

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



dallascowboys.com photo

MARKQUESE BELL: Second-year Florida A&M product has 10 tackles in first preseason game for Dallas.

IT'S GO TIME

FOUR TEAMS IN PRESEASON TOP 25s; HBCU PLAYERS SPLASH IN PRESEASON NFL OPENERS

### UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

#### CIAA LEGEND AL CARTER PASSES:

RALEIGH, NC - Dr. Alfonza Carter, a graduate and former basketball player at North Carolina A&T State University who spent 40 years as a coach and administrator at Shaw University passed last week on Wednesday, August 9. He was 73.

Carter

Carter was an iconic administrator at Shaw including more than two decades as its athletics director before retiring in 2020. The Bears and Lady Bears experienced unparalleled success under his leadership, winning numerous CIAA titles combined in several sports including football, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's tennis, baseball, women's bowling, men's and women's cross country, softball and women's volleyball.

The tennis and women's basketball programs emerged as CIAA powerhouses under Carter's reign as athletic director. The men and women netters have combined for 22 conference crowns and the women hoopsters have claimed nine CIAA titles and a NCAA Division II national championship.

Carter also oversaw the reinstatement of football after nearly three decades of absence. In only its second year as a varsity sport, the football team captured the CIAA title in 2004 and went on to win three more conference crowns in the following six years.

The 2010-11 season may have been the most fruitful for Shaw athletics under Carter. The Bears and Lady Bears brought home championship trophies in football, men's basketball, women's basketball and men's tennis. In the first ten years of the 21st century, the Shaw athletic program was the only one in the CIAA to have at least one championship in each year.

In 2011, Carter was presented with the Doctor of Humane Letters from Shaw. Under his direction, Shaw captured the CIAA's Jeanette A. Lee Athletic Achievement Award in 2006 for outstanding administration and achievement for an athletic program.

Carter received lifetime recognition for his accomplishments. He is a member of both the CIAA and Shaw Athletic Halls of Fame.

Before he became a legendary athletic director, Carter was an accomplished head coach in women's basketball, men's basketball and tennis. He served five seasons as head women's basketball coach at Shaw, posting a 73-50 overall record and winning the CIAA Southern Division title. In 1987, Carter moved to the men's side as its head coach. During his four seasons at the helm, the Bears earned their first 20-win season in nearly two decades. In addition to his coaching accolades, Carter was named Vice President for Administrative Services in 2012.

A native of Martinsville, Va., Carter, grew up in the shadows of the CIAA. He was a 1973 graduate of NC A&T where he was an All-American basketball standout playing for legendary head coach Cal Irvin as the Aggies moved from the CIAA to the MEAC. His basketball exploits eventually landed Carter in the N.C. A&T Hall of Fame.

After graduation from A&T, Carter served as head freshman basketball coach and physical education instructor for the Fairfax County Public Schools System. He then returned to his alma mater and became assistant men's basketball coach and instructor of health and physical education prior to his 40-year tenure at Shaw University.



lachargers.com photo

TAKEDOWN: LA Chargers undrafted rookie linebacker ANDREW FARMER (#92, LANE) takes down LA Rams rookie quarterback Stetson Bennett (#13) for a sack during the Chargers' 34-17 win over the Rams. Farmer had three solo tackles including the sack. In his final season at Lane, Farmer led all black college players with 23.5 tackles for loss with eight sacks.

# Four HBCUs enter 2023 in Top 25

LUT WILLIAMS BCSP Editor North Carolina Central and Florida A&M in the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) and Benedict and Virginia Union in NCAA Div. II football are ranked in the Top 25 of the preseason American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) polls.

The polls are voted on by all coaches from the respective divisions.

Defending MEAC and Celebration Bowl champion NC Central is ranked 19th in the inaugural FCS poll. The Eagles finished 10-2 overall a year ago and won the MEAC with a 4-1 record. They defeated SWAC champion Jackson State 41-34 in overtime to win the Celebration Bowl.

The Eagles' losses a year ago were at Campbell (48-18) and at South Carolina State (26-24). NCCU beat New Hampshire 45-27 last season. New Hampshire is ranked 12th in the 2023 preseason poll.

Florida A&M, who finished 9-2 last year and behind Jackson State in the SWAC East, is ranked 25th in the FCS poll.

Others receiving votes included Jackson State (37), North Carolina A&T (13) and Howard (5). Defending FCS champion South Dakota State is the preseason FCS No. 1.

In the Div. II preseason poll, SIAC champion Benedict is 17th followed by Virginia Union at 18th.

