

NEW DAY DAWNS

BIG CAT CLASSIC

AND SO IT BEGINS: As usual, football will kick off the 31st year of the BCSP with a lot of questions to be answered.

BCSPYEAR 31 BEGINS WITH TEAM-BY-TEAM, BOWL, **CLASSICS & CHAMPIONSHIP GAME SCHEDULES**

2024 CLASSIC, CHAMPIONSHIP AND BOWL GAME SCHEDULE

SAT., AUGUST 24

1:00pm ET
7:30pm ET
3:00 pm ET
6:00 pm CT

Texas Southern @ Prairie View A&M in Prairie View, TX	6:00 pm C
SUN., SEPTEMBER 1	
ORANGE BLOSSOM CLASSIC	
Alabama State vs. North Carolina Central in Miami Gardnes, FL	3:00pm E
BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME CLASSIC	
Virginia State vs. Benedict in Canton, OH	4:00pm E7
RED TAILS CLASSIC	
Tuskegee vs. Johnson C. Smith in Montgomery, AL	6:00pm C7
OAT OFFITABLE 7	
SAT., SEPTEMBER 7	
LOUIS CREWS CLASSIC	0.00
Kentucky State at Alabama A&M in Huntsville, AL	6:00pm C
PETE RICHARDSON CLASSIC	
Savannah State at Southern in Baton Rouge, LA	6:00pm C
W. C. GORDEN CLASSIC	0.000
Lane at Jackson State in Jackson, MS	6:00pm C7

SAT., SEPTEMBER 14 **EDDIE MCGIRT CLASSIC**

Johnson C. Smith vs. Lincoln (PA) in Charlotte, NC

Morehouse vs. Howard in East Rutherford, NJ

HBCU NEW YORK FOOTBALL CLASSIC

CIRCLE CITY CLASSIC

FOUNTAIN CITY CLASSIC

Top two seeds in Atlanta, GA

SWAC CHAMPIONSHIP

BATTLE OF THE BAY Hampton at Norfolk State in Norfolk, VA SOUTHERN HERITAGE CLASSIC Arkansas-Pine Bluff vs. Tennessee State in Memphis, TN	4:00pm E
SAT., SEPTEMBER 21	
DOWN EAST VIKING CLASSIC	
Elizabeth City State vs. Fayetteville State in Rocky Mount, NC XXVI CHICAGO FOOTBALL CLASSIC	1:00pm E
Morehouse vs. Kentucky State in Chicago, IL	3:00pm C
BATTLE OF THE REAL HU — TRUTH AND SERVICE CLASSIC	
Hampton vs. Howard in Washington, D.C.	3:30pm E
AGGIE-EAGLE CLASSIC	
North Carolina A&T at North Carolina Central in Durham, NC	7:00pm E

SAT., SEPTEMBER 28

Norfolk State vs. North Carolina Central in Indianapolis, IN STATE FAIR CLASSIC	3:00pm C
Grambling State vs. Prairie View A&M in Dallas, TX	6:00pm C
SAT., OCTOBER 5	
MOREHOUSE-SKEEGE CLASSIC	
Morehouse vs. Tuskegee in Columbus, GA	2:00pm E
GULF COAST CHALLENGE	
Jackson State vs. Alabama A&M in Mobile, AL	4:00pm C

SAT., OCTOBER 12	
LUCILLE M. BROWN COMMUNITY YOUTH BOWL	
Elizabeth City State at Virginia Union in Richmond, VA	1:00pm E

SAT., OCTOBER 26

MAGIC CITY CLASSIC	
Alabama A&M vs. Alabama State in Birmingham, AL	2:30pm CT

SAT., NOVEMBER 2

PORT CITY CLASSIC	
Alabama State vs. Alcorn State in Mobile, AL	4:00pm CT

SAT., NOVEMBER 9

1 00111711	14 011 1 01/10010	
Fort Valley	y State vs. Albany State in Columbus, GA	2:00pm ET
COMMEN	IORATIVE CLASSIC	
Johnson (C. Smith at Livingstone	2:00pm ET

SAT NOVEMBER 16

	OATH, NOVEMBER TO	
CIAA CHAMPIONSHIP		
Top two teams in Salem, VA	Т	BE
SIAC CHAMPIONSHIP		

