

SWAC DIVISION **SHOWDOWNS**

CONFERENCES BRACING FOR INTRIGUING FINISHES; FOUR BLACK COLLEGE TEAMS IN NATIONAL POLLS

Alcorn State Sports Photo XZAVIER VAUGHN: Six-six, 200-pound transfer QB has led Alcorn State to the top of the SWAC West standings.







BATTLE FOR THE TOP SPOTS: (L. to r.) Jackson State's T. C. Taylor, Florida A&M's James Colzie III, Alcorn State's Cedric Thomas and Southern's Terrence Graves look for wins to keep their teams at the top of the SWAC division standings.

SCORES

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11 Ark. Pine Bluff 21, Prairie View A&M 17 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

Alabama A&M 56, Bethune-Cookman 12 Alabama State 54. Miss. Valley State 17 Alcorn State 17, Grambling State 15 Clark Atlanta 25, Central State 20 Fort Valley State 49, Allen 40 Howard 21, Sacred Heart 14 Kentucky State 23, Benedict 21 Langston 35, Okla. Panhandle State 31 Lincoln (PA) 37, Bluefield State 13 Livingstone 24, Fayetteville State 19 Merrimack 32, Morgan State 24

Miles 32, Albany State 21 N. C. Central 68, Virginia Lynchburg 0 Northeastern State 55, Lincoln (MO) 7 Robert Morris 23, Delaware State 0 Savannah State 30, Lincoln (CA) 18 Southern 22, Texas Southern 19, OT Tennessee State 41, Eastern Illinois 17 Towson 28, Norfolk State 23 Tuskegee 27, Lane 17 Virginia State 38, Bowie State 17 Virginia Union 35, Elizabeth City State 0 West Virginia State 44, Concord 14 Winston-Salem State 34, Shaw 14 Southeastern at Florida Memorial - Ppd

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

HBCUs IN NATIONAL FOOTBALL POLLS:

This week's American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) national poll includes three HBCUs in the Top 25.

Coming off a bye week, Florida A&M (3-2) is 18th. The Rattlers were 19th in the previous week. North Carolina Central (5-2), coming off a big 68-0 win over hapless Virginia Lynchburg and after an impressive 45-14 takedown of New Hampshire two weeks prior, is 21st. The Eagles were 24th in the previous poll. New entrant **Jackson State** (4-2) is the last team in the Top 25. JSU was off this past week.

One measure of the AFCA poll is that New Hampshire (4-2), despite its 45-14 loss to NCCU, is ahead of NCCU at 19th. Also, No. 15 Richmond is coming off a 20-17 win two weeks ago over 1-5 N. C. A&T and No. 17 Rhode Island defeated 3-3 **Hampton** 46-44 in two overtimes the same week.

The STATS Perform FCS Top 25 had NCCU at 20th and FAMU tied for 25th with UT-Martin. New Hampshire was 24th in that poll.

Undefeated **Johnson C. Smith** (6-0) is the only black college in either of the NCAA Div. II polls. The AFCA Div. II Coaches Poll has the Golden Bulls 20th and one of 13 undefeated teams in the poll. In the D2football.com Top 25, JCSU is 21st.

AFCA FCS TOP 25 1) South Dakota St. (21) 5-1 2) North Dakota State (2) 6-1 3) Montana State (3) 7-0 4) South Dakota 5-1 5) Villanova 5-1 6) UC Davis 6-1 7) Mercer 6-0 8) Southeast Missouri State 6-1 9) Tarleton State 6-1 10) North Dakota 4-2 11) Montana 5-2 12) Central Arkansas 5-2 13) Incarnate Word 4-2 14) Idaho 4-3 15) Richmond 4-2 16) William & Mary 4-2 17) Rhode Island 5-1 18) Florida A&M 3-2 19) New Hampshire 4-2 20) Missouri St. 4-2 21T) ACU 4-3 T21) North Carolina Central 5-2 23) Illinois St. 4-3 24) Dartmouth 4-0 25) Jackson State 4-2

