## FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 3 - 9, 2024



WIN AND ADVANCE LETHAL WEAPON: 1,000-yard rusher, Jackson State senior RB Irv Mulligan, is the Tigers chief offensive weapon as they take on Southern in SWAC title game.

JACKSON STATE AND SOUTHERN VIE FOR SWAC TITLE, BOWL BERTH; VIRGINIA UNION VYING FOR D2 SEMIS

# UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

# THREE MORE HEAD COACHES LET GO:

HUNTSVILLE, AL - Director of Athletics Dr. Paul A. Bryant announced Monday that Alabama A&M Head Football Coach Connell Maynor has been relieved of his duties, effective immediately.

Alabama A&M finished 6-6 overall, 4-4 in the SWAC East in fourth place in the division for the third straight season. Maynor finishes his seven-year tenure at Alabama A&M with an overall record of 40-32 and a record of 28-21 in the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC). The Bulldogs won the abbreviated SWAC Championship in 2021.

Throughout his 13-year career as a head coach at Winston-Salem State and Hampton, Maynor amassed an overall record of 105–63.

HOUSTON - Prairie View A&M announced last Monday that head football coach Bubba McDowell's contract will not be renewed. McDowell served as the Panthers' head coach since 2022.

In three seasons under McDowell, the Panthers finished 17-17 overall and 14-9 in SWAC games. The Panthers were 5-6 this season and 3-4 in SWAC play. Assistant head coach Ashton Green will assume head coaching duties in the interim.

NORFOLK, Va. - Norfolk State Director of Athletics Dr. Melody Webb announced last Tuesday that fourth-year head coach Dawson Odums has been relieved of his duties. Odums finished his Norfolk State tenure with a 15-31 overall record and 7-13 in MEAC games.

Odums played and graduated from North Carolina Central and worked as an assistant at N. C. A&T, Bethune-Cookman and Clark Atlanta before a successful eight-year run as head coach at Southern. He won four SWAC West Division title and a conference title in 2013. Odums' first season at Norfolk State was his best, finishing 6-5 overall and 2-3 in conference games.

# SCORES

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2024 Alabama State 34, Tuskegee 6 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2024 Florida A&M 28, Alabama A&M 20 SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2024 Southern 24. Grambling State 14

NCAA DIV. II PLAYOFFS - 2nd Round Valdosta State 33, Miles 17 Virginia Union 44, Lenoir-Rhyne 12 **FCS PLAYOFFS - FIRST ROUND** Montana 41, Tennessee State 27

# **PLAYOFF GAME RECAPS** Super Region II - Second Round

No. 7 Virginia Union 44, No. 6 Lenoir-Rhyne 12

HICKORY, NC - CIAA champion Virginia Union ran for 345 yards and five rushing touchdowns in a dominating 44-12 win here at Lenoir-Rhyne in a NCAA Div. II Super Region II semifinal game.

The Panthers (10-3), who received the seventh and final seed in the region, will play at top-seed Valdosta State Saturday for the Super Region II title with the winner advancing to the Final Four of the D2 playoffs. VSU (11-0), playing at home Saturday, defeated SIAC champion Miles 33-17 in the other regiona semifinal

	N STATE 5 (10-2)	CHAMPIONSHIP		DUTHERN GUARS (8-4)	
EAST DIVISION CHAMPION SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE		VS.	WEST DIVI		
TEAM RECORD	2024 RESU	ILTS	2024 RESULTS	TEAM RECORD	