CAT NOVEMBED 22

SAI., NOVEMBER 23	
FLORIDA CLASSIC	
Bethune-Cookman vs. Florida A&M in Orlando, FL	3:30pm E

	THURS., NOVEMBER 28	
TURKEY DAY OLASSIC		

CAT NOVEMBED 20	
Tuskegee at Alabama State in Montgomery, AL	2:00pm CT
TURKEY DAY CLASSIC	

SAT., NOVEMBER 30

1:00pm CT

SAT., DECEMBER 7

SWAC East Champion vs. SWAC West Champion in TBD 1:00pm CT

SAT., DECEMBER 14

CELEBRATION BOWL MEAC Champion vs. SWAC Champion in Atlanta, GA 12noon ET

NEXT WEEK: Homecomings Schedule

Changing of the guard in 31st BCSP season

LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor The BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE begins

its fourth decade this month - its 31st year of publication – and as usual will open with football on the main stage.

Dominance has been the theme recently for gridiron races in the four Historically Black College and Universities (HBCUs) conferences.

In the CIAA, it has been Bowie State and Favetteville State as the dominant programs. In the MEAC, it's been North Carolina Central and Howard. Benedict has ruled the SIAC roost over the past two seasons while **Jackson State** and Florida A&M have been top dogs in the SWAC.

All that could be changing.

The departure of winning coaches to greener pastures or environs is certainly part of this change. But also, there's a palpable feeling that programs trapped in also-ran status over the past few seasons are ready to break out.

Coaching changes in those programs are certainly part of the equation. Perhaps, more than part. They are likely at the root of a budding resurgence of these programs.

It should make for some scintillating races in 2024.

CIAA

Someone other than Bowie State (2018, 2019, 2021) and Favetteville State (2022) won the 2023 CIAA title as the Panthers of Virginia Union under head coach Dr. Alvin Parker came thru with the crown for the first time in 22 years.

With the league abandoning the North/South Divisions in 2024 the race for the title takes on new dimensions.

Most have recognized that the power in the CIAA has rested for several years with teams formerly in the North Division who have won five of the last six titles. The three-peat of Bowie State

9/28

.... @ Bluefield State@ North Carolina A&T .

Ohio Dominican

..Bowie State .

.@ Virginia Union

..@ Livingstone

WINSTON-SALEM STATE

1:00pm ET

3:00pm ET

(2018-21) came under former head coach **Damon** Wilson who has taken his talents to Morgan State of the MEAC. More on that later.

Richard Hayes Jr.'s Broncos of Fayetteville State have had the South to themselves winning six straight division crowns and championship game berths and the 2022 league title.

Now that the division format has been abandoned, the door is open for change. The teams of a trio of third-year coaches seem to be in best position to capitalize on the new format.

League coaches voted Virginia State under resurgent veteran third-year head coach Dr. Henry Frazier III as the 2024 favorite to win it all. **Johnson C. Smith**, coming off a 7-3 finish – its second straight seven-win season under head coach Maurice Flowers - was the fourth pick behind VUU and FSU. Bowie State, entering its third year under Kyle Jackson, is the fifth pick.

Expect the champion to come from amongst these five.

MEAC

Howard and North Carolina Central have battled to the wire for MEAC supremacy over the past two seasons. But both can hear the footsteps of Morgan State under Wilson gaining on them.

Third-year coach Wilson's Bears opened the 2023 season with a stunning 17-10 win over Richmond (who went on to the FCS playoffs where it defeated NC Central) and threw a serious scare into FBS program Akron (a 24-21 loss) in Week Two. They fell to NCCU by six (16-10) and to Howard by seven (14-7). The Bears are coming.

New South Carolina State head coach Chennis Berry joins the fray and brings his infectious energy and some of that Benedict talent to the league after leading the Tigers to back-toback dominating SIAC titles.

There will likely be a fierce battle between these four for MEAC supremacy in 2024.

With the surprisingly successful Berry gone from Benedict, the door is wide open for a number

of SIAC programs to step to the fore. Coaches believe it will be Quinn Gray's Golden Rams of **Albany State**. Unlike the other third-year mentors, Gray is just in his second season. But a couple of other third-year head men have their teams on the rise.

