

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



South Carolina State Sports Photo

CHENNIS BERRY: Two-time SIAC champ and first-year SC State head coach leads Bulldogs into clash at Florida A&M.

EARLY SEASON CHALLENGES CONTINUE

HBCU LEGENDS ATTLES, DANIELS PASS; SWAC BESTS MEET MEAC BESTS; SENIOR BOWL LIST

Celebration Bowl previews top schedule?

LUT WILLIAMS
BCSP Editor

If the so-called experts – head coaches from the SWAC and MEAC – are to be believed, the regular season in 2024 black college football begins this week with a match up that could foreshadow the end of the season.

That's because SWAC favorite – according to its head coaches – **Alabama State** is facing MEAC favorite – according to its head coaches – **North Carolina Central** Sunday (3 p.m., ESPN) in the *Orange Blossom Classic* in Miami's Hard Rock Stadium.

If you listen to these guys, this is a preview of the season-ending *Celebration Bowl* that pits champions of the two conferences in December in Atlanta.

Regardless of the outcome, this match up is certainly the most intriguing of the 25 games that officially kick off the 2024 regular season.

SWAC vs. MEAC battles are at the top of the schedule this week.



Alabama State Sports Photo



North Carolina Central Sports Photo

ANOTHER SWAC/MEAC CHALLENGE: Eddie Robinson Jr. (l.) head coach of SWAC favorite Alabama State, faces off against Trei Oliver (r.) of MEAC favorite North Carolina Central Sunday in the Orange Blossom Classic in Miami.

starts and showed his prowess throwing for five TDs in a game last season vs. **Mississippi Valley State**.

OL **Trevon Humphrey**, RB **J'Mari Taylor** and WR **Joaquin Davis** are offensive standouts. The Eagles' defense is led by DL **Jaden Taylor**, DB **Kole Jones** and LB **Max Uren**.

Other Games to Watch

Plenty of eyes will be fixed on another SWAC vs. MEAC battle in Tallahassee, Florida Saturday (6 p.m., ESPN+) that could have Celebration Bowl implications when **Florida A&M** and new head coach **James Colzie III**, coming off a tight 24-23 Week Zero win over **Norfolk State**, hosts **South Carolina State** and new head coach **Chennis Berry**.

There is much expectation and anticipation around Berry after two undefeated championship seasons in the SIAC at **Benedict**. He takes over the storied Bulldogs' program that has been led over the past 40-plus years by two legendary head coaches in Hall of Famer **Willie Jeffries** (1973-78 and 1989-2000) and future Hall of Famer **Buddy Pough** (2002-23).

The schedule opens this week on Thursday with five black college teams 'playing up' on the road against higher level competition.

In those FCS vs. FBS match ups, **Howard** is at Rutgers (6 p.m., Big Ten Network), **Arkansas-Pine Bluff** is at Arkansas (6:30 p.m., ESPN), **Alcorn State** is at UAB (7 p.m., ESPN+) and **North Carolina A&T** is at Wake Forest (7 p.m., ACC Network Extra). **Central State** of the Div. II SIAC, faces Morehead State of the FCS Pioneer Conference (6 p.m., ESPN+).

Saturday's line-up also has a host of other black college FCS teams playing on the road and looking for upsets vs. FBS competition.

There are a few intra-conference black college battles Saturday.

In the CIAA, **Elizabeth City State** is at

GAMES THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

Central State @ Morehead State in Morehead, KY - ESPN+ 6p
Howard @ Rutgers in Piscataway, NJ - Big Ten Network 6p
Ark.-Pine Bluff @ Arkansas in Little Rock, AR - ESPN+ 6:30p
Alcorn State @ UAB in Birmingham, AL - ESPN+ 7p
NC A&T @ Wake Forest in Winston-Salem, NC - ACC Network Extra 7p

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30

Elizabeth City State @ Shaw in Durham, NC 1p
Edward Waters @ Morehouse in Atlanta, GA 3p
Charleston @ Livingstone in Salisbury, NC 6p
Winston-Salem State @ Bluefield State in Bluefield, WV 6p
Miles @ West Alabama in Livingston, AL 6p
Texas Southern @ Prairie View A&M in Prairie View, TX 6p

CLASSICS

John Merritt Classic
Miss. Valley State @ Tennessee State in Nashville, TN 5p

TV / STREAMED GAMES

Virginia Union @ Kentucky State in Frankfort, KY - HBCUGo 3p
Delaware State @ Sacred Heart in Fairfield, CN - ESPN+ 6p
Jackson State @ UL-Monroe in Monroe, LA - ESPN+ 6p
Morgan State @ Hampton in Hampton, VA - FloFootball 6p
Norfolk State @ East Carolina in Greenville, NC - ESPN+ 6p
SC State @ Florida A&M in Tallahassee, FL - ESPN+ 6p
Alabama A&M @ Auburn in Auburn, AL - ESPN+/SECN+ 6:30p
Albany State @ Valdosta State in Valdosta, GA - FloFootball 7p
Bethune-Cookman @ South Florida in Tampa, FL - ESPN+ 7p
Grambling State @ Louisiana in Lafayette, LA - ESPN+ 7p