2024 Overall	10-2	JACKSON STATE 10-2	SOUTHERN 8-4	2024 Overall
2024 SWAC East	8-0	14 @ ULM 30 L	7 @ McNeese State 21 L	2024 SWAC West
2024 BCSP Ranking	1st	587 W	4210 W	2024 BCSP Ranking
All-Time vs. Southern	34-37	3315 W	15 @ Jackson State 33 L	All-Time vs. Jackson Sta
Last Time vs. Southern	33-15 W, '24	20@ Grambling State 41 L	31@ Prairie View A&M 24, OT W	Last Time vs. Jackson S
SWAC Title Games	7, 3-4	43@ Texas Southern14 W	7 @ Nicholls 51 L	SWAC Title Games
SWAC Championships	19 (Last '22)	45 Alabama A&M in Mobile38 W	22 @ Texas Southern 19, OT W	SWAC Championships
		35 Florida A&M21 W	2414 W	
COACH'S RECORD		37 @ Bethune-Cookman 17 W	6@ Florida A&M24 L	COACH'S RECORD
Alma Mater: Jackson State	e '01	41Arkansas-Pine Bluff3 W	25@ Alabama A&M20 W	Alma Mater: Winston-Sa
Record vs. Southern: 2-0		51Mississippi Valley State 14 W	25@ Bethune-Cookman 23, 50T W	Record vs. Jackson Stat
Record at JSU: 17-6, .739,	2nd year	16@ Alabama State10 W	319 W	Record at Southern: 8-4, .6
Career Record: Same		48@ Alcorn State10 W	24Grambling State in New Orleans14 W	Career Record: Same



ST DIVISION CHAMPION ESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

	2024 RESULTS	TEAM RECORD	
,	SOUTHERN 8-4	2024 Overall 8-4	
L	7 @ McNeese State 21 L	2024 SWAC West 7-1	6 6
V	4210 W	2024 BCSP Ranking 5th	2
V	15@ Jackson State	All-Time vs. Jackson State 37-34	
L	31@ Prairie View A&M 24, OT W	Last Time vs. Jackson State 15-33, L '24	
V	7 @ Nicholls 51 L	SWAC Title Games 8, 3-5	
V	22 @ Texas Southern 19, OT W	SWAC Championships 19 (Last '13)	5-2 · · ·
V	24Alcorn State14 W		
V	6@ Florida A&M 24 L	COACH'S RECORD	B.
V	25@ Alabama A&M20 W	Alma Mater: Winston-Salem State '94	Head Coach
V	25@ Bethune-Cookman 23, 5OT W	Record vs. Jackson State: 0-1	TERRENCE
V	31Arkansas-Pine Bluff9 W	Record at Southern: 8-4, .666, 1st year	GRAVES
V	24Grambling State in New Orleans14 W	Career Record: Same	O. MILO

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024 • JACKSON, MS. • MISSISSIPPI VETERANS STADIUM • 1 P.M. CST • ESPN2

# And then there were four; Three in play this week

## LUT WILLIAMS **BCSP Editor**

Head Coach

T. C.

TAYLOR

There are four black college football teams still alive in the 2024 postseason. Three will be in action Saturday.

JU

In Jackson, Mississippi (1 p.m., EST) homestanding Jackson State, winner of the SWAC East Division, will play host to West Division winner Southern in the 26th SWAC Championship Game. The game will be carried line on ESPN2.

Down in Valdosta, Georgia Saturday (1 p.m., *ESPN*+), **CIAA** champion **Virginia Union** (10-3) plays at Valdosta State (11-0), the top Div. II team in the region and the nation, in the championship game of Super Region II. The winner of this national quarterfinal match-up will be in the national semifinals, D2's Final Four on Dec. 14.

The other team still alive is MEAC champion South Carolina State. The Bulldogs await the SWAC champion who they will face next Saturday, Dec. 14 at Mercedes Benz Stadium in Atlanta in the Cricket Celebration Bowl. In most cases, the Celebration Bowl would signal an end to the black college football season. But that all depends on how far VUU makes it.

Let's take a look at this week's match-ups.

# SWAC Championship Game

Saturday's game in Jackson is a rematch of a JSU vs. SU game from early in the season. In that Sept. 14 contest, head coach T. C. Taylor's JSU Tigers jumped out to a 23-0 first-half lead before settling for a 33-15 decision.