Shawn Gibbs at Fort Valley State has gone 16-5 in two seasons and is expected to be solidly in contention. Sam Shade was 1-9 in his first season (2022) leading Miles before turning that around to a 7-3 finish last season. The Golden Bears were the only SIAC team to really test Benedict in 2023 (a 27-24 loss) and had a win (21-17) over 2024 SWAC favorite Alabama State. **SWAC**

Deion Sanders won back-to-back titles at **Jackson State** (2021 and 2022) and then bolted to Colorado. Willie Simmons won the 2023 title for Florida A&M and then he bolted to Duke (as running backs coach).

Neither JSU nor FAMU, both from the SWAC East, is picked by coaches to win in 2024. That designation now falls to another third-year head coach, Eddie Robinson Jr. of Alabama **State** in the East.

Alcorn State – a former East Division program - was picked to win the West under new head man Cedric Thomas. The Braves are picked over Prairie View A&M, led by another third-year man, Bubba McDowell. Thomas is among five new coaches in the SWAC including new leaders at Southern, Grambling, Texas Southern and FAMU.

Don't expect Robinson to go anywhere if he wins this year's title. Remember, the 'Bama State alum says "he's SWAC" (you had to have been there).

...2:30

...8:15

.@ Alabama A&M Bethune-Cookman

.. Grambling State in New Orleans

.. @ Rice. . @ Lamar Jackson State .. Virginia-Lynchburg (HC).Southern.....

. Grambling State @ Florida A&M

.. Bethune-Cookman

. @ Arkansas-Pine Bluff

@ Cumberland

.Southeastern @ Webber International .. 1:30 Ave Maria (HC) .Thomas

Morgan State

Virginia Union

.@ Norfolk State

.@ William & Mary

Rhode Island

. Elon (HC).

. @ Towson

Richmond.

Central Oklahoma

Texas College

.. North American (HC).

.. @ Ottawa..

. McKendree.

LINCOLN (MO) 9/7.....@ Quincy.

TEXAS SOUTHERN

FLORIDA MEMORIAL

HAMPTON

11/16

LANGSTON

SCHEDULES

... Kentucky State... . Georgetown (KY).

. @ Austin Peay @ Florida A&M.

. @ Arkansas-Pine Bluff.

9/1... North Carolina Central in Miami.. 2

.. Miles.

ALABAMA STATE

.. Alabama State in B'ham...2:30

10/12.... Bethune-Cookman (HC)...

9/21.

11/9.

