

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



USA Track Photo

GEORGE WILLIAMS: Living legend, former St. Augustine's track coach to have North Carolina highway named in his honor.

GOOD BYES & HELLOS

JACOBY JONES SUCCUMBS; SWAC PREDICTIONS; BASEBALL DRAFTEES; HBCU FOOTBALL ON TV

2024 SWAC FOOTBALL PRESEASON PREDICTIONS

2024 SWAC FOOTBALL PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

- SWAC East**
- 1) Alabama State - 114 points (11)
 - 2) Florida A&M - 104 points (6)
 - 3) Jackson State - 87 points (2)
 - 4) Alabama A&M - 76 points (4)
 - 5) Bethune-Cookman - 47 points
 - 6) Mississippi Valley State - 31 points (1)

- SWAC West**
- 1) Alcorn State - 112 points (11)
 - 2) Prairie View A&M - 104 points (8)
 - 3) Grambling State - 72 points (4)
 - 4) Southern - 70 points (1)
 - 5) Arkansas-Pine Bluff - 61 points
 - 6) Texas Southern - 40 points

*First place votes listed in parenthesis ()

PRESEASON OFFENSIVE POY
Myles Crawley, QB, Grambling State

PRESEASON DEFENSIVE POY
Ckelby Givens, DL, Southern

ALL-SWAC FIRST TEAM OFFENSE

- QB: Myles Crawley, Grambling State
RB: Donovan Eaglin, Alabama A&M
RB: Kendric Rhymes, Southern
OL: Ashton Grable, Florida A&M
OL: Arelious Dunn, Alabama State
OL: Evan Henry, Jackson State
OL: Tahj Martin, Grambling State
OL: Joseph Church, Miss. Valley St.
WR: Fabian McCray, Jackson State
WR: Jacoby Hewitt, Alabama A&M
TE: Tavarious Griffin, Alcorn State

ALL-SWAC FIRST TEAM DEFENSE

- DL: Malachi Bailey, Alcorn State
DL: Ckelby Givens, Southern
DL: Trequan Thomas, Alabama State
DL: CJ Pressley, Prairie View A&M
LB: Rico Dozier, Alabama State
LB: Jacob Williams, Texas Southern
LB: Demarkus Cunningham, Alabama State

2024 PRESEASON ALL-SWAC FOOTBALL TEAM

- DB: Kendall Bohler, Florida A&M
DB: Emari Pait, Alabama A&M
DB: James Burgess, Alabama State
DB: Deco Wilson, Florida A&M

ALL-SWAC FIRST TEAM SPECIALISTS

- PK: Cameron Gillis, Florida A&M
P: Matt Noll, Jackson State
RS: Robert McMinn, Alabama State
LS: Braxton Blackwell, Southern

ALL-SWAC SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

- QB: Jace Wilson, Texas Southern
RB: Kelvin Dean, Florida A&M
RB: Marcus Harris, Alabama State
OL: Carson Vinson, Alabama A&M
OL: Joshua Trask Jr., Southern
OL: Mehdi Torrence, Texas Southern
OL: Cameron Williams, Alabama A&M
OL: NA
WR: Jamari Gassett, Florida A&M

- WR: Javon Robinson, Grambling State
TE: Jaxson Davis, Mississippi Valley State

ALL-SWAC SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

- DL: Jeremiah Williams, Jackson State
DL: Allen Smith, Florida A&M
DL: Michael Akins, Texas Southern
DL: Jamal Marshall, Prairie View A&M
LB: Isaiah Bogerty, Texas Southern
LB: Dearis Thomas, Bethune-Cookman
LB: Derrick Williams, Southern
DB: Amon Scarbrough, Alabama State
DB: Esaia Guthrie, Jackson State
DB: Edwin Summerour, Alcorn State
DB: Javius Williams, Texas Southern

ALL-SWAC SECOND TEAM SPECIALISTS

- PK: Joshua Griffin, Southern
P: Jeremy Baker, Arkansas-Pine Bluff
RS: Jamari Gassett, Florida A&M
LS: Clayton Thomas Jr., Bethune-Cookman

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

LANE'S JACOBY JONES PASSES:

NEW ORLEANS, LA – Fond remembrances poured in for former Lane, SIAC and NFL standout receiver and kick returner **Jacoby Jones** who died overnight in his sleep Sunday.