After losing 41-20 to Grambling State the following week, JSU has run off eight straight wins



THE LEADERS: (L. to r.) Junior DB William Davis, Head Coach Dr. Alvin Parker Jr. and senior star RB Jada Byers will lead Virginia Union into the NCAA Div. II quarterfinals Saturday at No. 1 Valdosta State.

led by 6-4, 227-pound junior Syracuse transfer QB Jacobian Morgan and 1,000-yard senior RB Irv Mulligan. Mulligan averages a league-best 105.8 rushing yards per game while Morgan has thrown for nearly 2,000 yards with 19 TDs and only six interceptions. The Tigers enter with the league's best rushing attack (213.8 ypg.) and best scoring offense (36.8 ppg.).

Southern head coach Terrence Graves has turned to 6-1, 200-pound freshman Jalen Woods at quarterback since the youngster helped pull out a 25-23 five-overtime win on Nov. 9 vs. Bethune-Cookman. The youngster has thrown for a total of nearly 400 yards in two wins since including a 24-14 win over rival Grambling State at last week's Bayou Classic.

Woods has been able to lean on a threeheaded senior running attack of Kendric Rhymes, Kobe Dillon and C. J. Russell that has topped 200 yards rushing in each of the last three contests.

# GAMES THIS WEEK

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024 SWAC Championship Game - ESPN2 Southern at Jackson State in Jackson, MS 1p NCAA Div. II Super Region II Final - ESPN+ No. 7 Virginia Union at No. 1 Valdosta State in Valdosta, GA 1p

# Virginia Union at No. 1 Valdosta State

Head coach Dr. Alvin Parker Jr.'s Panthers of Virginia Union won on the road for the second straight week - their first two playoff wins in history - in the NCAA Div. II playoffs as they dominated Lenoir-Rhyne 44-12 Saturday.

In Valdosta State, VUU is taking on a team that faced one CIAA opponent this season - Favetteville State. The Blazers shut out the Broncos 34-0 on Sept. 14.

VSU went unblemished in runing to a Gulf South Conference championship game 28-7 win over West Florida. The Blazers are led by senior QB Sammy Edwards, the GSC offensive player of the year. Edwards threw for 2,449 yards with 23 passing TDs and completing 67.9% of his throws. Grad RB Blake Hester (894 yds., 13 TDs) and WR Rodney Bullard (34 rec., 9 TDs) are also GSC first-teamers. Grad defensive back Larry Elder, who leads the team with 79 tackles, was the league's co-defensive player of the year.

The VUU/VSU winner will play the winner of the California (PA) vs. Slippery Rock quarterfinal in the national semifinals on Dec. 14. The D2 championship game is set for Dec. 21.

101 Delaware State

129 Mercyhurst

3.333

1,183

46.34

51.42

Figures are via the NCAA and through 11/23 games. They do not include FCS playoff games. % (far right column) is the percentage capacity of the stadium.

13.265

11,408

Rank	Team	Avg Attendance	%	18	Grambling State	11,334	57.82
1	Jackson State	27,213	68.03	24	Texas Southern	10,225	46.48
2	Montana	25,845	102.49	27	Alabama A&M	9,803	46.68
3	Montana State	21,899	123.19	29	Prairie View A&M	9,448	62.99
4	Tarleton State	19,147	79.78	32	NC Central	8,989	89.89
5	Alabama State	18,868	71.2	39	Bethune-Cookman	8,085	84.21
6	S. Dakota State	18,504	95.68	52	ArkPine Bluff	6,883	47.47
7	Southern	18,463	64.78	66	Miss. Valley State	5,717	54.44
8	Delaware	17,329	95.86	68	Howard	5,525	77.97
9	Florida A&M	17,043	86.81	76	Tennessee State	5,253	35.02
11	Norfolk State	14,544	48.48	87	Hampton	4,148	34.57
13	SC State	13,962	63.47	93	Morgan State	3,803	38.03
	NO AOT	10.005	04 7				

# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

# Jackson State, SWAC do it again

Jackson State is once again the FCS leader in average home attendance in 2024, drawing 27,213 fans per home game. The Tigers have led the FCS in home attendance 17 times since 1983 including over the last four seasons.

HBCUs, primarily from the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) have led in home attendance 51 of 68 years since 1978 when Div. I-AA (now the FCS) was created. Florida A&M, then in the Mid Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) but now in the SWAC, led in home attendance in 2004

The Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) has led in FCS conference attendance 45 out of 46 years between 1979 and 2024.