2024 TE	AM-BY-TEAM BI	LACK COLLEG
2024 12	AM-DI-ILAM DI	TACK COLLEC
		1 11/9 Kentucky State1
	8/24	E \ CLARK-ATLANTA
9/141 @ Emory & Henry	A 9/14 Wagner	8/31 @ Fort Valley State 1
9/28 J. C. Smith (HC)	9/21	9/7Allen
10/5 @ Shaw	9/28 @ Campbell	9/14@ Florida Memorial
10/19 @ Bowie State	10/12	9/28 Lane in Memphis, TN2
10/26Virginia State	10/26@ SC State	10/5 Savannah State
11/2	11/2	10/121 10/19Miles (HC)1
	11/16	11/21
BOWIE STATE	11/23 North Carolina Central1	11/9 @ Morehouse1
9/7 @ Lenoir-Rhyne	HOWARD	EDWARD WATERS
9/214	8/29 @ Rutgers 6	8/31@ Morehouse
9/28 @ Winston-Salem State 1	9/77	9/7 @ Florida Memorial 1
10/5 @ Fayetteville State	9/14Morehouse in E. R'ford, NJ3 9/213:30	9/14 @ Alcorn State
10/19 Bluefield State (HC)1	9/21	9/19 @ Benedict 8 9/28 Tuskegee
10/26	10/121	10/5Fort Valley State4
11/2 @ Elizabeth City State 1 11/9Lincoln (PA)	10/19Tennessee State (HC)3:30	10/19 Savannah State
	10/26	10/26@ Albany State
ELIZABETH CITY STATE	11/9SC State3:30	11/9Allen (HC)2
8/31 @ Shaw	11/15 @ North Carolina Central 12n	
9/14 @ Erskine 1	11/231	FORT VALLEY STATE 8/311
9/21 Fayetteville State in Rocky Mt., NC 1	MORGAN STATE	9/141
10/5 @ Livingstone	8/31 @ Hampton6	9/21 @ Delta State6
10/19Virginia State	9/7	9/28 @ Savannah State 2 10/5 @ Edward Waters 4
10/26 Lincoln (PA) (HC)	9/14	10/12Allen (HC)2
11/2Bowie State	9/28 @ Stony Brook 3:30	10/192
11791	10/51	10/26@ Morehouse
FAYETTEVILLE STATE	10/12Merrimack	11/2 Benedict
9/7	11/2Norfolk State	11/3Albairy State III Gol., GA2
9/14 @ Valdosta State	11/91	KENTUCKY STATE
9/28 @ Virginia State	11/16South Carolina State4 11/23Howard1	8/31Virginia Union3
10/5	11/251	9/7Alabama A&M
10/12 @ Livingstone	NORFOLK STATE	9/21 Morehouse in Chicago3
11/2 @ Johnson C. Smith 1	8/24Florida A&M in Atlanta7:30	9/28@ Albany State
11/9 @ Winston-Salem State 1	9/31 @ East Carolina 6 9/7Virginia State 4	10/5Lane (HC)
JOHNSON C. SMITH	9/14	10/19 @ Tuskegee 1
9/1 Tuskegee in Montgomery, AL 7	9/21	10/26 Allen 1
9/7 @ Morehouse	9/28NC Central in Indianapolis, IN 3 10/5 @ Sacred Heart 1	11/9 @ Central State1
9/14Lincoln (PA)	10/12	LANE
9/28 @ Bluefield State 6	10/26Howard (HC)2	9/7@ Jackson State6
10/5Virginia State2	11/2 Morgan State	9/14 @ Benedict
10/19Shaw (HC)	11/23 @ South Carolina State1:30	9/21 @ Miles 4 9/28 Clark Atlanta in Memphis 2
11/2 Fayetteville State 1		10/5@ Kentucky State2
11/9 @ Livingstone	NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL	10/12
LINCOLN (BA)	9/1 Alabama State in Miami 3 9/7	10/19Central State (HC)2 10/26
LINCOLN (PA) 9/5@ Clarion6	9/14	11/2Edward Waters2
9/14 @ Johnson C. Smith 1	9/217	11/9 @ Lincoln (MO)12
9/21 @ Shaw	9/28 Norfolk State in Indy, IN3	MILES
9/28	10/5@ Campbell4 10/122	MILES 8/31@ West Alabama
10/12 Bluefield State (HC)1	10/26 Morgan State (HC)3:30	9/7 @ Alabama State6
10/19	10/31 @ South Carolina State7	9/21Lane4
10/26 @ Elizabeth City State 1 11/2 Virginia State 1	11/15	9/28
11/9 @ Bowie State 1	1720	10/12Albany State2
	SOUTH CAROLINA STATE	10/19 @ Clark Atlanta 12
LIVINGSTONE 9/21 Charleston 6	8/31	10/26 @ Benedict
8/316 9/7Va. Univ. Lynchburg6	9/7	11/2 Morehouse
9/146	9/28 North Carolina A&T 6	
9/21	10/5	MOREHOUSE
9/28 @ Lincoln (PA)	10/19 Fort Valley State	8/31 Edward Waters
10/12 Fayetteville State (HC)2	10/31 North Carolina Central7	9/14 Howard in East R'thrfd, NJ3
10/19 Winston-Salem State4	11/9	9/21 Kentucky State in Chicago 3
11/2 @ Shaw	11/16	9/28Benedict
	11/25130	10/5 Tuskegee in Columbus, GA2 10/19 @ Albany State1
SHAW	ALBANY STATE	10/26Fort Valley State (HC)2
8/311 9/7	8/31 @ Valdosta State	
9/14Catawba6	9/7Shaw	
9/211	9/28Kentucky State	SAVANNAH STATE
9/28	10/51	9/7 @ Southern6
10/5Bluefield State	10/12@ Miles	9/14
10/19@ Johnson C. Smith 1	10/19Morehouse (HC)2 10/26Edward Waters2	9/21 @ Tuskegee
10/26 @ Fayetteville State 2:30	11/2 @ Savannah State 3	10/5@ Clark Atlanta
11/21	11/5 Ft. Valley State in Col., GA2	10/12Lincoln (CA)6
VIRGINIA STATE	ALLEN	10/19 @ Edward Waters 6
9/1 Benedict in Canton, OH4	ALLEN 9/7@ Clark Atlanta	10/26Lane (HC)3 11/2Albany State3
9/7	9/14	11/9@ Benedict
9/21 Winston-Salem State 1 9/28 Fayetteville State 2	9/217	
10/5@ Johnson C. Smith2	9/28 Miles	TUSKEGEE 9/1 J. C. Smith in Montgomery, AL6
10/12 Bowie State (HC)2	10/12@ Fort Valley State2	9/1 3. C. Smith in Montgomery, AL 6 9/7 @ Grambling State 6
10/19 @ Elizabeth City State1	10/19 Benedict	9/21 Savannah State
10/26 @ Bluefield State	10/261	9/28 @ Edward Waters 7
11/9Virginia Union	11/2	10/5 Morehouse in Columbus, GA2
-	11/92 Edward Waters2	10/12 @ Lane
VIRGINIA UNION 8/31 @ Kentucky State 3	BENEDICT	10/26 @ Central State 1
8/31 @ Kentucky State 3 9/7 @ Hampton	9/1Virginia State in Canton, OH4	11/2 @ Clark Atlanta 1
9/21 @ Johnson C. Smith 6	9/14	11/9Miles (HC)
9/281	9/19	11/28 @ Alabama State2
10/5 Winston-Salem State 1 10/12 Elizabeth City State 1	10/5 North Greenville	ALABAMA A&M
10/19 @ Lincoln (PA)	10/12 @ Kentucky State 1	8/31
10/26 @ Bowie State	10/197	9/7 Kentucky State6