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

CLASSICS / TV GAMES
Black College Football Hall of Fame Classic
Benedict vs. Virginia State in Canton, OH - NFL Network 4p
Red Tails Classic
Johnson C. Smith vs. Tuskegee in Montgomery, AL - ESPN+ 7p
Orange Blossom Classic
NC Central vs. Alabama State in Miami, FL - ESPN 3p

SCORES

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

Florida A&M 24, Norfolk State 23
Hawaii 35, Delaware State 14

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

NBA LEGEND AL ATTLES PASSES AT 87:

Al Attles, who went from the playground basketball courts of Newark, New Jersey to the hardwood at **North Carolina A&T** to a nearly six-decade career with the NBA's Philadelphia/Golden State Warriors as a player, NBA champion head coach, executive and ambassador to Pro Basketball's Hall of Fame, passed away Tuesday at his home in San Francisco surrounded by family. Attles was 87.

Attles played for late legendary North Carolina A&T head men's basketball coach **Cal Irvin** from 1956-60, graduating in 1960 with a bachelor's degree in physical education and history. He led the Aggies to consecutive **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association** (CIAA) titles in 1958 and '59.

"I have so much respect and admiration for Coach Irvin," Attles once said about the legendary coach. "When he first recruited me to A&T, the furthest south I had ever been was Philadelphia. He taught me how to dress nicely, show up properly, and have respect for my peers and professors." That teaching paid off handsomely.

As a player, Attles was never a high scorer but a fierce defender and consummate pass-first point guard and floor leader. Those were traits he carried into his professional career. In 1960, Attles was drafted in the fifth round (39th overall) by the Philadelphia Warriors and then in San Francisco, now known as Golden State. For his 11-year career spanning 711 NBA games, he averaged 8.9 points, 3.5 rebounds and 3.5 assists per game.

Starting in 1980, he held numerous roles in the franchise, including head coach from 1970-83. He led the organization to a four-game NBA Championship Series sweep of Washington in 1975, becoming only the second African American coach to win an NBA title. He is one of five Warriors to have his number retired.

On February 7, 2015, Attles became the first player in the history of NC A&T athletics to have his number officially retired by the school. His number 22 jersey hangs from the rafters of Corbett Sports Center.

"I had the best time of my life at A&T, and I always tell people if I had another opportunity to come back, I would do it all over again," Attles said during the ceremony.

On Friday, September 6, 2019, Attles and 11 other honorees were enshrined in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

"Mr. Attles left an indelible mark on the school he loved, North Carolina A&T State University, and the entire basketball world," said North Carolina A&T Director of Athletics **Earl M. Hilton III**. "In so many ways, he exemplified Aggie Pride in how he carried himself as a professional and a fixture in the Bay Area community. We mourn his loss along with his family and everyone who knew and loved him."

BELOVED PHOTOGRAPHER JOE DANIELS PASSES:

A revered and beloved part of the local and black college sports media community was lost last Thursday when noted photographer **Joe Daniels** passed in Greensboro, N. C. Daniels, 82, passed a week after suffering a stroke.

A native of Long Island, New York and a **North Carolina Central** alum, he retired after 30 years as a firefighter in Greensboro. Beginning in 1976, he has covered every aspect of community news and events for the black weekly *Carolina Peacemaker* newspaper and effectively served as the newspaper's sports editor for some time. He provided regular coverage of local recreational, high school and college sports programs in the Triad area including such programs in High Point and Winston-Salem and was a frequent provider of photos for the BCSP.

He had also been one of a legion of veteran photographers on the black college sports circuit for much of that time serving in a supervisory capacity for photographers at the CIAA Basketball Tournament for more than 30 years. Daniels also worked as an official at local and national track & field events. Known as much for his warm and engaging manner as well as his professional knowledge, Joe will be sorely missed.

Alabama State vs. NC Central

This is the first time that third-year head coach **Eddie Robinson Jr.**'s Hornets of Alabama State have been picked as SWAC favorites. ERob's troops have finished behind both league champion **Jackson State** and **Florida A&M** in 2022 in the SWAC East and behind league winner Florida A&M in 2023 in the East.

With both former JSU head coach **Deion "Coach Prime" Sanders** and former FAMU head coach **Willie Simmons** departing after taking those titles, it appears the coast is clear for 'Bama State and Robinson to ascend to the top of the league.

Some of that expectation was fueled by the addition of prolific quarterback **Andrew Body's** transfer from **Texas Southern** to join the Hornets. In three seasons at TSU, Body threw for over 4,000 yards and 27 touchdowns and ran for over 1,000 yards and nine TDs. But Body was not the only noted addition. ASU also added QB **Jonah O'Brien**, a transfer from Eastern Illinois that has battled with Body for the starting job. The Hornets also feature preseason all-SWAC performers in RB **Marcus Harris**, OL **Aurelius Dunn**, KR **Robert McMin**, DL **Trequan Thomas**, LB **Rico Dozier** and DBs **James Burgess** and **Amon Scarbrough**.

Trei Oliver's Eagles of NCCU have finished first and second in the MEAC over the past two seasons. They may have been picked to win the MEAC this season based on having an experienced quarterback returning to the fold.

