



ONES TO WATCH

chicagobears.com photo
GREAT START: Former Howard
running back lan Wheeler scores
two touchdowns in his first NFL
game.

1st PRESEASON BCSP NFL PROFILE; 2024 WATCH LISTS UNVEILED; TROUBLE AT FAMU



Malachi	Bailey	Jr	DL	Alcorn State	SWAC
Ah'shaan	Belcher	SR	WR	Shaw University	CIAA
Kendall	Bohler	Sr	DB	Florida A&M	SWAC
Trayvon	Branch	Sr	OL	Morgan State	MEAC
James	Burgess	Sr	DB	Alabama State	SWAC
Elijah	Burris	Sr	RB	Hampton University	CAA
Jada	Byers	Sr	RB	Virginia Union	CIAA
Myles	Crawley	Sr	QB	Grambling State	SWAC
DeMarkus	Cunningham	Jr	LB	Alabama State	SWAC
Jaxson	Davis	Soph	TE	Mississippi Valley State	SWAC
Rico	Dozier	Sr	LB	Alabama State	SWAC
Kylan	Duhe	Sr	RB	Lane College	SIAC
Aurelious	Dunn	Sr	OL	Alabama State	SWAC
Donovan	Eaglin	Soph	RB	Alabama A&M	SWAC
Darius	Fox	Sr	OL	Howard University	MEAC
Isaiah	Freeman	Soph	QB	Lincoln (PA)	CIAA
Kenny	Gallop Jr.	Jr	DB	Howard University	MEAC
Jordan	Gant	Soph	RB	Tennessee State	ovc
Marquis	Gillis	Soph	RB	Delaware State	MEAC
Cameron	Gillis	GS	K	Florida A&M	SWAC
Ckelby	Givens	Jr	DL	Southern University	SWAC
Tavarious	Griffin	Sr	TE	Alcorn State	SWAC
Asmar	Hasan	Sr	LB	Lane College	SIAC
Kasey	Hawthorne	GS	WR	Howard University	MEAC
Jacolby	Hewitt	Sr	WR	Alabama A&M	SWAC
Jarett	Hunter	GS	RB	Howard University	MEAC
Erick	Hunter	Sr	LB	Morgan State	MEAC
Eden	James	Jr	RB	Howard University	MEAC
Johnny	Jones	Jr	WR	Edward Waters	SIAC
Ka'Darrion	Jones	GS	DL	Lane College	SIAC
Mikael	King	Jr	DB	Tuskegee	SIAC
Otto	Kuhns	Sr	QB	Norfolk State	MEAC
Malachi	Langley	Jr	WR	Lincoln (PA)	CIAA
James	Lowery	Soph	K	Tennessee State	ovc
Tahj	Martin	Jr	OL	Grambling State	SWAC
Fabian	McCray	GS	WR	Jackson State	SWAC
Aaron	Miller	GS	DL	Benedict University	SIAC
Karon	Prunty	Sr	DB	North Carolina A&T	CAA
Aaron	Smith	Jr	LB	South Carolina State	MEAC
Justin	Smith-Brown	Sr	WR	South Carolina State	MEAC
Nick	Taiste	Sr	OL	South Carolina State	MEAC
Treqwan	Thomas	Jr	DL	Alabama State	SWAC
Dearis	Thomas	Jr	LB	Bethune-Cookman	SWAC
KeShawn	Toney	GS	TE	South Carolina State	MEAC
Elijah	Williams	Sr	DL	Morgan State	MEAC
Jacob	Williams	Sr	LB	Texas Southern	SWAC
Deco	Wilson	GS	DB	Florida A&M	SWAC
David	Wright	Soph	QB	Clark Atlanta	SIAC

2024 HOMECOMING GAMES (Homecoming team in BOLD ALL CAPS)

Sept. 28 BLUEFIELD STATE vs. Johnson C. Smith
Oct. 5 SAVANNAH STATE vs. Clark Atlanta
MILES vs. Central State
KENTUCKY STATE vs. Lane
ALABAMA STATE vs. Florida A&M
ALCORN STATE vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff
LINCOLN (MO) vs. Lincoln (CA)
TEXAS SOUTHERN vs. Virginia Lynchburg

