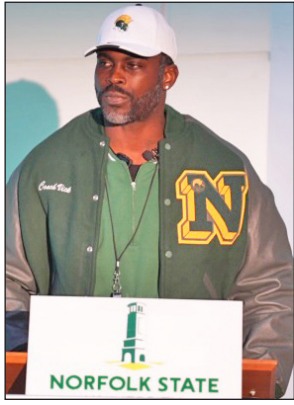


BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



Steven J. Gaither/HBCU Gameday Photo

ONE LAST HURRAH!

HOMECOMING! Former NFL iconic quarterback Michael Vick returns to his roots in Tidewater Virginia as the new head football coach at Norfolk State.

NORFOLK STATE, PRAIRIE VIEW HIRE NEW COACHES; 2024 "BAAD TEAMS" UNVEILED; FINAL STAT LEADERS

2024 BCSP DIV. I "BAAD TEAM"

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE QB: Draylen Ellis, Sr., Tennessee State; RB: Irv Mulligan, Sr., Jackson State; Jaden Sutton, Sr., Delaware State; WR: JaVonnie Gibson, R-So., Ark.-Pine Bluff; Caden High, So., SC State; TE: Keshawn Toney, Gr., South Carolina State; OL: Nick Taiste, Sr., SC State; Carson Vinson, Sr., Alabama A&M; Connor Meadows, So., Tennessee State; D'Andre Townes-Blue, Jr., Jackson State; Darius Fox, Sr., Howard; PK: Guillermo Garcia Rodriguez, Gr., Prairie View A&M; KR: C. J. Evans, R-Sr., Tennessee State;
FIRST TEAM DEFENSE DL: Elijah Williams, Sr., Morgan State; Kcelby Givens, Jr., Southern; Trequan Thomas, Sr., Alabama State; Ashaad Hall, Jr., SC State; LB: Aaron Smith, SC State; Andrew Jones, Jr., Grambling State; A. J. Richardson, So., Norfolk State; DB: Boogie Trotter, Jr., Tennessee State; James Burgess, Sr., Alabama State; Kenny Gallop Jr., Sr., Howard; Ke'Vric Wiggins Jr., Sr., Jackson State; P: Juan Velarde, Sr., NC Central;

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE QB: Eric Phoenix, Sr., SC State; RB: J'Mari Taylor, Jr., NC Central; Donovan Eaglin, Sr., Alabama A&M; WR: Karate Brenson, R-Jr., Tennessee State; Nathan Rembert, So., Mississippi Valley State; TE: Tavarious Griffin, Sr., Alcorn State; OL: Trent McDuffie, Jr., Hampton; Trevon Humphrey, R-So., NC Central; Cam Johnson, Sr., SC State; Charles Davis, R-Jr., Florida A&M; Arelious Dunn, Sr., Alabama State; PK: Gerardo Baeza, R-Jr., Jackson State; KR: Travis Terrell Jr., Fr., Jackson State;
SECOND TEAM DEFENSE DL: Malachi Bailey, Jr., Alcorn State; Jayden Broughton, Sr., SC State; Joshua Nobles, Jr., Jackson State; Noah Miles, Jr., HOW LB: Stemarion Edwards, Sr., Alcorn State; Demarkus Cunningham, Sr., Alabama State; Jaki Brevard, Sr., NC Central; DB: Jarod Washington, Sr., SC State; Kole Jones, Sr., NC Central; Amon Scarbrough, Sr., Alabama State; MJ Hinson, Fr., Texas Southern; P: Anthony Frederique, So., Bethune-Cookman;

2024 BCSP DIV. II/NAIA "BAAD TEAM"

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE QB: Isaiah Knowles, R-So., Albany State; RB: Jada Byers, Sr., Virginia Union; Walter Wilbon, Sr., Florida Memorial; WR: Brevin Caldwell, Jr., Johnson C. Smith; Arnone Harris, Jr., Clark Atlanta; TE: Kameron King, R-Sr., Fayetteville State; OL: Bruno Onwuazor, R-Jr., Virginia State; Dalton Hall, Jr., West Virginia State; Jason Stovall, R-Sr., Miles; Ahmed Brimah, Jr., Albany State; Larry Jones Jr., Gr., Virginia Union; PK: Brady Myers, Jr., Virginia Union; KR: Jaxon Williams, Jr., Benedict;
FIRST TEAM OFFENSE DL: Roc Dowdell, R-Sr., Miles; Isaac Anderson, Sr., Virginia Union; Israel Nwokocha, Jr., Benedict; Jamichael Rogers, R-Jr., Miles; LB: Benari Black, Sr., Johnson C. Smith; Ty'Metrius Patterson, Sr., Benedict; Sadiq Salawu, R-Sr., Bowie State; DB: Lashon Young, Fr., Miles; Nick Blake, Jr., West Virginia State; Justin Fleming, Sr., Winston-Salem State; Dahliil Wilkins, Sr., Clark Atlanta; P: Marvin Holmes, Sr., Virginia Union;

