



Morgan State Sports photo

A SIGNED: Morgan State defensive back Jordan Toles signed to rookie free agent deal by Baltimore after no HBCU players named in 2024 NFL Draft.

NEW CHANCES

NO HBCU PLAYERS IN 2024 NFL DRAFT, BUT 16 HEAD TO NFL CAMPS; REED LEAVES JSU FOR CHARLOTTE

2023 BLACK COLLEGE BASEBALL (Standings and Weekly Honors)

SIAC SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE table with columns for Final, Conf, All, W, L, W, L

SWAC SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE table with columns for East, West, Conf, All, W, L, W, L

CAA COLONIAL ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION table with columns for Conf, All, W, L, W, L

PLAYER OF THE WEEK Tatsunori Negishi, Jr., INF/P, NC A&T - Hit his sixth home run of the season during 10-4 loss at Hofstra Sunday.

SIAC BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP May 2-5, 2024 Albany State East Campus

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK HITTER Travor Hatton, R-Jr., OF, GSU - 6-for-11 (.545) with 8 RBI, 3 doubles, 1 triple and 2 HRs vs. TSU.

SWAC BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP May 22-26 • Chandler Stadium • Atlanta, GA

THE STAT CORNER I

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

NUMBER OF HBCU PLAYERS TAKEN EACH YEAR IN NFL DRAFT HISTORY

Table showing number of HBCU players taken each year in NFL draft history from 1978 to 2024

THE STAT CORNER II

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

2024 BLACK COLLEGE UNDRAFTED ROOKIE FREE AGENTS

- Baltimore Ravens: Jordan Toles, DB, Morgan State
Carolina Panthers: Willie Drew, DB, Virginia State
Chicago Bears: Ian Wheeler, RB, Howard
Green Bay Packers: Jarveon Howard, RB Alcorn State
New England Patriots: Mikey Victor, CB, Alabama State
New York Jets: Marcus Riley, WR, Florida A&M
Philadelphia Eagles: Anim Dankwah, OL, Howard
Seattle Seahawks: Sundiata Anderson, Edge, Grambling State

2024 ROOKIE MINI-CAMP INVITES

- Indianapolis Colts: Jablonski Green, DL, South Carolina State
Aidan Hemphill, OT, Texas Southern
Minnesota Vikings: Noah Washington, LB, Morgan State
New England Patriots: Tariq Stewart, OL, NC A&T
New York Jets: Michael Chris-Ike, RB, Delaware State
Brandon Codrington, DB, NC Central
Pittsburgh Steelers: Aeneas Dennis, QB, Benedict
Tampa Bay Buccaneers: Jeremy Moussa, QB, Florida A&M

Reed leaves Jackson State for Charlotte

Successful six-year Jackson State Head Women's Basketball Coach Tomekia Reed was introduced Thursday as the new head coach of the Charlotte 49ers, formerly UNC-Charlotte.

In her six years at JSU, Reed guided the Lady Tigers to become the most dominant program in the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) winning the last five regular season titles, three tournament titles and NCAA berths.

Reed was selected as the SWAC's Coach of the Year four times.

She compiled a 125-54 (.693) overall record and was a dominant 95-10 in conference play over that span. Her first JSU squad in the 2018-19 season finished 12-6 vs. SWAC competition and her teams then went 16-2, 14-1, 18-0, 17-1 and 18-0, a .954 percentage while winning the regular season titles.

Those marks were fourth best in the nation in conference

winning percentage behind only UConn, South Carolina and Florida Gulf Coast.

"I will never forget the Jackson State experience," Reed said at her introductory press conference.

"It made me who I am today: that's a hustler and a winner at heart, a champion and a resilient, tough person. I am grateful to the HBCU community and what we were able to do."

Reed said she would bring her entire Jackson State assistant coaching staff with her -- Chase Campbell, Jonathan Williams and LaShonda Cousin -- while adding staff.

She thanked God, her family and JSU Athletics Director Ashley Robinson. "I want to thank him for his support, for allowing me to win many, many championships at Jackson State University. I am

forever grateful for my HBCU family and experiences."

"I want to thank Tomekia for what she has done for Jackson State women's basketball," Robinson told the Jackson Clarion-Ledger newspaper. "The work she did during her time here at Jackson State is unmatched and we wish her nothing but the best at Charlotte."

Reed becomes the ninth head coach in Charlotte women's basketball history. Last year's 49ers team finished 16-15 overall and 9-9 overall in the American Athletic Conference (AAC), tied for sixth in the 14-member league.

The AAC includes teams in Texas (North Texas, UTSA, Rice and SMU), Florida (South Florida and Florida Atlantic) and Pennsylvania (Temple) as well as East Carolina and Charlotte in North Carolina.

Reed is replacing Cara Consuegra who had led the 49ers for 13 seasons and compiled a



REED: While at JSU.



REED: At Charlotte.

224-164 record during her tenure. Consuegra resigned after the season and was introduced last week as the new head women's coach at Marquette.

"I want more trophies and more championships," Reed said. "This will be the new location for where the rings reside."

