 5 19 9	4) Shaw 5 7 9 9 13 13	5) Livingstone 5 7 8 10 12 15	6) Johnson C. Smith 5 7 9 9 14 11	7) St. Augustine's 4 8 8 10 12 16	7) St. Augustine's 4 8 8 10 12 16	8) Bethune-Cookman 7 6 12 14	Alabama State 7 6 12 14	Arkansas-Pine Bluff 6 7 11 15	Prairie View A&M 5 7 10 15	Florida A&M 2 11 4 20	Miss. Valley State 0 13 0 26	8) Langston (1st, SAC) 21 1 27 1	9) W. Va. State (4th, MEC) 13 5 18 7	10) Tenn. State (5th, OVC) 10 6 17 12	11) Fla. Mem'l (T2nd, Sun) 9 5 22 6	12) Lincoln (Mo.) (10th, MIAA) 9 11 14 12	13) NC A&T (T10th, CAA) 5 9 7 20	14) Hampton (14th, CAA) 2 14 7 22
PLAYER OF THE YEAR	Jaylan Alston, 6-4, Sr., G, WSSU - 17.5 points per game, league-best 9.3 rebounds per game, CIAA-best .583 FG%	DEFENSIVE POY	Imajae Dodd, 6-7, Gr., F, WSSU - 7.6 rebounds per game (2nd), 2.2 blocks per game (1st)	ROOKIE POY	Kevin Coley, 6-6, Fr., G, BSU - 6.7 points per game, 2.1 rebounds per game	PLAYER OF THE WEEK	Amah Decker, 6-6, Jr., F, MHS - Had 28 points, 9 rebounds in win over Benedict, 12 points and 6 rebounds in win over Allen. Averaged 20.0 points and 6.5 rebounds in two games.	PLAYERS OF THE WEEK	Keith Lamar, 6-5, Sr., F, FAMU - In two wins, averaged 25.5 points with 22 points, 3 rebounds, 3 assists, 2 blocks and a steal vs. ALST, 29 points, 2 rebounds and a steal vs. AA&M.																		

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

TEAM GAITHER WINS, DAVIUS RICHARD INJURED AT HBCU LEGACY BOWL:

Team Gaither, a squad primarily made up of draft-eligible players from the CIAA and MEAC, defeated *Team Robinson*, primarily made up of similar players from the SWAC and SIAC, 10-6 in Saturday's 3rd annual *Allstate HBCU Legacy Bowl* played at Tulane's Yulman Stadium in New Orleans.

The game was televised by the *NFL Network* and culminated a week of activities that allowed the 100 players to showcase their skills before a host of pro scouts from both the NFL and CFL. Additionally, the players got a chance to experience New Orleans culture and cuisine that included a New Orleans Pelicans NBA game, get advice and counsel from a number of NFL veterans and Hall of Famers and participate in a Career Fair at the New Orleans Convention Center that acquainted them with job opportunities inside and outside of professional football.

The game, presented by the *Black College Football Hall of Fame* and hosted by BCFHOF founders, former Grambling State and NFL quarterbacks **James "Shack" Harris** and **Doug Williams**, went off before a crowd that nearly filled the bottom half of the 30,000-seat stadium.

While the offenses struggled to establish much rhythm, the defenses shined in Saturday's game. Despite playing for the team named for legendary former Grambling Head Coach **Eddie Robinson** that came up on the short end of the score, **Alabama A&M** defensive line prospect **Za'Reon Hayes** was named the game's Defensive MVP. Hayes repeatedly found ways into the Gaither team's backfield and was credited with three sacks but actually had four in the game.

Other standouts included **Howard** quarterback **Quinton Williams** who completed 10 of 25 passes for a game-best 125 yards for the winning squad named for legendary former **Florida A&M** Head Coach **Alonzo "Jake" Gaither**. Howard teammate **Ian Wheeler** led the squads with 42 rushing yards on eight carries. **Elizabeth City State** wide receiver **Quinzel Lockhart** had a game-high four receptions for 48 yards.