Benedict ran the table in the SIAC (10-0) and went 11-0 overall in the 2022 regular season. The Tigers were the top seeded team in Super Region II but suffered its only loss in a second round playoff game to Wingate (23-6).

Virginia Union finished 9-2 overall and second to Chowan at 4-1 in the CIAA North. The Panthers lost in a first round Div. II playoff game to Wingate (32-7).

Wingate is 21st in the 2023 preseason poll. Defending Div. II champion Ferris State is the

preseason No. 1.

Others receiving votes included Bowie State (53), defending CIAA champion Fayetteville State (16), SIAC

West Division champion Tuskegee (16), Fort Valley State (11), Winston-Salem State (5) and Bluefield State (1).

#### 2023 AFCA PRESEASON FCS TOP 25

1	South Dakota St. (24)	14-1	624
2	North Dakota St. (1)	12-3	596
3	Montana St.	12-2	567
4	William & Mary	11-2	510
5	Holy Cross	12-1	459
6	Furman	10-3	438
7	Incarnate Word	12-2	424
8	Sacramento St.	12-1	421
9	Samford	11-2	414
10	Weber St.	10-3	325
11	Southeast Missouri St.	9-3	322
12	New Hampshire	9-4	304
13	Idaho	7-5	288
14	Montana	8-5	15
15	Southeastern Louisiana	9-4	259
16	Richmond	9-4	235
17	UC Davis	6-5	226
18	North Dakota	7-5	188
19	North Carolina Central	10-2	139
20	Northern Iowa	6-5	137
21	Delaware	8-5	124
22	Mercer	7-4	123
23	Rhode Island	7-4	24
24	Gardner-Webb	7-6	72
25	Florida A&M	9-2	70

#### 2023 AFCA PRESEASON NCAA DIV. II TOP 25

1	Ferris St. (Mich.) (29)	14-1	725
2	Col. School of Mines	13-3	642
3	Grand Valley State	12-1	641
4	Pittsburg State (Kan.)	12-1	633
5	Angelo State (Tex.)	12-1	590
6	Northwest Missouri St.	10-3	560
7	West Florida	12-2	482
8	Ouachita Baptist (Ark.)	11-1	455
9	Minnesota St.	10-3	450
10	Delta St. (Miss.)	11-2	438
11	Bemidji St. (Minn.)	10-3	420
12	Ashland (Ohio)	10-2	387
13	Shepherd (W.Va.)	13-2	359
14	Harding (Ark.)	9-2	305
15	Slippery Rock (Pa.)	10-3	304
16	Indiana (Pa.)	10-2	300
17	Benedict (S.C.) (1)	11-1	232
18	Virginia Union	9-2	200
19	Emporia St. (Kan.)	9-3	187
20	Indianapolis (Ind.)	9-2	149
21	Wingate (N.C.)	11-3	147
22	West Georgia	8-2	146
23	Assumption (Mass.)	8-3	132
24	Newberry (S.C.)	9-2	131
25	Lenoir-Rhyne (N.C.)	8-3	129

## BCSP Notes

### Black College Player of the Year 2023 Watch List unveiled

Atlanta, GA - The Black College Football Hall of Fame (BCFHOF) announced Tuesday the 2023 Watch List for the Black College Football Player of the Year Award. The Award is presented annually to the most outstanding football player from a Historically Black College & University.

The initial list is comprised of 49 players from 26 different HBCUs. Included in the list is 2022 black college rushing leader Jada Byers of Virginia Union, the CIAA's offensive player of the year, MEAC offensive player of the year and MVP of the Celebration Bowl, North Carolina Central quarterback Davius Richard, SWAC and FCS tackles leader, linebacker Colton Adams of Alabama State and SIAC and black college sacks leader Loobert Denelus of league champion Benedict.

Four finalists will be unveiled after the season. The winner of the Black College Football Player of the Year Award, which will be announced during halftime of the 2024 Allstate HBCU Legacy Bowl, will be presented with the Deacon Jones Trophy. The Allstate HBCU Legacy Bowl takes place on Saturday, February 24, 2024 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The game will be broadcast live on NFL Network.

Former North Carolina A&T running back Tarik Cohen was selected as the inaugural recipient of the Award in 2016; Bowie State quarterback Amir Hall was the 2017 and 2018 recipient; former Tennessee State wide receiver Chris Rowland was the 2019 recipient; former Alabama A&M QB Aqeel Glass was the recipient in the Spring 2021 and Fall 2021 seasons; and former Jackson State QB Shedeur Sanders was the 2022 winner of the Award.