D2FOOTBALL.COM 1) Harding 6-0 2) Grand Valley State 6-0 3) Valdosta State 6-0 4) Pittsburg State 5-1 5) Ferris State 5-1 6) Kutztown 6-0 7) Slippery Rock 6-0 8) Central Oklahoma 6-0 9 Minnesota State 6-1 10) Western Colorado 6-0 11) Ouachita Baptist 12) West Alabama 5-0 13) CSU Pueblo 6-1 14) Colorado Mines 5-1 15) Central Washington 4-2 16) Charleston 6-0 17) Emporia State 6-1 18) Carson-Newman 6-0 19) Lenoir-Rhyne 5-1 20) Augustana 4-2 21) Johnson C. Smith 6-0 22 Indianapolis 5-1 23 Saginaw Valley State 5-1 24 Wayne State (NE) 5-1 25 Frostburg State 6-0

BLACK COLLEGE FCS TOP FIVE

1) NC CENTRAL (5-2) Shut out Virginia-Lynchburg, 68-0. NEXT: Bye

B 2) FLORIDA A&M (3-2) Idle. NEXT: At Jackson State for SWAC East C

3) HAMPTON (3-3) Idle. NEXT: At 1-5 North Carolina A&T's home-S

4) SOUTH CAROLINA STATE (3-2) Bye week. NEXT: Entertaining

Fort Valley State.

5) ALCORN STATE (4-3) - Last-seconds win over Grambling State, 17-15. NEXT: At Southern homecoming for SWAC West lead.

BLACK COLLEGE NCAA DIV. II / NAIA TOP FIVE

1) J. C. SMITH (6-0) Idle. NEXT: Hosting Shaw.

2) VIRGINIA UNION (4-2) Shut out Elizabeth City State, 35-0. NEXT:

At Lincoln PA. 3) MILES (4-2) Got big 32-21 win over Albany State to take SIAC lead.

NEXT: At Clark Atlanta's homecoming. E 4) CLARK ATLANTA (5-1-1) Comeback win at Central State's home-

coming, 25-20. **NEXT:** Miles in for homecoming. 5) WEST VIRGINIA STATE (5-1) Beat Concord, 44-14. NEXT: At

Wheeling.

2024 BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL (Standings and Weekly Honors)

CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

	CON	F	ALL
	W	L	W
Johnson C. Smith	3	0	6
Virginia Union	2	0	4
Livingstone	3	1	4 5
Winston-Salem State	3	1	5
Virginia State	2	i	5 3
Shaw	2	2	4
Fayetteville State	2	2	4
Lincoln (PA)	1	2	ĭ
Elizabeth City State	'n	2	2
Bluefield State	0		4
	Ŏ	3	- !
Bowie State	()	3	1

BCSP/CIAA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK OL - Dakota McLendon, Gr., WSSU - Anchored 525 total offensive yards in win vs. Shaw yards, 2 TDs (37, 47) in win vs. Bowie State. yards, 2 TDs (16, 8), 2 rushing TDs vs. Shaw. yards (9.3 ypc.), 70-yard TD in win vs. Shaw.

QB - Romelo Williams, Gr., VSU - 16-28-0, 291 Davlin Lee, So., WSSU - 22 of 32, no picks, 244 OB - Trevon Hester, Jr., WSSU - 19 carries, 185 WR - Malik Hunter, Jr., VSU - 5 receptions, 110 yards (22.0 ypc.), 1 TD (47) in win vs. BSU. DB - Kevin Larkin Jr., Fr., LIV - 4 tackles, 2 solos, 2 interceptions, 25 return yards in win over FSU. LB - Jayden Reeder, So., LIV - 4t, 1s, .5 sack, 2 ints., 1 returned for 77-yard TD vs. FSU. DL - Osmanis Aquilera, Fr., DE, LIV - 7 tackles, 4 solos, 1.5 sacks for -12 yards vs. FSU.

