

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



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GREAT START: Former Howard running back Ian Wheeler scores two touchdowns in his first NFL game.

ONES TO WATCH

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



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 *Sheedur 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 *Carlvainky 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.



dallascowboys.com Photo

GOT IT! Third-year Dallas safety *MARKQUESE BELL* (#14, *FLORIDA A&M*) picks off an errant throw from LA Rams quarterback Jarrett Stidham. In an 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.

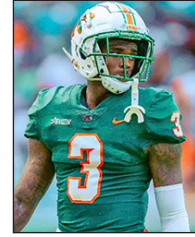


This comes in the wake of reports Tuesday, first reported by *HBCU Gameday*, that interim FAMU President, *Dr. Timothy Beard* asked for the immediate resignation of the school's senior leadership. Beard replaced former President *Larry Robinson* in July after the school celebrated a highly publicized \$238 million gift from a donor that turned out to be fraudulent.

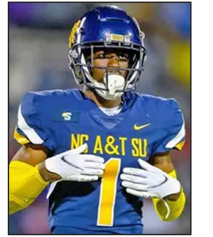
Sykes has had her leadership highly scrutinized and criticized and a number of her hiring decisions reversed since she took the position in January 2023. She reportedly did not resign.



Gallop



Bohler



Prunty

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

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|--|------------------------------------|
| Devon Allen, Sr., Norfolk State | Kendall Bohler, Sr., Florida A&M |
| James Burgess, Sr., Alabama State | Darren Burton II, Soph., Hampton |
| Carlvainky Decius, Sr., Morgan State | Kenny Gallop Jr., Gr., Howard |
| Calvin Henderson, Sr., Grambling State | Carson Hinton, Gr., Howard |
| Horacio Johnson, Sr., Southern | Terron Mallory, Gr., Norfolk State |
| Robert McDaniel, Gr., Jackson State | Emari Pait (Alabama A&M, Soph.) |
| Jason Prevard, Soph., Morgan State | Karon Prunty (North Carolina A&T) |
| Canary Simmons, Sr., Texas Southern | Andrew Smith, Sr., Alcorn State |
| BJ Washington, Soph., Jackson 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 *Kelby 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 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%).