After a slow start to his NFL career, Jones emerged as a record-setting Super Bowl performer for the Baltimore Ravens.

In a statement released Sunday through the NFL Players Association, Jones' family said that he died "peacefully" at his home in New Orleans.

"The family, including his mother, Emily and his son, Little Jacoby, are together and are asking for prayers, privacy, and support as they navigate through this difficult time."

Jones, 40, was a four-time all-SIAC player and the conference's offensive player of the year and most valuable player his during his senior season in 2006.

In that season, he led the SIAC in receiving yards per game (74.7), receptions per game (6.18), receiving touchdowns (6), all-purpose yards (189.9 ypg.) and punt return average (13.8). He returned two kickoffs and a punt for touchdowns, and finished second in the conference in scoring with 10 TDs. He also had 68 receptions for 822 yards, helping the Dragons finish with an 8-3 record.

Those numbers and performances led to Jones being selected in the third round of the NFL Draft by Houston in 2007.

The 6-3, 190-pounder former high school track star spent five years in Houston and worked his way into significant playing time by his third season. He posted his best years between 2009 and 2011 when he racked up 119 catches for 1,511 yards and 11 TDs. He also returned two punts and one kickoff for touchdowns as the Texans' primary kick returner.

He signed with Baltimore in 2012 and spent three years with the Ravens. He had two kickoff returns, each of over 105 yards – an NFL record – in the 2012 regular season. He was named to his first Pro Bowl as a kick returner for the AFC in 2012.

In an AFC Divisional Playoff game against the Denver Broncos in early 2013, Jones scored on a 70-yard touchdown pass from Joe Flacco with 31 seconds left. The play, dubbed the "Mile High Miracle", tied the game at 35 and preceded a 38-35 double overtime win for the Ravens.

In Super Bowl XLVII against the San Francisco 49ers, Jones became the first player to score a receiving touchdown and return touchdown in the same game in Super Bowl history scoring on a 56-yard pass from Flacco and then returning the opening kickoff of the second half for a 108-yard touchdown for the longest play in Super Bowl or postseason history. The Ravens won the game by a score of 34-31, earning Jones his first Super Bowl ring and what should have been the Super Bowl MVP trophy. Jones was then the feature player on the cover of the Super Bowl XLVII edition of *Sports Illustrated*.

He had short NFL stints in 2015 with San Diego and Pittsburgh before retiring as a Raven in 2017. He coached receivers at Lane for two seasons and also coached receivers at **Morgan State** and **Alabama State**. Jones also served as head coach of the Beaumont Renegades indoor football.

Always known for his flamboyant touchdown dances and celebrations and likeable and jovial charm, Jones was a guest star on *Dancing with the Stars* in 2013 where he teamed with Karina Smirnoff to reach the finals.

Tributes came in from Ravens' teammates Ray Lewis and Torrey Smith and coach John Harbaugh along with Steelers' head coach Mike Tomlin.

HIWAY TO BE NAMED FOR WILLIAMS:

Longtime **Saint Augustine's** and Olympic track and field coach **George "Pup" Williams** is set to be immortalized in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he carved out a legacy for over four decades.

The North Carolina Board of Transportation approved a request that Interstate 440 in Raleigh be known as the **Coch George Williams Interchange**, according to the *Raleigh News & Observer*.

"He traveled that road about every day for probably 45 or 50 years," said North Carolina State Senator Dan Blue, a N. C. **Central** graduate. "So many people will be reminded of all of the tremendous contributions he has made, the leadership he has provided, as they come off of the beltline onto New Bern Avenue."

Williams helped lead his alma mater to 39 NCAA Division II indoor and outdoor national titles, coaching 282 individual national champions, winning the Division II National Coach of the Year award 20 times, and coaching 40 future Olympians.

SWAC preseason football picks unveiled

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.- The **Southwestern Athletic Conference** announced its 2024 Predicted Order of Finish and Preseason All-SWAC Football selections on Tuesday during SWAC Football Media Day at the Sheraton Hotel in Downtown Birmingham.

The Predicted Order of Finish, Individual Awardees and Preseason All-SWAC teams were voted on by the league's head coaches and sports information directors.

Alabama State, led by third-year head coach **Eddie Robinson Jr.**, finished in a tie for second in 2023 in the East Division (7-4 overall, 5-4 E). The Hornets amassed 114 points in the voting and were picked to take the East title.