MEAC MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

	CON		ALL		
	W	L	W	L	
North Carolina Central	1	0	5	2	
SC State	0	0	3	2	
Howard	0	0	3	3	
Morgan State	0	0	3	4	
Delaware State	0	0	1	6	
Norfolk State	0	1	2	6	

MEAC / BCSP PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

JaShawn Scroggins, R-So., QB, HOW-238total yards, 17-29-1, 153 yards, 12 carries, 85 yards (7.0 ypc.), 1 TD (5).

A. J. Richardson, So., LB, NSU - 18 tackles, 7 solos, 5.5 tackles for loss (-20), two sacks (-12), 1 int. returned 32 yards vs. Towson.

Vinson Berry, Fr., QB, NSU - 16 of 31, no picks, 221 yards 1 TD (43) vs. Towson. Zion Dobson, Fr., RB, NCCU - 12 carries, 98 yards (8.2 ypc.), 1 TD (5) vs. VUL OFFENSIVE LINEMAN

Trevon Humphrey, R-So., NCCU - 96% grade, 1 pancake, vs. VUL

		CON	F		ALL
	Miles	4	0	4	2
	Clark Atlanta	4	1	4	1-1
	Fort Valley State	4	1	4	2
	Albany State	3	1	3	3
	Tuskegee	3	1	3	3
	Savannah State	2	2	3	3
	Benedict	2	2	2	4
	Kentucky State	2	3	2	5
	Central State	1	3	1	4
	Edward Waters	1	3	1	5
}	Morehouse	1	3	1	5

BCSP PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

OFFENSE Khalil Anglin, R-Fr., QB, MILES-20-30-0, 225yds., 1TD (20), 5 car., 10 yds., vs. Albany State. DEFENSE Malik Harp, Sr., LB, FVSU - 7 tackles, 5 solos,

3 TFL (-15), 2.0 sacks (-14) in win over Allen. NEWCOMER $\textbf{Khalil Anglin}, \, \mathsf{QB}, \, \textbf{MILES}$

SPECIAL TEAMS Dejuan Bell, Gr., WR, FVSU - 3 KO returns, 144 yds., a 95-yard KOTD, 29-yard punt return,

SIAC SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE SWAC SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

	, ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	00.	
	DIV		
EAST DIVISION	W	L	٧
Jackson State	2	0	4
Florida A&M	1	0	(
Alabama State	2	1	(
Alabama A&M	1	1	(
Bethune-Cookman	0	2	(
Miss. Valley State	0	2	(
WEST DIVISION			
Alcorn State	3	0	4
Southern	2	0	(
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	1	1	2
Texas Southern	1	2	2
Prairie View A&M	1	3	2
Grambling State	0	2	(

SWAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK OFFENSE Kareem Keye, R-Fr., QB, ALST-14-

21-0, 326 yds., 4 TDs (21, 84, 38, 4) vs. MVSU. Xavier Langford, Jr., QB, ALA&M - 15-24-1, 315vards, 1TD (44), 15 car, 83 vards, 3TDs vs. B-CU. DEFENSE Stemarion Edwards, Sr., LB, ALC 12 tackles, 7 solos, 2.5 TFL (-12), 1 int., vs. GSU. SPECIALIST Guillermo Garcia-Rodriguez, Gr. PK, $\mbox{\bf PVA\&M}$ - Hit on field goals of 50, 54 and 49

NEWCOMER JaVonnie Gibson., Fr., RB/KR, **UAPB -** 9 receptions, 183 yards, 1 TD (42)

vards vs. UAPB.

INDEPENDENTS

	CON	IF.	ALL	
	W	L	W	L
Texas College	0	0	2	2
Florida Memorial	1	1	2	2-1
VaLynchburg	0	0	0	6
CAA				
Hampton	0	2	3	3
NC A&T State	0	2	1	5
OHIO VALLEY				
Tennessee State	3	1	5	2
MIAA				
Lincoln (Mo.)	1	5	1	5
MOUNTAIN EAST				
W. Va. State	4	0	5	1
SAC (Sooner Athletic Conference)				
Langeton	2	1	2	'n

BCSP PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Terrence Bardell, Jr., QB, LANG - 20-39-0, 465 yards, 4 TDs in win vs. OPS. DEFENSE

Keandre Booker, Gr., DE, TSU - 4 tackles, 3 solos, 2.0 sacks , 1 FF, 1 QB hurry vs. EIU.