Below are the top ten 2024 average home attendance figures and the finishes for all black

CIAA player of the year Jada Byers was again the workhorse for the Panthers. The 5-7, 185-pound senior running back carried 38 times for 185 yards, scoring on 6- and 7-yard runs in the second and fourth quarters. His back-up, 6-2, 215-pound junior sledgehammer RB Curtis Allen, ran for 132 yards on just 11 carries and two touchdowns including a 65-yard fourth-guarter scamper that put the Panthers up 37-12 and sent the home crowd headed to the exits. VUU amassed 524 yards of total offense on the day.

VUU QB R. J. Rosales, who started in place of injured starter Mar Wright, ran for a touchdown and was an efficient 10 of 17 for 179 vards without an interception including a 78-yard scoring hook-up with wideout Reginald Vic Jr. in the second quarter.

L-RU was held to 54 yards on 20 carries and the Panther defense put pres sure on L-RU QB Jalen Ferguson all day forcing him into a 19 for 41 effort for 25 yards and 2 TDs but two red zone picks. VUU DB Jalen Mayo led the defense with nine stops, five solos while D-lineman Isaac Anderson was relentless with 5 solo tackles, 2 pass break-ups and a QB hurry. Grad LB Jabril Norman and sophomore safety Jayden Earley had the picks.

# No. 1 Valdosta State 33, No. 4 Miles 17

VALDOSTA, GA - SIAC champion Miles had its 10-game winning streak halted and the opportunity to meet Virginia Union in the NCAA Div. II Super Region II final dashed as it lost here to region top seed, Gulf South champion Valdosta State Saturday, 33-17.

The Golden Bears (10-3), seeded fourth in the region, moved the ball well, finishing with 307 total yards, converting 9 of 18 third down conversions and having 19 first downs to VSU's 18. But they could only muster a first-quarter 28-yard Roderick Smith field goal thru three quarters while falling behind the Blazers 30-3. They got two passing touchdowns from QB Kamren Ivory (22-42-1, 224 yards) in the fourth quarter but it was too little, too late.

The defeat brings a close to an historic season for Miles and third-year head coach Sam Shade. The Golden Bears went undefeated in the SIAC, set a program record for most victories in a season and most consecutive wins and got their first NCAA Div. II playoff win (14-13 last week over Carson-Newman).

# FCS - First Round

## No. 14 Montana 41, Tennessee State 27

MISSOULA, MT - OVC/Big South co-champion Tennessee State, down 16-3 at the half and 27-6 late in the third quarter, battled back to within a touchdown twice late before falling here Saturday night to 14th-seed Montana, 41-27 in a first round FCS playoff game.

Head coach Eddie George's Tigers battled to the end, buoyed by two TD passes and a running score from QB Draylen Ellis (29-39-1, 296 yards) over the final stretch to pull within 27-20 and 34-27. The back-breakers for the Tigers however came as they surrendered two second-half punt return TDs of 52 and 54 yards and a 59-yard scoring run with 1:58 left that sealed their fate.

TSU held UM to 115 passing yards (12 of 23) but surrendered 254 rushing yards on 42 carries (6.0 ypc.). In addition to his two recoveries, Ellis led TSU with ten tackles, 3 tackles for losses including a sack. Redshirt junior DB Jalen McLendon registered 7 tackles and three pass break-ups.

college FCS teams. Four or the 12 SWAC teams are in the top ten including JSU, Alabama State (5th), Southern (7th) and Florida A&M (9th).