# HBCU NFL players get off to great starts



greenbaypackers.com photo

SEPARATION: Former Fort Valley State running back EMMANUEL WILSON (#31, FORT VALLEY STATE) pulls away from Cincinnati safety Larry Brooks (#40) en route to his 80-yard touchdown run Friday in Green Bay's 36-19 preseason win over the Bengals.

LUT WILLIAMS BCSP Editor

The 104th NFL season kicked off its 2023 preseason last week with some 43 HBCU players in camps. The first preseason games ran between Thursday, August 10 and Sunday, August 13 and produced some interesting results for those players.

None was more impactful than Green Bay Packers running back Emmanuel Wilson. The 5-11, 226-pound rookie free agent out of Fort Valley State had perhaps the biggest day for any NFL player in the week with his performance Friday.

Wilson ran for 111 yards on just six carries and had 80- and 11-yard TD runs as the Packers defeated Cincinnati 36-19. Wilson was performing 14 years to the day after losing his father.

The talented back was originally signed out of FVSU by the Denver Broncos but was released in May and picked up by Green Bay. He is reportedly battling with third-year pro Patrick Taylor and Iowa grad Tyler Goodson for the third running back spot for the Packers behind starter Aaron James and back-up A. J. Dillon.

His output Friday could not be ignored by Packers' head coach Matt LeFleur.

"That was by far the best I would say he's looked," LaFleur said, "Any time you rip off an 80-yarder, I'd say that's a good deal. ... It was a big night for him. Fourteen years ago, he lost his father. So I was really happy for him coming out in his debut and rips off over 100 yards and two touchdowns."

Wilson, a Charlotte, N.C. native, has produced at every step along his journey. He began his collegiate career at Johnson C. Smith in his hometown. As a freshman there in 2019, he ran for 1,040 yards (104.0 ypg.) and 13 TDs.

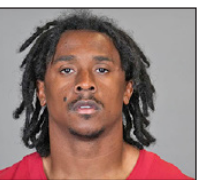
He transferred to FVSU for the 2021 season and topped the SIAC with 835 rushing yards in seven games averaging 5.7 yards per carry and 119.3 yards per game with 7 TDs.

He was the leading rusher last season in the SIAC with 1,371

### HBCU NFL PLAYERS OF THE WEEK For preseason games of August 10 - 13, 2023



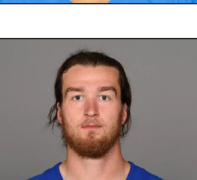
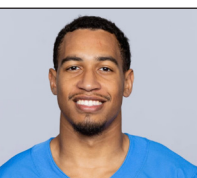
OFFENSE - #31 EMMANUEL WILSON, RB, Green Bay (1st season, FORT VALLEY STATE) - In his first NFL preseason game, the rookie led the Packers with 111 rushing yards on six carries (18.5 yards per carry) with TD runs of 80 and 11 yards in the Green Bay's 36-19 win over Cincinnati. Both TDs came in the second half - the 11-yard scamper with 2:14 left in the third quarter and the 80-yarder where he bounced to the right side and outran defenders to paydirt with 9:06 left in the final quarter. Number of plays on the field stats not available.



not available.



stats not available.



DETROIT. Plays on the field

DEFENSE - #33 ANTONIO HAMILTON, CB, Arizona (8th season, SOUTH CAROLINA STATE) - In 18-17 win over Denver, Hamilton had three solo tackles and an interception returned for 4 yards. Number of plays on the field stats not available.

- #41 MARKQUESE BELL, S, Dallas (2nd season, FLORIDA A&M) - Started at safety and led the Cowboys with 10 total tackles, four solos and six assists, and was credited with defending one pass in 28-23 loss to Jacksonville. Number of plays on the field stats not available.

- #92 ANDREW FARMER, LB, LA Chargers (1st season, LANE) - Had three solo tackles, one a sack for a loss of 11 yards in 34-17 win over the LA Rams. Number of plays on the field stats not available.

SPECIAL TEAMS - #6 JAMIE GILLAN, P, New York Giants, (5th season, ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF) - Punted five times for 238 yards (42.0-yard average) with a long punt of 67 yards with two downed inside the 20 in 21-16 loss to Detroit. Plays on the field

yards. He averaged 6.6 yards per carry and 137.1 rushing yards per game while scoring 17 rushing touchdowns. Wilson only finished behind Virginia Union's Jada Byers' 1,920 yards, 174.5 yards per game and 19 TDs in black college rushing yards. Wilson was also second to Byers in all-purpose yards (204.4 ypg. to 161.0 ypg.) and scoring (126 points, 21 TDs, 11.5 points per game to 102 points, 17 TDs, 10.2 ppg.).