MORGAN STATE vs. Lincoln (PA)
DELAWARE STATE vs. Saint Francis (PA)
Oct. 12
WEST VIRGINIA STATE vs. Concord
FORT VALLEY STATE vs. Allen
CENTRAL STATE vs. Clark Atlanta
LINCOLN (PA) vs. Bluefield State
LIVINGSTONE vs. Fayetteville State

VIRGINIA STATE vs. Bowie State
ALABAMA A&M vs. Bethune-Cookman
TENNESSEE STATE vs. Eastern Illinois
LANE vs. Central State

Oct. 19

LANE vs. Central State

CLARK ATLANTA vs. Miles

ALBANY STATE vs. Morehouse

BOWIE STATE vs. Bluefield State

JOHNSON C. SMITH vs. Shaw

NORTH CAROLINA A&T vs. Hampton

SOUTHERN vs. Alcorn State

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE vs. Bethune-Cookman

GRAMBLING STATE vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff

Oct. 26 FLORIDA MEMORIAL vs. Ave Maria
MOREHOUSE vs. Fort Valley State
ALLEN vs. Kentucky State
BENEDICT vs. Miles
ELIZABETH CITY STATE vs. Lincoln (PA)
FAYETTEVILLE STATE vs. Shaw
NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL vs. Morgan State
BETHUNE-COOKMAN vs. Jackson State
ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF vs. Mississippi Valley State
HAMPTON vs. Elon
NORFOLK STATE vs. Howard

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M vs. Texas A&M-Commerce
SOUTH CAROLINA STATE vs. Delaware State
SHAW vs. Livingstone
VIRGINIA UNION vs. Bluefield State

FLORIDA A&M vs. Texas Southern
JACKSON STATE vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff
Nov. 9 WINSTON-SALEM STATE vs. Fayetteville State
EDWARD WATERS vs. Allen
TUSKEGEE vs. Miles

BCSP Notes

2024 Black College Football Player of the Year Award Watch List Announced

Atlanta, GA – The *Black College Football Hall of Fame* (BCFHOF) unveiled Tuesday the 2024 Watch List for the *Black College Football Player of the Year Award*.

The original list includes 52 outstanding players from America's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and includes players from the four HBCU conferences – the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA), the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC), the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) and the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) – and players from non-HBCU conference programs at Hampton, North Carolina A&T and Tennessee State.

The Award is presented annually to the most outstanding football player from a Historically Black College & University. The Watch List candidates have been selected based on past performance and future potential. Additions to the list will be made as the 2024 season progresses. The finalists and the winner will be chosen by a Selection Committee.

Four finalists will be unveiled after the 2024 season. The winner will be announced during halftime of the 2025 Allstate HBCU Legacy Bowl and will be presented with the Deacon Jones Trophy. The bowl takes place on Saturday, February 22, 2025 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The game will be broadcast live on NFL Network.

"The Black College Football Player of the Year Award highlights the incredible talent and dedication of today's HBCU football players," said former **Grambling State** and NFL quarterback **Doug Williams**, Super Bowl XXII MVP, BCFHOF Co-Founder and 2011 Inductee. "These student-athletes represent the very best of HBCU football."

"The *Deacon Jones Trophy* is regarded as the most prestigious and recognized award in HBCU football," said former **Grambling** and NFL quarterback **James "Shack" Harris**, the other BCFHOF co-founder and a 2012 inductee. "Deacon is still considered one of the greatest to play the game and is a legend in every way, shape, and form, and to this day, still represents the very best of black college football."

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 quarterback Aqeel Glass was the recipient in the Spring 2021 and Fall 2021 seasons. Former Jackson State quarterback Shedeur Sanders was the 2022 winner of the Award. North Carolina Central quarterback Davius Richard and Florida A&M quarterback Jeremy Moussa were the co-winners in 2023.