nal	TOP PERFORMA	FROM HBCU GAMES OF NOV. 28 - 30, 2024		
	<b>PASSING</b> Kareem Keye, ALS Draylen Ellis, TNST	comp-att-int 12-18-1 <b>29</b> -39-1	<sup>YDs</sup> <b>331</b> 296	<sup>TDs (YDS)</sup> <b>4</b> (45, <b>73</b> , 20, 63) 2 (3, 15)
L	Kamren Ivory, MILES	22- <b>41</b> -1	224	2 (6, 20)
101	RUSHING	CAR	YDS	TDs (YDS)
	Jada Byers, VUU	38	185	2 (6, 7)
	Curtis Allen, VUU	11	132	2 (5, 65)
rk	Kendric Rhymes, SOU	12	110	1 (45)
out	RECEIVING	REC	YDS	TDs
ck	Robert McMinn, ALS	4	152	<b>2</b> (73, 63)
	Chandler Whitfield, SOU	5	146	1 (41)
es- 52	Reginald Vick Jr., VUU	3	122	1 (78)

# TACKLES

**Byers** 

Cortez Andrews, ALAM; 11

10 Deco Wilson, FLAM: Andrew Jones, GSU: Ellis Sanders, TNST:

# SACKS

2.0 Davion Westmoreland FLAM; Ckelby Givens, SOU;

### **INTERCEPTIONS** 9

61.

50.7



NC A&I

17 Alcorn State

# For NFL games of November 28 - December 2, 2024

# DEFENSE

- #6 BRYAN COOK, S, Kansas City (3rd season, HOWARD / CINCINNATI) - In Kansas City's 19-17 win over Las Vegas, Cook started at strong safety and finished third on the team with six total tackles, four solos, while playing 61 defensive snaps (90%).

- #14 COBIE DURANT, DB, Los Angeles Rams (3rd season, SOUTH CAROLINA STATE) - In the Rams' 21-14 win over New Orleans, Durant was credited with six total tackles, five solos with two tackles for loss while playing all 70 defensive snaps (100%).

# OFFENSE

#71 TYTUS HOWARD, OL, Houston (6th season, ALABAMA STATE) - In Texans' 23-20 win over Jacksonville, Howard started at right offensive tackle as the Texans rushed for 108 yards on 25 carries and a TD and passed for 242 yards and one score while giving up two sacks (-24 yards). Howard was in on all 63 offensive plays (100%) and five on special teams (19%).

# SPECIAL TEAMS

- #6 JAMIE GILLAN, P, New York Giants (6th season, ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF) - In the Giants 27-20 Thanksgiving Day loss to Dallas, Gillan punted five times for 228 yards (45.6-yard average) with a net average of 46.2 yards. He had a long punt of 54 yards and had two punts downed inside the 20. Gillan was in for ten special teams' snaps (32%)

# 2024 BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL (Postseason Honors)

# MEAC Postseason Football Awards

OFFENSIVE LINEMAN OF THE YEAR - Nick Taiste, Sr., OL, S.C. State ROOKIE OF THE YEAR - Jason Collins Jr., Fr., RB, Morgan State COACH OF THE YEAR - Chennis Berry, S.C. State (1st year)

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE - QB - Eric Phoenix, Gr., SCSU; RB - Jaden Sutton, Gr., DSU; J'Mari Taylor, R-Jr., NCCU; WR - Caden High, So., SCSU; Justin Smith-Brown, So., SCSU; TE - Keshawn Toney, Gr., SCSU; C - Eric Brown Jr., SCSU; OL - Darius Fox, Sr., HOW; Trevon Humphrey, R-So., NCCU; Cam Johnson, Sr., SCSU; Nick Taiste, Sr., SCSU;

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE - DL - Noah Miles, Jr., HOW; Elijah Williams, Sr., MSU; Jayden Broughton, Sr., SCSU; Ashaad Hall, Jr., SCSU: LB - A. J. Richardson, So., NSU; Jaki Brevard, Sr., NCCU; Aaron Smith, Gr., SCSU; DB - Kenny Gallop Jr., Gr., HOW; Kole Jones, Sr., NCCU; Jarod Washington, Sr. SCSU; P - Juan Velarde, Sr., NCCU; PK - Kyle Gallegos, R-Fr., SCSU; RS - Jaylen White, R-Jr., NSU; RS - Malique Leatherbyry, So., MSU