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE QB: David Wright III, Jr., Clark Atlanta; RB: Brandon Marshall, Gr., Fort Valley State; Joel Felder, R-Jr., West Virginia State; WR: Reginald Vick Jr., R-So., Virginia Union; Da'Shun Mitchell, Sr., Savannah State; TE: Travaunta Abner, Jr., Miles; OL: Jared Achuff, Sr., Bowie State; Michael Todd, R-Sr., Fayetteville State; Ahmed Brimah, Jr., Albany State; Austin Euler, Gr., Clark Atlanta; Andrew Dorsey, So., Fort Valley State; PK: Brady Myers, Jr., Virginia Union; KR: Dejuan Bell, Fr., Fort Valley State;
SECOND TEAM DEFENSE DL: Lamonte Hill Jr., So., Johnson C. Smith; Davion Watkins, Fr., Livingstone; Robert Brown, Jr., Lane; Damian Lowery, Sr., Langston; LB: Caleb Grant, Sr., Morehouse; Jalil Lenore, Sr., Central State; Carl Poole Jr., Gr., Virginia State; DB: Shamar Baker, Fr., JCSU; Malik Moore, Jr., Tuskegee; Stephan French, So., Edward Waters; William Davis, Jr., VUU; P: Lucas Wynn, So., Benedict;

Byers, Black, Ellis, Jones lead 2024 "Baad Teams"

LUT WILLIAMS
BCSP Editor

ATLANTA, GA – For the first time, the **BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE** is picking two all-American teams – what we dub the "Baad Teams" – from the 2024 football season (see above).

One squad will represent the HBCU star players that compete in Div. I Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) conferences and the other representing the HBCU stars that compete in NCAA Div. II or NAIA conferences.

The separation comes after the BCSP in 2023 went away from ranking the Top Ten teams in all of black college football to BCSP Top Fives of FCS and Div. II/NAIA teams. We revealed the Final Top Fives last week.

Given this new designation, the BCSP will now select offensive and defensive players of the year and a coach of the year from each of the divisions.

The runaway Div. II/NAIA offensive player of the year for 2024 and leader of that team's offense is **Virginia Union** senior running back **Jada Byers**. The 5-7, 185-pound Bridgeton, New Jersey native and VUU career rushing leader capped off his remarkable four-year career with his best season. He put up black college-bests of 2,061 rushing yards (147.2 yards per game), 27 touchdowns for 162 points and 171.2 all-purpose yards per game. Byers led the Panthers to their second straight CIIAA title and third straight NCAA Div. II playoff berth during his four years at VUU.

This year however, with Byers as the catalyst, the Panthers won the program's first two Div. II playoff games on the road at Wingate and Lenoir-Rhyne before falling on the road to eventual national runners-up Valdosta State. VUU had lost ten straight playoff games prior to this season.

His final year capped off a career that saw him rush for 874 yards and nine TDs in 2021, 1,979 yards and 19 TDs in 2022 and 1,219 yards and 16 TDs in 2023. His 6,133 rushing yards, 71 TDs and 426 points shattered former VUU running back **Andre Braxton's** program records of 4,989 yards, 27 TDs and 176 points.

At the skill positions, Byers is joined on the first team by **Albany State** sophomore quarterback **Isaiah Knowles**, the black college leader in passing touchdowns (32) and completion percentage (65.7%). **Florida Memorial** senior RB **Walter Wilbon** (1,090 yards, 17 TDs), who topped the black college ranks in yards per carry (7.4 ypc.), and receiving leaders in **J. C. Smith** junior **Brevin Caldwell**, who topped the charts with 85 receptions (8.5 per game) and 109.0 receiving yards per game. The other receiver,



Byers Black Shade



Ellis Jones George

Clark Atlanta junior **Arnone Harris** (75 rec., 1,004 yards), was the leader with 14 TD receptions.

The rest of the first team offense includes all-CIAA first team redshirt senior tight end **Kameron King** (26 rec., 340 yds., 3 TDs) and Virginia State junior and CIAA lineman of the year **Bruno Onwuazor**, **West Virginia State** junior **Dalton Hall**, Miles redshirt senior **Jason Stovall**, Albany State junior **Ahmed Brimah** and VUU grad senior **Larry Jones Jr.** on the offensive line.

The Div. II/NAIA Defensive Player of the Year is J. C. Smith linebacker **Benari Black** who led black college lists with 11.4 tackles per game (114 total). Black edged out Miles freshman safety **Lashon Young** for the individual award. Young's eight interceptions were best among black college players and second in Div. II.