Josh Hancock, R-Fr., OLB, WVSU - 2 solo tackles, both sacks for -14 yards vs. Concord.

Conference races hit critical juncture

LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

Mid-October is the heart of homecoming season in black college football and there are 12 of the tradition-laden games on the schedule this

While the off-field attention will be on the various activities that accompany homecomings, on-field attention will be focused on the various conference races that are at critical junctures.

SWAC play begins in earnest this week with only three non-conference games between now and the Nov. 30 end of the regular season.

SIAC and CIAA races begin a four-week closeout to the regular season this week.

This is the last week of non-conference games before the MEAC plunges full bore into league play until the Nov. 23 end of the regular season schedule.

SWAC

On Saturday, East Division leaders Jackson **State** (4-2, 2-0 E) and **Florida A&M** (3-2, 1-0 E) meet in Jackson, Ms. (2:30 p.m. ESPNU).

West leaders Alcorn State (4-3, 3-0 W) and **Southern** (3-3, 2-0) do battle Saturday (6 p.m., ESPN+) at the Jaguars' homecoming in Baton Rouge, La.

Second-year JSU head coach T. C. Taylor and first-year FAMU head man James Colzie II are the new guys at the helms of their respective programs. Taylor has the top scoring offense in the SWAC at 35.5 points per game spurred by the insertion of junior Syracuse transfer QB Jacobian Morgan into the starting line-up two games ago. The Tigers have averaged 45.5 points en route to winning those two games while Morgan has produced over 500 yards of total offense and 7 TDs.

Transfer QB Daniel Richardson (1,183 passing yards, 9 TDs) and WR Jamari Gassett (31 rec., 344 yds., 2 TDs) have been the offensive catalysts for the Rattlers who have only lost to two

FBS opponents. Alcorn State and Southern's coaches are just as new as those at JSU and FAMU. Both Alcorn's Cedric Thomas and Southern's Terrence Graves are in their first year.

overtime - 31-24 over defending division champ Prairie View A&M and a comeback 22-19 win over Texas Southern last week. Two of Alcorn's league wins have been nearly as close – a lastseconds 17-15 win over Grambling State last week and a second-half rally that propelled the Braves over Arkansas-Pine Bluff, 38-28.

Six-six grad transfer QB (from Lincoln Mo.) Xzavier Vaughn has been the revelation for Alcorn. He currently leads the SWAC with 641 rushing yards (80.1 ypg.) and 10 TDs. Redshirt sophomore Jacorian Sewell is just behind Vaughn in rushing stats with 435 yards (72.9 ypg.) and four scores. On the strength of those two, Alcorn rushes for a league-best 202.4 ypg.

Southern will counter with the second-best overall defense (279.8 ypg.) and third-best scoring defense (26.3 ppg.).

SIAC

The top match up in the SIAC has new conference leader Miles (4-2, 4-0 SIAC), No. 3 in the BCSP D2 Top Five, coming off a big win over Albany State, playing for homecoming (1 p.m., ESPN+) at No. 4 Clark Atlanta (4-1-1, 4-1).

Miles knocked off conference favorite Albany State 32-21 behind the play of redshirt freshman QB Khalil Anglin (20-30-0, 225 yds., 1 TD) and freshman RB Roderick Thomas (12 carries, 105 yds., 1 TD) and a defense that garnered six sacks

CAU, with new head coach Teddy Keaton and prolific QB David Wright III, had been the surprise leader in the league before it was felled by Savannah State two weeks ago. The Panthers pulled out a 25-20 win last week at Central State's homecoming.