The Offensive MVP award went to **North Carolina Central** quarterback **Davius Richard** who was unfortunately injured in the game's opening possession. The two-time MEAC Offensive Player of the Year led the Gaither team on a 5-play, 76-yard drive for its only touchdown of the game completing his only two passes for 52 yards. He capped the drive with a 3-yard scoring run off a run-pass option but was awkwardly twisted and tackled in the end zone with the defender falling on top of him. He stayed down for several minutes while the medical staff fitted his right leg with an air cast. His injury has been diagnosed as a dislocated right ankle.

NCCU Head Coach **Trei Oliver**, who was present at the game, was critical of the decision to let Richard run the ball, as were many in attendance.

"I promise he would not have played if I knew that those ----- coaches were going to run him! He should never have left the pocket. You want to run, hand it off to those all-American backs. Make it make sense," Oliver was quoted as saying to **Kyle Mosley** of *HBCU Legends*.

The injury could not have come at a worst time for Richard, a 6-3, 215-pounder from Belle Glade, Florida. He was named Friday as the 2023 co-recipient of the BCFHOF's *Deacon Jones Award* as the Black College Player of the Year along with **Florida A&M** quarterback **Jeremy Moussa**. Richard also won the award in 2022. A dual-threat QB with 44 rushing TDs during his NCCU career, Richard came to practices and the bowl game hoping to impress the scouts with his passing skills and ability to run a pro-style offense.

He ran a great time of 4.5 seconds in the 40-yard dash at Monday's HBCU Combine and displayed touch and accuracy in passing drills. His stock was up following his workouts.

How the injury will affect his draft status is unclear. Recovery time for the injury is projected to be six months meaning he will not likely be fully healed by the opening of NFL training camps this summer.

Charles Davis, an NFL Media Analyst, who was on hand all week and called the game for the NFL Network, singled out Hayes, Richard, **South Carolina State** defensive tackle **Jablonski Green**, Florida A&M linebacker **Isaiah Major**, **North Carolina A&T** offensive tackle **Tariq Stewart** and **Morgan State** safety **Jordan Toles** as players "who consistently performed at a level that should have the attention of NFL scouts."

Davis also gave Honorable Mention to DB **Cedrick Anderson** of Grambling, DL **Darrian Brokenburr** of Howard, DT **Loobert Denelus** of Benedict, RB **LaDarius Owens** of Texas Southern and DB **Eric Smith** of FAMU.

CIAA first up on Tourney Schedule

LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

The 79th men's and 50th women's *Food Lion* CIAA Tournaments tipped off Monday in Baltimore's CFG Bank Arena, their fourth trip to the Charm City after a 15-year stay in Charlotte, N.C.

The tournaments open with clear favorites on the women's side and no clear top choice for the men.

WOMEN

Fayetteville State, at 24-2 overall, 17-1 in CIAA play and 13-1 in South Division competition, comes in as the South's top seed and favorite to take the title. The Lady Broncos were ranked 15th in the WBCA Div. II Top 20 in their Feb. 20 poll and third in the Atlantic Region.

Elizabeth City State (18-10, 10-7, 8-2) is the North's top seed. North 2nd seed **Virginia State** (22-4, 13-4, 7-3) is 25th in the WBCA national rankings and seventh in the Atlantic Region.

FSU, ECSU and VSU would have to be top picks to leave with Saturday's women's title.

MEN

It is a little more difficult to pick who will come out with the title from the men's bracket.

The top seeds are **Lincoln Pa.** (14-13, 10-7, 13-3) from the North Division and **Fayetteville State** (16-12, 11-7, 8-4) from the South. Lincoln lost three of its final five games in the division. Both Lincoln and FSU have seven losses against CIAA competition. That brings a host of others into the championship mix.