.Miles (HC) .@ Fort Valley State

@ Morehead State.

..@ Grand Valley State...

@ Savannah State

Albany State in Rochester, NY ..

.Clark Atlanta (HC)

. @ Lane

. @ Allen.

10/12

CENTRAL STATE

LACK COLLEGE	FOOTBALL
11/9	9/14
10/19	## ALCORN STATE 8/29@ UAB 9/7@ Vanderbilt 9/14
BOWARD WATERS 8/31. @ Morehouse 3 9/7. @ Florida Memorial 1 9/14. @ Alcorn State 6 9/19. @ Benedict 8 9/28. Tuskegee 7 10/5. Fort Valley State 4 10/19. Savannah State 6 10/26. @ Albany State 2	9/21@ McNeese State 9/28@ Mississippi Valley State 10/5Arkansas-Pine Bluff (HC) 10/12@ Grambling State 10/19@ Southern 11/2Alabama State in Mobile, A 11/16@ Prairie View A&M 11/23Jackson State
11/2@ Lane	ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF 8/29Arkansas in Little Rock, ARK 9/7Arkansas Baptist
8/31 Clark Atlanta 1 9/14 Kentucky State 1 9/21 @ Delta State 6 9/28 @ Savannah State 2 10/15 @ Edward Waters 4 10/12 Allen (HC) 2 10/19 South Carolina State 2	9/14 Tennessee State in Memph 9/21

11/16	@ Southern	2
11/23	Texas Southern	2
BETHUNI	E-COOKMAN	
8/31	@ South Florida	7
9/7	Mercer	3
9/14	@ Western Michigan	6:30
9/21	Clark Atlanta	3
9/28	Alabama State	3
10/12	@ Alabama A&M	3
10/19@ [Mississippi Valley St	ate2
10/26	Jackson State (HC)	3
11/2	Grambling State	3
11/9	@ Southern	3
11/16	.@ Texas Southern .	3
11/23FI	orida A&M in Orland	o 3:30

FLORIDA A&M
8/24 Norfolk State in Atlanta 7:30
8/31 South Carolina State 6
9/7 @ Miami
9/21 @ Troy
9/28Alabama A&M6
10/5 @ Alabama State 2
10/19@ Jackson State 2:30
10/26 Southern
11/2Texas Southern (HC)4
11/9 @ Prairie View A&M2
11/16Mississippi Valley State 1
11/23 Bethune-Cookman in Orlando, FL 3:30
GRAMBLING STATE