Alcorn State, who finished in a tie atop the West Division with **Prairie View A&M** at 6-2 and finished 7-5 overall, garnered 112 points and was picked to win the West. Alcorn's new head coach is **Cedric Thomas** who moved over from **Arkansas-Pine Bluff** to replace Alcorn playing and coaching legend **Fred McNair** leading the Braves.

Florida A&M (104), **Jackson State** (87), **Alabama A&M** (76), **Bethune-Cookman** (47) and **Mississippi Valley State** (31) round out the East Division Preseason Poll rankings.

Prairie View A&M (104), **Grambling State** (72), **Southern** (70), **Arkansas-Pine Bluff** (61), and **Texas Southern** (40) round out the West Division Preseason Poll rankings.



Colzie III



Joseph



Graves



Hampton



Dishman



Thomas



Crawley



Givens

of the Year. Crawley solidified himself as one of the top triggermen in the SWAC throwing for 2,303 yards and 16 touchdowns last season. He was the first Grambling State quarterback to throw for at least 2,000 yards since **Devante Kincaid** in 2017.

With Crawley at starter, GSU's passing offense improved from 11th in the SWAC in 2022 to 5th in 2023. GSU's offensive production also increased under Crawley, with the Tigers' offense moving from 10th to 2nd in the SWAC.

Givens led the Jaguars in sacks and tackles for loss during the 2023 season. He led the SWAC in tackles for loss (21) and finished tied for fourth in sacks (7).

He was a dominant force off the edge for the Jaguars finishing the season with 61 tackles, 21 tackles for losses of 83 yards, seven sacks for 23 yards in losses, eight quarterback hurries, one fumble recovery and four forced fumbles.

BCSP Notes

Two players from last week's HBCU Swingman Classic taken in this week's Major League Baseball Draft

Two black college players taken Monday on the second day of the Major League Baseball draft will have a chance to begin their journey to the big leagues.

In the 8th round, the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim selected **Alabama State** second baseman **Randy Flores**, who was a two-time all-SWAC selection for the Hornets as well as the Most Valuable Player of the Inaugural **Ken Griffey Jr. HBCU Swingman Classic** last year in Seattle. Flores batted leadoff for the National League squad in this year's Classic Saturday and led his team with three hits. He also drove in and scored a run.



Flores

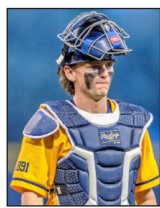
Brown has compiled a .292 batting average with 18 homers and 117 RBI to his credit.

Brown had his best season in 2024, hitting .322 with a career-high 50 RBI and six stolen bases, earning first-team all-Coastal Athletic Association honors.

Flores hit .338 in 114 games for ASU, slugging 20 homers, driving in 98 runs, scoring 118 runs and stealing 68 bases.

In the 9th round, **North Carolina A&T** catcher **Canyon Brown** was drafted by the Kansas City Royals.

In three seasons with the Aggies, Brown had his best season in 2024, hitting .322 with a career-high 50 RBI and six stolen bases, earning first-team all-Coastal Athletic Association honors.



Brown

26 black college football games to air on Byron Allen's The Grio and HBCU Go networks

LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

Thirteen weeks of black college football doubleheaders in 2024 will be broadcast on Byron Allen's channels, *The Grio* and *HBCU Go*.

The line-up of 26 games begins with two games on Saturday, August 31 and will feature two games each Saturday thru November 23.

The channels will broadcast games each week with the first game airing on Allen's *The Grio* cable network followed by a game streaming online at hbcugo.tv.

The Aug. 31 openers will see **Clark Atlanta**

travel to **Fort Valley State** for an early season **SIAC** match up on *The Grio* at 1 p.m. followed by defending **CIAA** champion **Virginia Union** travelling to SIAC member **Kentucky State** in the 3 p.m. game on *HBCU Go*.

The Grio games will air at 1 p.m. followed by 3 p.m. games on *HBCU Go* with a few exceptions.

On week 2 (Sept. 7), **Savannah State** of the SIAC is at **Southern** of the SWAC at 7 p.m. while the *HBCU Go* game of SIAC member **Tuskegee** at SWAC stalwart **Grambling State** will also air at 7 p.m.