South 2nd-seed **Clafin** (16-9, 8-4 S) and South 3rd-seed **WSSU** (19-9, 7-5 S) have the best records in CIAA play at 13-5. **Virginia Union** (13-17, 8-9 CIAA), the 2nd seed from the North, had an identical 7-3 division mark as Lincoln and knocked off the Lions (82-53) early



2023-24 CIAA ALL-CONFERENCE TEAMS & SUPERLATIVES

MEN

Rookie of the Year: Kevon Corley, Bowie State
Player of the Year: Jaylan Alston, Winston-Salem State
Defensive POY: Imajae Dodd, Winston-Salem State
Coach of the Year: Cleo Hill Jr., Winston-Salem State

WOMEN

Rookie of the Year: Nielle Reaves, Livingstone
Player of the Year: Aniyah Bryant, Fayetteville State
Defensive POY: Morgan Graham, Fayetteville State
Coach of the Year: Tyreece Brown, Fayetteville State

2023-24 MEN'S BASKETBALL ALL-CIAA TEAM

Backcourt - Jordan Hinds, BLST; DJ Thomas, SHAW; Issac Parson, WSSU; Reggie Hudson, LINCIP;
Frontcourt - Tahj Harding, VUU; Jaylen Alston, WSSU; Shayne Saigo, SHAW; Khyree Temple, LIV; Avery Huggins, JCSU; Nemo Johnson, SAU

2023-24 MEN'S BASKETBALL ALL-ROOKIE TEAM

Kevon Corley, BSU; Xavier Tubbs-Matthews, ECSU; James Nipper, LIV; Travis Vaughn, VUU; Travon Cooper, BLST

2023-24 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL ALL-CIAA TEAM

Backcourt - Anil Harris, BSU; Aniyah Bryant, FSU; Lauren Scott, CLAF; Alanis Hill, ECSU; Mihjae Hayes, VSU;
Frontcourt - Ny Langley, VUU; Amesha Miller, VSU; Alexyss Newman, BLST; Alexis Radcliff, SHAW; Morgan Graham, FSU; Amaya Tucker, WSSU; Taniyah Greene, SAU

2023-24 Women's All-CIAA Rookie Team

Alexis Blake, VSU; La'Niya Simes, WSSU; Queen Ruffin, JCSU; Nielle Reaves, LIV; Skylar White, VSU

BCSP Notes

Hoops Round-Up

MEAC

The **Norfolk State** men travelled to Baltimore and came away with two close road wins, 68-66 over **Coppin State** Saturday and 85-82 over **Morgan State** Monday. The Spartans (20-9, 10-2 MEAC) got good play from several players in the wins. **Tyrese Jenkins** had 21 points to lead the win vs. CSU with **Chris Fields** adding 13 points in 15 minutes off the bench. In the win at MSU, league scoring leader **Jamarii Thomas** led the Spartans with 20 points while **Allen Bertrand** added 18 points off the bench. Bertrand canned two free throws with :07 seconds left to get the win at CSU.

N. C. Central, **Howard** and **S. C. State** are two-games behind the Spartans at 7-4. The NSU women continue to lead the women's race at 13-1. Howard is next at 8-3.

In this week's schedule, NSU is at DelState Saturday and home to UMES Monday. Howard is at UMES Saturday and home vs. DelState Monday.

SIAC

Morehouse (22-5, 16-5) got two wins including a big 85-82 win over **Benedict** Saturday to tie **Clark Atlanta** (22-5, 16-5) atop the SIAC East at season's end. That's because Benedict came back to knock off CAU 93-91

"We had a great crowd and the players played with a lot of effort. We're extremely happy with the way they handled and conducted themselves. We're excited about the Career Fair with over 1,200 students, 109 vendors and 56 HBCUs. Many of those students got jobs. We're excited about that. We want to continue to use this model and continue to get the top players to play in the game."



James "Shack" Harris, co-founder of the BCFHOF and co-host of the HBCU Legacy Bowl

on Monday in the regular season finale while Morehouse was taking care of **Allen**, 66-51. **Miles** closed with wins over **LeMoyne-Owen** and **Lane** to finish as the West leader at 16-4.

For the women, **Kentucky State** finished tied with **Miles** atop the West Division after the Lady Golden Bears dropped decisions to **Lane** (78-62) and **LeMoyne-Owen** (59-56). KSU closed with wins over **Spring Hill** and **Tuskegee**.