GRAMBLING STATE
8/31 @ Louisiana
9/7Tuskegee
9/14@ Texas A&M-Commerce
9/21 Jackson State
9/28 Prairie View A&M in Dallas
10/12Alcorn State
10/19Arkansas-Pine Bluff (HC)
10/26@ Texas Southern
11/2 @ Bethune-Cookman
11/9 Alabama State
11/14@ Alabama A&M
11/30 Southern in New Orleans
JACKSON STATE
8/29 ULM

JACKSON STATE
8/29ULM
9/7Lane
9/14Southern
9/21@ Grambling State
9/28 @ Texas Southern
10/5 Alabama A&M in Mobile, AL
10/19Florida A&M2:
10/26@ Bethune-Cookman
11/2 Arkansas-Pine Bluff (HC)
11/9Mississippi Valley State
11/16 @ Alabama State
11/23@ Alcorn State
9
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE
8/31@ Tennessee State

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE
8/31@ Tennessee State
9/7@ Lamar
9/14 @ Murray State
9/21 @ Nicholls
9/28Alcorn State
10/12 @ Alabama State
10/19Bethune-Cookman (HC)
10/26Arkansas-Pine Bluff
11/2 Prairie View A&M
11/9 @ Jackson State
11/16@ Florida A&M
11/23Alabama A&M
PRAIRIE VIEW A&M
8/31 Teyas Southern

	PRAIRIE	VIEW A&M
	8/31	Texas Southern
	9/7	@ Northwestern Stat
	9/14	@ Michigan State
s	9/21	Southern
w	9/28G	rambling State in Dal
		@ Incarnate Word .
		@ Arkansas-Pine Blu

	8/31 lexas Southern
	9/7 @ Northwestern State
	9/14@ Michigan State2:
S	9/21Southern
W	9/28 Grambling State in Dallas
A	10/5@ Incarnate Word
C	
_	10/26 Texas A&M-Commerce (HC)
- 1	11/2 @ Mississippi Valley State
	11/9Florida A&M
	11/16Alcorn State
	11/23 @ Alabama State
	SOUTHERN

Savannah State

.@ Jackson State

. @ Prairie View A&M

Nicholls

..@ Texas Southern

. Alcorn State (HC)

9/21

te6	11/5
2:30	11/12
6	
llas 6	WES
6	9/5
uff8:15	9/12
(HC)2	9/21
ate2	9/28
2	10/5
2	10/12
2	10/19
	10/26
	11/2
6	11/9
•	44140

9/28 @ SW Baptist
10/5Lincoln (CA) (HC)
10/12@ Northeastern State
10/19Upper lowa1
10/26 @ Missouri S&T
11/2@ Truman State12
11/9Lane1
11/16Indianapolis1
NORTH CAROLINA A&T
8/29@ Wake Forest
9/7 Winston-Salem State
9/14Delaware
9/21 @ North Carolina Central
9/28 @ South Carolina State
10/5@ Richmond
10/19Hampton (HC)
10/26@ Campbell
11/2 William & Mary
11/9@ Villanova
11/16 @ Towson
11/23Elon
TENNESSEE STATE
8/31Mississippi Valley State
9/7@ North Dakota State 2:3
9/14 Arkansas-Pine Bluff in Memphis
9/21 @ Tennessee Tech 1:30
0/00

9/28Charleston Southern
10/5@ Lindenwood
10/12 Eastern Illinois (HC)
10/19@ Howard2:3
11/2UT Martin
11/9@ Western Illinois
11/16@ Gardner-Webb
11/23 Southeast Missouri 3:3
TEXAS COLLEGE
9/3 @ Arkansas Baptist
9/10Langston
9/17@ OK Panhandle State
9/24@ Wayland Baptist
10/8@ Ottawa
10/15

9/24@ Wayland Baptist	2
10/8@ Ottawa	7
10/15@ Lyon	2
10/22Arizona Christian	11a
10/29 Texas Wesleyan	7
11/5@ SAGU	2
11/12 Louisiana College (HC).	<u>5</u>
J , ,	
WEST VIRGINIA STATE	
9/5 @ Barton	6
9/21 West Liberty	6
	9/24

@ Glenville State 1 1 12				
ALL TIMES LOCAL (PM)				
SOLIRCE: Team Schedules				

Frostburg State