The following week (Sept. 14), after the 1 p.m. game pitting SIAC rivals Kentucky State

at Fort Valley State on *The Grio*, *HBCU Go* will carry Memphis's *Southern Heritage Classic* featuring **Tennessee State** of the Ohio Valley Conference vs. **Arkansas-Pine Bluff** of the SWAC at 7 p.m.

The schedule also includes homecoming games at **Central State** (Oct. 12 on *The Grio*), **Alabama A&M** (Oct. 12 on *HBCU Go*), **Bowie State** (Oct. 19 on *The Grio*), **Grambling State** (Oct. 19 on *HBCU Go*) and **Bethune-Cookman** (Oct. 26 on *HBCU GO*) and the Nov. 16 **CIAA** Championship Game in Salem, Virginia at 3 p.m. on *HBCU Go*.

See the 2024 schedule and how to see *The Grio* and *HBCU Go* below.

2024 BROADCAST SCHEDULE FOR GAMES ON THE GRIO AND HBCU GO

- AUGUST 31**
1 p.m. ET - *The Grio*
Clark-Atlanta @ Fort Valley State
3 p.m. ET - *HBCU Go*
Virginia Union @ Kentucky State
- SEPT. 7**
7 p.m. - *The Grio*
Savannah State @ Southern
7 p.m. - *HBCU Go*
Tuskegee @ Grambling State
- SEPT. 14**
1 p.m. - *The Grio*
Kentucky State @ Fort Valley State
7 p.m. - *HBCU Go - Southern Heritage Classic Memphis*
Tennessee State vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff
- SEPT. 21**
1 p.m. - *The Grio*
Winston-Salem State @ Virginia State
3 p.m. - *HBCU Go*
Clark-Atlanta @ Bethune-Cookman
- SEPT. 28**
TBD - *The Grio*
Miles @ Allen

- 3 p.m. - *HBCU Go*
Alabama State @ Bethune-Cookman
- OCT. 5**
1 p.m. - *The Grio*
Bowie State @ Fayetteville State
3 p.m. - *HBCU Go*
Arkansas-Pine Bluff @ Alcorn State
- OCT. 12**
1 p.m. - *The Grio*
Clark Atlanta @ Central State (HC)
3 p.m. - *HBCU Go*
Bethune-Cookman @ Alabama A&M (HC)
- OCT. 19**
1 p.m. - *The Grio*
Bluff State @ Bowie State (HC)
3 p.m. - *HBCU Go*
Arkansas-Pine Bluff @ Grambling State (HC)
- OCT. 26**
1 p.m. - *The Grio*
Johnson C. Smith @ Winston-Salem State
3 p.m. - *HBCU Go*
Jackson State @ Bethune-Cookman (HC)

- NOV. 2**
1 p.m. - *The Grio*
Benedict @ Fort Valley State
3 p.m. - *HBCU Go*
Southern @ Alabama A&M
- NOV. 9**
1 p.m. - *The Grio*
Virginia Union @ Virginia State
3 p.m. - *HBCU Go*
Mississippi Valley State @ Jackson State
- NOV. 16**
1 p.m. - *The Grio*
Mississippi Valley State @ Florida A&M
3 p.m. - *HBCU Go (CIAA Championship - Salem, VA) - TBD vs. TBD*
- NOV. 23**
1 p.m. - *The Grio*
Alabama A&M @ Mississippi Valley State
3 p.m. - *HBCU Go*
Texas Southern @ Arkansas-Pine Bluff

HOW TO WATCH HBCU FOOTBALL ON THE GRIO AND HBCU GO

- Games available on HBCU GO can be watched on HBCU GO and select Cable stations
- Stream the game online for FREE on hbcugo.tv
- Check your local listings to see how to watch the game on your cable network
- Download the FREE HBCU GO mobile app on your Apple or Android device
- Download the FREE TV app on Roku, Apple TV, and Amazon Fire TV for the best experience
- Watch the game on the HBCU GO channel streaming FREE on Local Now, Sports.TV, and TheGrio
- Games available on TheGrio can be watched on TheGrio Cable Network and TheGrio Streaming Apps
- TheGrio channel is available on Charter/Spectrum, Comcast Xfinity, Cox, DirecTV, Dish, Verizon Fios as well as select local over-the-air broadcast stations
- Download the Grio Gold streaming apps
- Check your local listings