FCS Football Central Announces 2024 Aeneas Williams Award Preseason Watch List

AUGUST 7, 2024 -- The Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame, in collaboration with DraftHBCUPlayers and the Paycom Jim Thorpe Award, unveiled the prestigious 2024 *Aeneas Williams Award* Preseason Watch List last week.

The announcement highlights 19 standout defensive backs from HBCUs at the Division I (FCS) level, headlined by last year's winner, **Howard** defensive back **Kenny Gallop Jr.**

Gallop (6-0, 214) posted 59 total tackles last year for the Bison, 39 solos, averaging 6.6 tackles per game. He also was credited with two interceptions, three pass break-ups, one forced fumble and one recovery.

Joining Gallop Jr. on the watchlist from the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) is fellow Bison Carson Hinton, a pair of Morgan State Bears in Carlvainsky Decius and Jason Prevard, as well as two Norfolk State Spartans in Devon Allen and Terron Mallory.

Topping the list of nine defensive backs from the **Southwestern Athletic Conference** (SWAC) is **Florida A&M** redshirt senior **Kendall Bohler**. The 6-0, 190-pound Rattler had 14 pass break-ups and one interception in 2023 while totalling 39 tackles, 27 solos.

Also prominent on the Watch List is **North Carolina A&T** redshirt senior **Karon Prunty**. At 6-2, 180 pounds, Prunty had 43 tackles, 33 solos, five pass break-ups and one sack.

Gallop has been named a defensive first teamer on the Stats Perform FCS Preseason All-America squad and the FCS Football Central Preseason all-American team. Bohler was a defensive second team all-American selection by Stats Perform. Prunty and Bohler were named to the fourth team defense of Phil Steele's FCS Football Preseason All-American team.



chicagobears.com Photo

STAR OF THE WEEK!! Chicago rookie free agent rookie running back IAN WHEELER (#33, HOWARD) runs for some of his team-high 43 yards in the Bears' 33-6 win over Buffalo. Wheeler had a 21-yard run and scored on 7- and 8-yard runs in the fourth quarter in the rout of the Bills.



GOT IT! Third-year Dallas safety **MARKQUESE BELL** (#14, **FLORIDA A&M**) picks off an errant throw from LA Rams quarterback Jarrett Stidham. In addition to the pick, Bell led the Cowboys with nine tackles, six solos, in their 13-12 loss in their first preseason game Sunday.

LATE BREAKING NEWS!! An email from Florida

A&M Athletics Director **Tiffani-Dawn Sykes** circulated Tuesday indicates that, "effective immediately," she is no longer employed by the university.

This comes in the wake of reports Tuesday, first reported by *HBCU Gameday*, that interim FAMU President, **Dr. Timothy Beard** asked



for the immediate resignation of the school's senior leadership. Beard replaced fomer President **Larry Robinson** in July after the school celebrated a highly publicized \$238 million gift from a donor that turned out to be fraudulent.

Sykes has had her leadership highly scrutinized and criticized and a number of her hiring decisions reversed since she took the position in January 2023.

She reportedly did not resign.







Gallop Bo

Bohler

The *Aeneas Williams Award* is sponsored by the Chickasaw Nation and is the first of its kind dedicated exclusively to recognizing excellence in HBCU football. It is awarded to the top defensive back, who not only shows excellent on-field performance, but also embodies strong character and athletic prowess.

The award is named for Williams, a former **Southern University** cornerback who went on to a 14-year Pro Football Hall of Fame career in the NFL playing for the Phoenix/Arizona Cardinals (1991-2000) and St. Louis Rams (2001-2004). At Southern, he was a two-time all-SWAC selection who finished his college career with 20 interceptions.

The 1991 third round draft pick was a three-time first team all-pro, a two-time second team all-pro and eight-time Pro Bowl selectee who led the NFL in interceptions in 1994 and posted 55 interceptions in his career.