SWAC

The **Southern** men (10-3) are just a half-game ahead of **Grambling State** (9-3) after falling to the G-Men, 63-57 Saturday in Baton Rouge. There are two more weeks of regular season play.

The **Jackson State** women improved to 13-0 in the league after a 62-54 win over **Alcorn State** Saturday.

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NORTH DIVISION	1) Elizabeth City State 8 2 10 7 18 10	Norfolk State 10 1 21 5	2) Virginia State 7 3 13 4 22 4	Howard 8 3 11 14	EAST	Savannah State 15 4 19 5	Jackson State 14 0 19 6	NC A&T (2nd, CAA) 11 3 17 8
3) Virginia Union 5 5 9 8 17 11	4) Bluefield State 4 6 8 9 14 12	Md. E-Shore 7 4 14 11	NC Central 6 4 12 14	Clark Atlanta 11 8 14 11	Allen 7 12 11 14	Arkansas-Pine Bluff 10 5 15 13	Southern 9 5 11 14	Tenn. State (T8th, OVC) 6 10 9 17
5) Lincoln (PA) 4 6 7 10 11 14	6) Bowie State 2 8 7 10 13 15	Coppin State 6 5 9 14	Delaware State 3 7 7 16	Edward Waters 7 12 9 17	Albany State 5 14 5 22	Alabama A&M 9 6 14 13	Prairie View A&M 7 8 11 14	Lincoln (Mo.) (13th, MIAA) 2 18 6 20
SOUTH DIVISION	1) Fayetteville State 11 1 17 1 24 2	Morgan State 2 8 7 18	S. C. State 1 10 2 24	Benedict 1 18 3 23	WEST	Florida A&M 7 8 8 18	Bethune-Cookman 6 9 15 13	Hampton (14th, CAA) 2 12 2 22
2) Clafin 9 3 10 8 16 10	3) Johnson C. Smith 7 5 10 8 13 12	PLAYER OF THE WEEK	Diamond Johnson , 5-5, Jr., PG, NSU - In two wins, averaged 21.0 points with 10 points, 2 rebounds vs. CSU, added 32 points, 4 rebounds, 5 assists vs. MSU.	DEFENSE	Kierra Wheeler , 6-1, Jr., F, NSU - In two wins, averaged double-double of 22.5 points and 10.5 rebounds with 21 points, 11 rebounds with 4 assists vs. CSU, 24 points 10 rebounds, 4 steals vs. MSU.	Alcorn State 5 9 7 18	Texas Southern 4 11 5 21	Fla. Mem'l (7th, Sun) 3 11 11 16
4) St. Augustine's 5 7 8 10 14 12	5) Livingstone 4 8 5 13 16 15	PLAYER OF THE WEEK	Aniyah Bryant , 5-7, Sr., G, FSU - 16.7 points per game (3rd), 2.6 assists per game (12th), 4.3 steals per game (1st).	DEFENSIVE POY	Morgan Graham , 6-0, Jr., F, FSU - 3.0 blocks per game (1st)	Alcorn State 5 9 7 18	Texas Southern 4 11 5 21	PLAYERS OF THE WEEK
6) Shaw 4 8 8 10 13 14	7) Winston-Salem State 2 10 2 16 9 20	ROOKIE POY	Nielle Reaves , 5-9, Fr., G, LIV - 6.9 points per game, 2.4 rebounds per game	DEFENSIVE POY	Amiah Simmons , 5-9, Jr., G, AA&M - In two wins averaged 22.0 points with 26 points, 6 rebounds vs. B-CU, 18 points vs. FAMU.	Alcorn State 5 9 7 18	Texas Southern 4 11 5 21	DEFENSIVE
					Alisa Wilson , 6-2, Jr., F, AA&M - In two wins, averaged 7.0 points, 14.5 rebounds with 2 points, 16 rebounds vs. B-CU and 12 points, 13 rebounds vs. FAMU.	Albany State 3 12 3 23	Alabama State 3 12 3 23	