In other games, **Tuskegee** (3-3, 3-1) is hosting (1 p.m.) Kentucky State, Morehouse (1-5, 1-3) is at homecoming (2 p.m.) at Albany State (3-3, 3-1), Savannah State (3-3, 2-2) is at (6 p.m.) Edward Waters (1-5, 1-3) and Benedict (2-4, 2-2) is at (7 p.m.) Allen (1-5, 0-4).

CIAA

C. Smith (6-0, 3-0 CIAA), the only undefeated team in black college football, returns to action Both of Southern's SWAC wins have been in at its homecoming Saturday (1 p.m., CIAA Sports

TDs (YDS)

GAMES THIS WEEK

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

Upper Iowa vs. Lincoln MO in Jefferson City, MO West Virginia State at Wheeling in Wheeling, WV Florida Memorial at Webber Int'l in Babson Park, FL Winston-Salem State at Livingstone in SalisburyNC Savannah State at Edward Waters in Jacksonville, FL 6p STREAMING / TV GAMES

Bluefield State at Bowie State in Bowie, MD - The Grio Kentucky State at Tuskegee in Tuskegee, AL - TU Stream 1p Virginia State at Eliz. City State in Eliz. City, NC - CIAASN 1p Virginia Union at Lincoln (PA) in Lincoln, PA - LU Stream 1p Fort Valley State at S. C. State in Orangeburg, SC - ESPN+ 2p Florida A&M at Jackson State in Jackson, MS - ESPNU 2:30 Benedict at Allen in Columbia, SC - ESPN+ **HOMECOMINGS**

Hampton at North Carolina A&T in Greensboro, NC Miles at Clark Atlanta in Atlanta, GA - ESPN+ Shaw at Johnson C. Smith in Charlotte, NC - CIAASN 1p Arkansas Baptist at Texas College in Tyler, TX Arkansas-Pine Bluff at Grambling State in Grambling, LA - HBCUGo Bethune-Cookman at Miss. Valley State in Itta Bena, MS Morehouse at Albany State in Albany, GA - ASU Stream North American at Langston in Langston, OK Texas College at Louisiana Christian in Pineville, LA Central State at Lane in Jackson, TN Tenn. State at Howard in Washington, DC - ESPN+ 3:30p Alcorn State at Southern in Baton Rouge, LA - ESPN+ 6p

Network) against Shaw (4-3, 2-2).

The two teams behind JCSU in the standings, Winston-Salem State and Livingstone, both 5-2 overall and 3-1 in the CIAA, meet at Livingstone in Salisbury, N.C. at 4 p.m. Two of JCSU's victims, Virginia State (3-3, 2-1) and Virginia Union (4-2, 2-0) play at Elizabeth City State (2-4, 0-2) and Lincoln Pa. (1-5, 1-2) respectively at 1 p.m.

MEAC

In non-conference action on ESPN+, South Carolina State (3-2) is entertaining (2 p.m.) Fort Valley State (4-2) and Howard (3-3) has Tennessee State (5-2) in for homecoming (3:30 p.m.).

Elsewhere, the two black colleges in the After a week off, CIAA leader Johnson Coastal Athletic Association, Hampton (3-3, 0-2) and **North Carolina A&T** (1-5, 0-2), meet at the Aggies' Greatest Homecoming on Earth (GHOE) Saturday (1 p.m., FloFootball).