2024 AENEAS WILLIAMS AWARD WATCH LIST

Devon Allen, Sr., Norfolk State
James Burgess, Sr., Alabama State
Carlvainsky Decius, Sr., Morgan State
Calvin Henderson, Sr., Grambling State
Horacio Johnson, Sr., Southern
Robert McDaniel, Gr., Jackson State
Jason Prevard, Soph., Morgan State
Canary Simmons, Sr., Texas Southern
BJ Washington, Soph., Jackson State

Kendall Bohler, Sr., Florida A&M Darren Burton II, Soph., Hampton Kenny Gallop Jr., Gr., Howard Carson Hinton, Gr., Howard Terron Mallory, Gr., Norfolk State Emari Pait (Alabama A&M, Soph.) Karon Prunty (North Carolina A&T Andrew Smith, Sr., Alcorn State Deco Wilson, Gr., Florida A&M

Phil Steele / DraftScout Preseason FCS All-American team short on HBCU players

Based on their selections of four 2024 FCS Preseason all-American teams, the Phil Steele / DraftScout selectees obviously don't think much of the crop of black college football talent – particularly at the skill positions on offense.

Not a single HBCU player was named to their first team offense and only two linemen – senior **Nick Taiste** of **South Carolina State** and senior **Carson Vinson** of **Alabama A&M** – were named to the third and fourth team offenses respectively.

Morgan State senior linebacker Erick Hunter, Howard senior defensive back Kenny Gallop Jr. and Jackson State senior punter Matt Noll were named to the second team defense and special teams. No HBCU players were first team defense.

Southern junior defensive lineman Ckelby Givens, Morgan State senior defensive lineman Elijah Williams and Texas Southern junior linebacker Jacob Williams nabbed third team honors.

Five more players from the black college ranks were selected to the fourth team. They include Alcorn State senior defensive lineman Malachi Bailey, Alabama State senior linebacker Rico Dozier, North Carolina A&T senior defensive back Karon Prunty and Florida A&M senior defensive back Kendall Bohler.

Alabama State senior **Robert McMinn** is on the fourth team as a punt returner.

BCSP NFL PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

For preseason games of August 8 - 11, 2024



OFFENSE
- #31 EMANUEL WILSON, RB, Green Bay
(2nd season, FORT VALLEY STATE) - In
Packers' 23-10 win over Cleveland, Wilson led
the Packers with 67 rushing yards on 13 carries
(5.2 ypc.) with a long run of 23 yards including

a 5-yard, second-quarter TD run. Wilson also returned one kickoff for 28 yards. He was in on 22 offensive plays (34%) and three on special teams (15%).



DEFENSE
- #41 MARKQUESE BELL, S, Dallas (3rd season, FLORIDA A&M) - Started at safety and led the Cowboys with nine tackles, six solos, and an interception in 13-12 loss to the LA Rams. Bell was in on 35 defensive snaps

(55%) and three on special teams (15%).



SPECIAL TEAMS
- #19 XAVIER SMITH, WR/KR, LA Rams (1st season, FLORIDA A&M) - Started at wide receiver in 13-12 win over Dallas Sunday and finished with four receptions in four targets for 22 yards (5.5 yards per catch) with a long

catch of 10 yards and returned two kickoffs for 47 yards (23.5 yard avg.) with a long return of 24 yards. Smith played 54 snaps on offense (76%) and six on special teams (30%).



ROOKIES
-#33 IAN WHEELER, RB, Chicago (Rookie, HOWARD) - Led the Bears with 43 rushing yards on five carries (8.6 yards per carry) with a long run of 21 yards and two fourth-quarter TD runs of 7 and 8 yards in 33-6 win at Buffalo

TD runs of 7 and 8 yards in 33-6 win at Buffalo Saturday. Wheeler was in on only eight offensive plays (14%) and one on special teams (4%).



- #35 JARVEON HOWARD, RB, Green Bay (Rookie, ALCORN STATE) - Was second on the Packers with 44 yards on eight carries (5.5 ypc.) with a long run of 17 yards in 33-6 win over Cleveland. Howard was in on just 11 offensive plays (17%).

Nov. 2