Left-handed junior **Walker Harris** has spent the last three seasons capably playing behind two-time MEAC Player of the Year, QB **Davius Richard**. Harris has won in his only two

BCSP Notes

11 on Senior Bowl Watch List

Eleven (11) black college players from six HBCUs were among 859 players from 180 college programs selected last week to the initial 2025 Reese's Senior Bowl Watch List.

The total of players on the initial list is up from 2024 that featured 720 prospects. One reason for the increase is the NFL changed eligibility rules for postseason all-star games last November, allowing draft-eligible underclassmen to participate in them. The Senior Bowl invited 15 underclassmen to the 2024 game.

Of the black college players, only offensive lineman **Carson Vinson** of **Alabama A&M** is listed as a junior underclassman. The other nine selectees are seniors, redshirt seniors or grad seniors.

The Senior Bowl staff is comprised of thirteen scouts with over 200 years of NFL experience.

HBCU PLAYERS ON SENIOR BOWL WATCH LIST

Carson Vinson, 6-6, 305, Jr., OL, **Alabama A&M**
James Burgess, 6-3, 186, Sr., DB, **Alabama State**
Kendall Bohler, 6-0, 195, R-Sr., DB, **Florida A&M**
Jeremiah Pruitte, 6-5, 230, R-Sr., TE, **Florida A&M**
Kenny Gallop Jr., 6-0, 214, Gr., DB, **Howard**
Jarett Hunter, 5-10, 205, Gr., RB, **Howard**
Robert McDaniel, 6-2, 207, Gr., DB, **Jackson State**
Erick Hunter, 6-4, 210, Sr., LB, **Morgan State**
Elijah Williams, 6-3, 270, Sr., DL, **Morgan State**
Aaron Smith, 6-2, 218, R-Sr., LB, **South Carolina State**
Nick Taiste, 6-2, 295, R-Sr., OL, **South Carolina State**

TOP PERFORMANCES

		From games of August 24, 2024		
PASSING				
	COMP-ATT-INT	YDS	TDs (YDS)	
Daniel Richardson, FAMU	22-30-0	286	3 (20, 55, 9)	
Marqui Adam, DSU	17-28-0	156	0	
Jalen Daniels, NSU	7-9-0	142	0	
RUSHING				
	CAR	YDS	TDs (YDS)	
Kevon King, NSU	14	146	2 (82, 2)	
Jaden Sutton, DSU	12	56	1 (6)	
Xzavion Evans, NSU	12	55	0	
RECEIVING				
	REC	YDS	TDs	
Jamari Gasset, FAMU	8	110	2 (55, 9)	
Jacquez Jones, NSU	4	78	0	
Kam'Ryn Thomas, NSU	2	57	0	
TACKLES				
9	A. J. Richardson, NSU;			
8	Andre Powell, Deco Wilson, FAMU;			
SACKS				
1.0	Nay/Ron Jenkins, FAMU; Brian Bates, DSU;			
INTERCEPTIONS				
0				

* Top number in bold



TAKEDOWN!! Detroit edge rusher James Houston (#41, JACKSON STATE) sacks Pittsburgh QB Kyle Allen Saturday.

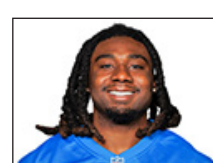
BCSP NFL PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

For preseason games of August 22 - 25, 2024



OFFENSE

EMANUEL WILSON, RB, Green Bay (2nd season, FORT VALLEY STATE) - Started at running back in Packers' 30-7 and had 107 all-purpose yards in win over Baltimore Saturday. He finished with 52 rushing yards on 11 carries (4.7 yards per carry) with a long run of 12 yards, caught two passes on two targets for 26 yards (13.0 yards per catch) with a long catch of 20 yards, returned one kickoff for 29 yards and had a solo tackle on special teams. Wilson played 24 snaps on offense (37%) and three on special teams (12%).



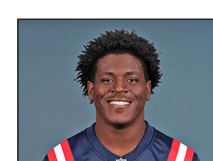
DEFENSE

- **#41 JAMES HOUSTON**, LB, Detroit (3rd season, JACKSON STATE) - In 24-17 win over Pittsburgh Saturday, Houston had three tackles, one solo, a sack for -7 yards and two hits on the quarterback. He played 22 defensive snaps (48%).



SPECIAL TEAMS

- **#19 XAVIER SMITH**, WR/KR, LA Rams (1st season, FLORIDA A&M) - In 17-15 loss to Houston, Smith had 73 all-purpose yards including three rushes for 16 yards (5.3 yards per carry) with a long run of 8 yards, four catches in five targets for 34 yards (8.5 ypc.) with a long reception of 12 yards and a punt return of 23 yards while playing 43 snaps on offense (80%) and ten on special teams (40%).



ROOKIE

- **#29 TERRY JENNINGS**, RB, New England (Rookie, FLORIDA A&M) - Led the Patriots in rushing with 36 yards in six carries (6.0 yards per carry) with a long run of 13 yards in 20-10 loss to Washington. Jennings was in for 20 snaps on offense (26%) and three on special teams (11%).