BCSP Notes

Dropoff continues as no HBCU players taken in 2024 NFL Draft

Despite the fact that players drafted into the NFL from the black college ranks over the past few years have become impact players, none were taken when the seven rounds of the 2024 Draft were conducted last week in Detroit.

"It's very disappointing," said former NFL quarterback and former NFL executive James "Shack" Harris, who played for legendary head coach Eddie Robinson at Grambling State. Harris, along with fellow former Grambling quarterback, NFL vet and league executive Doug Williams, put on the NFL-sanctioned postseason HBCU Combine and HBCU Legacy Bowl trying to increase black college players inclusion in the draft.

"It's not disappointing just because there were none taken (in the draft), but because there were several that proved they were worthy of being drafted," said Harris. "That's what's disappointing."

This was the second time in four years -- and only the second time since the draft began in 1950 -- that no HBCU player went off the draft boards (see STAT CORNER I).

There was just one black college player selected in the 2023 Draft -- former Jackson State defensive back Isaiah Bolden -- who because of injury did not play in the 2024 season. It was only the sixth time -- three times in the 1950s -- since 1950 that a single HBCU player was taken.

However, four black college players were taken in 2022. Those four were former Howard and Cincinnati safety Bryan Cook to Kansas City in the second round, Fayetteville State defensive back Joshua Williams to Kansas City in the fourth round, South Carolina State defensive back Cobie Durant to the LA Rams also in the fourth round and Jackson State edge rusher James Houston to Detroit in the sixth round. Each has become a regular in their two years in the league.

Black college players also came up empty in 2021. The 2024 number also represents the 24th straight season that HBCU numbers in the draft failed to reach double-digits. The last time that happened was in 2000 when 13 players from the ranks were selected. The highest number since 2000 was eight in 2003.

The highest number of black college players in the NFL Draft was 70 in 1968 when many of the nation's top football players attended HBCUs. HBCU players in the NFL and/or NFL/AFL Drafts reached double digits in

every year except three (1960, 1993 and 1999) between 1959 and 2000.

16 black college players to enter NFL rookie minicamps

As of press time, there are eight undrafted free agents and eight rookie minicamp invitees from the HBCU ranks that will get a chance to impress NFL teams when rookie minicamps open over the next couple of weekends (see STAT CORNER II).

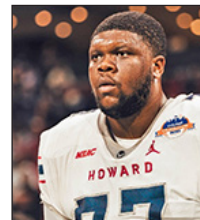
According to NFL sources, the biggest difference between an undrafted free agent and a player with a minicamp invite is that undrafted free agents will have signed contracts with the respective team. A minicamp invite is a tryout, with no signed contract heading into camp.

Alcorn State running back Jarveon Howard, considered by many as the top HBCU prospect, was signed by Green Bay. Virginia State defensive back Willie Drew was inked by Carolina. Big 6-8, 353-pound Howard offensive lineman Anim Dankwah signed with Philadelphia. Ball-hawking defensive back prospect Jordan Toles of Morgan State was signed as a rookie free agent by the local Baltimore Ravens.

Many times, undrafted free agents are training camp bodies or roster fillers, but there are always a few on teams that end up making rosters and contributing for years to some. Some even end up as Pro Bowlers or make the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Former Florida A&M safety Markquese Bell is a recent example. Signed by Dallas as an undrafted rookie free agent in 2022, Bell spent most of the 2022 season on the Cowboys' practice squad. In 2023, the 6-3, 205-pounder became a starter as a hybrid inside linebacker and finished second on the team with 94 tackles and led the team with two forced fumbles.

Former Fort Valley State running back and SIAC rushing leader Emanuel Wilson was a 2023 rookie free agent signee of Green Bay. The 5-11, 226-pounder was so impressive for the Packers in the preseason that he beat out more experienced backs for the third-string spot on the Packers regular season roster. Wilson went on to appear in seven games, average 6.1 yards per carry and rush for 85 yards.



Dankwah

2023 BLACK COLLEGE SOFTBALL (Standings and Weekly Honors)

CIAA CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION table with columns for Final, Div, Conf, All, W, L, W, L

CIAA SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP May 3-5, 2024 Glen Allen, VA

MEAC MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE table with columns for Final, Conf, All, W, L, W, L

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK PLAYER Maryn Jordan, So., OF, HOW - In 29-8 win over Norfolk State Saturday, she was 3 for 3 with a triple and double, 4 runs scored and 7 RBI.

MEAC SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP May 8-12, 2024 Norfolk State Softball Field Norfolk, VA

SIAC SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE table with columns for Final, Conf, All, W, L, W, L

SIAC SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP April 29 - May 1 • Columbus, GA

MON., APRIL 29 SHU 5, SSU 0; LC 6, EWC 1; TUS 13, ALB 2; MC 6, FVUS 2; EWC 8, SSU 0; LC 4, SHU 3; FVUS 10, ALB 6; TU 13, MC 4

SWAC SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE table with columns for Final, Conf, All, W, L, W, L

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK HITTER Samantha Smith, Jr., UT/P, FAMU - 4-8 with 8 RBI, a grand slam HR vs. Alabama A&M.

SWAC SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP May 7-10 • Gulfport (MS) Sportsplex