FROM HBCU GAMES OF OCTOBER 11-12, 2024 **TOP PERFORMANCES** TOP NUMBERS IN BOLD

COMP-ATT-INT

Terrence Bardell, LANG	20- 39 -0	465	4 (69, 9, 14, 10)
Kareem Keye, ALST	14-21-0	326	4 (21, 84 , 38, 4)
Xavier Langford, ALA&M	15-24- 1	315	1 (44)
Romelo Williams, VSU	16-28-0	291	2 (37, 47)
David Wright III, CLATL	21-27-1	290	2 (16, 29)
Jaden Johnson, PVAM	25 -37- 1	268	1 (16)
Charles Simmons, BEN	13-24- 1	255	1 (5)
Mekhi Hagens, ARKPB	14-26-0	250	1 (59)
Christian Peters, SHAW	18-32- 1	247	2 (13, 28)
Daylin Lee, WSSU	22-32-0	244	2 (16, 8)
RUSHING	CAR	YDS	TDs (YDS)
XTrevon Hester, WSSU	19	185	1 (70)
Justin Pessoa, WVSU	19	169	1 (1)
Jada Byers, VUU	22	160	2 (12, 38)
Fabian Duncan, ALL	25	135	0
Donovan Eaglin, ALA&M	13	125	1 (30)
Roderick Thomas, MILES	12	114	1 (5)
Tyler Travis, LANG	6	116	1 (80)
Jacorian Sewell, ALC	13	102	1 (63)
Zion Dobson, NCCU	12	98	1 (5)
Mohamed Nyanamukanga, LIV	25	98	0
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	TDs
JaVonnie Gibson, ARKPB	9	183	1 (42)
Rashad Wilson, LANE	9	150	1 (5)
Ivory Wilright, LANG	6	136	3 (69, 9, 10)
Kevin Allen, LANG	6	126	1 (14)
Quavo Beckford, TUSK	5	125	2 (58, 16)
Robert McMinn, ALST	2	122	2 (84 , 38)
Karate Brenson, TNST	6	121	1 (4)
Keenan Hambrick, ALA&M	4	111	0
Malik Hunter, VSU	5	110	1 (47)

TACKLES

Elyjah Mitchell, NSU

PASSING

A. J. Richardson, NSU; 18

14 Shamar Graham, VUU; Maurice Jones Jr., ARKPB:

13 12 Stemarion Edwards, ALC; Damien Lowery, LANG;

SACKS 2.5

2.0

Xavier Esquillen, SAVST;

T. J. Mullix, BLST; Christian Taylor, Joshua Hancock, WVSU; Jamal Jones, BSU; Nana Asante, MSU; Malik Harp, FVSU; Keandre Booker, TNST; Solomon Barnes, FSU; Treqwan Thomas, ALST; George Tharpe, CLATL; Ishaun Abdul-Ali, HOW; Matthew Leavelle, NCCU;

105

1 (43)

Israel Nowkocha, BEN; James Grace, LANG; Osmanis Aguilera, LIV;

INTERCEPTIONS Kevin Larkins Jr., Jayden Reeder, LIV; Jayden Smith, NSU;

teams (24%).



BREAKIN' AWAY Green Bay running back EMANUEL WILSON (#31, FORT VALLEY STATE) pulls away from an Arizona defender en route to some of his 54 rushing yards in the Packers' 34-13 win over the Cardinals. Wilson also had a 19-yard reception while totalling 73 all-purpose yards.

BCSP NFL PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

For NFL games of October 10-14, 2024

OFFENSE - #31 EMANUEL WILSON, RB, Green Bay (2nd season, FORT VALLEY STATE) - In 34-13 win over Arizona, Wilson has 73 all-purpose yards, seven carries for 54 yards (7.7 yards per carry) with a long run of 16 yards and one reception on two targets for 19 yards. Wilson

was in on 23 offensive snaps (32%).



DEFENSE

- #53 CLAUDIN CHERELUS, LB, Carolina (2nd season, ALCORN STATE) - In 38-20 loss to Atlanta, Cherelus started at inside linebacker and four tackles, three solos, and one assisted tackle on special teams. He played 47 snaps on defense (67%) and three on special teams (11%).

- #90 GROVER STEWART, DT, Indianapolis (7th season, ALBANY STATE) - In 20-17 win over Tennessee, Stewart had four total tackles, two solos, and one pass defended. He was in on 36 defensive plays (62%) and eight on special teams (31%).

SPECIAL TEAMS - #29 BRANDON CODRINGTON, CB/KR, Buffalo (Rookie, NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL) - In Buffalo's 23-20 win over the NY Jets, Codrington had one kickoff return for 24 yards while playing six plays on special

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