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE - QB - Walker Harris, R-Jr., QB, NCCU; RB - Kevon King, Jr., NSU; Jarett Hunter, Gr., HOW; WR - Jacquez Jones, Gr., NSU; Joaquin Davis, Sr., NCCU; Markell Quick, So., NCCU; TE - Luke Bracey, Jr., NCCU; C - Noah McKinney, Jr., NCCU; OL - Tim Artis Jr., R-So., HOW; Vincent Byrd Jr., Jr., NSU; AC McMoore, So., NCCU; Tray Franklin, So., SCSU

SECOND TEAM DEFENSE - DL - Jamel Stewart, Sr., HOW; Quantez Mansfield, R-Sr., NCCU; Jaden Taylor, Sr., NCCU; John Hannibal, Sr., SCSU; LB - Terrance Hollon, Sr., HOW; Maz U'Ren, R-Jr., NCCU; Jadin Jones, Jr., SCSU; DB - Calvainsky Decius, Sr., MSU; Ja'son Prevard, So., MSU; Malcolm Reed, Jr., NCCU; P - Dyson Roberts, Sr., SCSU; PK - Grandin Wilcox, Jr., NSU; RS - Anthony Reagan Jr., Fr., HOW

The MEAC's Offensive and Defensive Players of the Year recipients will be unveiled during the National Football Foundation (NFF) Annual Awards Press Conference on Dec. 10. The press conference will be carried live on ESPN+

# SWAC Postseason Football Awards

## FIRST TEAM OFFENSE

QB: Daniel Richardson, Sr., FLA&M; RB: Irv Mulligan, Sr., JSU; Donovan Eaglin, Sr., ALA&M; OL: Carson Vinson, Sr., ALA&M; Arelious Dunn, Sr., ALST; D'Andre Townes-Blue, Jr., JSU; Charles Davis, R-Jr., FLA&M; Ashton Grable, R-Jr., FLA&M; WR: JaVonnie Gibson, R-So., ARKPB; Nathan Rembert, So., MVSU; TE: Tavarious Griffin, Sr., ALC

## FIRST TEAM DEFENSE

DL: Ckelby Givens, Jr., SOU; Treqwan Thomas, Sr., ALST; Malachi Bailey, Jr., ALC; Joshua Nobles, Jr., JSU; LB: Andrew Jones, Jr., GSU; Rico Dozier, Sr., ALST; Demarkus Cunningham, Sr., ALST; DB: James Burgess, Sr., ALST; Amon Scarbrough, Sr., ALST; Ke'Vric Wiggins Jr., Sr., JSU; MJ Hinson, Fr., TXSOU

# ALL-SWAC FIRST TEAM SPECIALIST

PK: Guillermo Garcia Rodriguez, Gr., PVA&M; P: Anthony Frederique, R-Sr., B-CU; RS: Travis Terrell Jr., Fr., JSU; LS: Avery Salerno, So., JSU

# SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

QB: Jacobian Morgan, Jr., JSU; RB: Jacorian Sewell, R-So., ALC; Dennis Palmer, Fr., B-CU; OL: Ronald Brown, Jr., ALC; Desmond Daniels, Sr., ALST; Christon Love, Sr., ARKPB; Evan Henry, Gr., JSU; Kirk Ford Jr., Sr., JSU; WR: Keenan Hambrick, Jr., ALA&M; Jamari Gassett, Sr., FLAM; TE: Koby Gross, Gr., FLA&M

# SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

DL: James Ash, R-Sr., FLA&M; Keelan Cox, Gr., TXSOU; Dorian Wesley, R-Jr., ALA&M; Jaden Hardy, Jr., GSU; LB: Cortez Andrews, Sr., ALA&M; Stemarion Edwards, Sr., ALC; Jaden Kelly, Jr., ARKPB; DB: Delvon Gulley, Fr., ALA&M; Keane Lewis, Jr., ALST; Kendall Bohler, R-Sr., FLA&M; Edwin Summerour, R-Sr., ALC

## SECOND TEAM SPECIALIST

PK: Gerardo Baeza, R-Jr., JSU; P: Matt Noll, Gr., JSU; RS: Darnell Deas, R-Sr., B-CU; LS; Clayton Thomas Jr., R-Jr., B-CU