On the first team Div. II/NAIA defense line are Miles redshirt-senior **Roc Dowdell** and redshirt junior **Jamichael Rogers** along with VUU senior **Isaac Anderson** and Benedict junior **Israel Nwokocha**. Benedict senior Ty'Metrius Patterson and Bowie State redshirt senior Sadiq Salawu are the other linebackers with WVSU junior **Nick Blake**, **Winston-Salem State** senior **Justin Fleming** and Clark Atlanta senior **Dahliil Wilkins** joining Young in the backfield.

The first team placekicker is VUU junior **Brady Myers**, (66 PATs, 90 pts.). The punter is VUU senior **Marvin Holmes** (42.9 avg.) with Benedict freshman **Jaxon Williams** as the kick returner (39.1 avg, 2 TDs).

Third-year Miles head coach **Sam Shade** gets the nod as the Div. II/NAIA Coach of the year. The Alabama product and former eightyear NFL safety led the Golden Bears to a perfect 9-0 mark in winning the SIAC title and to their first Div. II playoff win in a first round victory over Carson-Newman.

Choosing the top Div. I (FCS) black college players of the year on offense and defense was

a little tougher because there were several outstanding performers to choose from.

On offense, **Tennessee State** senior quarterback **Draylen Ellis** who topped the black college FCS lists in passing yards (3,029, 233.0 ypg), TDs (24), attempts (257) and completions (215) and **Arkansas-Pine Bluff** redshirt sophomore wide receiver **Javonnie Gibson**, who topped all black college receivers with 1,215 receiving yards including an HBCU Div. I best 17.4 yards per catch, were the most prolific.

The BCSP goes with Ellis as the DI Offensive POY and his head coach, former Heisman Trophy winner **Eddie George**, as the Coach of the Year after the pair led TSU to a share of the OVC/Big South title and an FCS playoff berth for the first time since 2013.

The running backs are SWAC rushing leader and Offensive Player of the Year, senior **Irv Mulligan** (1,235 yds., 13 TDs) of league champion **Jackson State** and **Delaware State** senior and MEAC rushing leader **Jaden Sutton** (1,216 yds., 12 TDs). Joining Gibson at receiver is sophomore MEAC receiving leader **Caden High** (62 rec., 908 yds., 7 TDs) of league champion **South Carolina State**. SC State grad **Keshawn Toney** (28 rec., 307 yds., 3 TDs) is the tight end. The offensive line includes **Alabama A&M** senior **Carson Vinson**, SC State senior **Nick Taiste**, JSU junior **D'Andre Townes-Blue**, Tennessee State sophomore **Connor Meadows** and **Howard** senior **Darius Fox**.

Grambling State junior linebacker and SWAC Co-Defensive POY **Andrew Jones**, whose 122 tackles were the best in black college football and ninth in all of the FCS, takes the defensive POY award over game-changers in **Morgan State** senior lineman **Elijah Williams** (54 tackles, 15.0 tackles for loss, 11 sacks) and **Howard** senior defensive back **Kenny Gallop Jr.** (77 tackles, 7.0 TFL, 3 sacks).

HBCU sacks leaders **Trequan Thomas** (Sr., **Alabama State**), **Kcelby Givens** (Jr., **Southern**) and **Ashaad Hall** (Jr., **SCSU**) are the other linemen. **Aaron Smith** (Sr., **SCSU**, 92 tackles) and **A. J. Richardson** (So., **Norfolk State**, 100 tackles) are the other linebackers.

Aeneas Williams award winner **James Burgess** (Sr., **Alab. St.**), first team all-OVC/Big South junior **Boogie Trotter** (Jr., **Tenn. St.**) and JSU senior **Ke'Vric Wiggins** are the others in the secondary. **NC Central** senior **Juan Velarde** (44.8-yard avg.) is the punter with **Prairie View A&M** grad **Guillermo Garcia-Rodriguez** the placekicker. Tennessee State redshirt senior **C. J. Evans** who averaged 32.3 yards per kickoff return including two for TDs is the kick returner.

THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

FINAL 2024 FOOTBALL INDIVIDUAL STAT LEADERS

Seniors and top numbers in bold

RUSHING YARDS	CL	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TDS	LNG	AVG/G
Jada Byers, VUU	SR	14	329	2061	6.3	27	75	147.2
Walter Wilbon, FLAMEM	SR	10	147	1088	7.4	17	64	108.8
J'Mari Taylor, NCCU	R-JR	11	196	1146	5.8	15	66	104.2
Irv Mulligan, JSU	GR	12	205	1245	6.1	13	54	103.8
Jaden Sutton, DSU	GR	12	184	1216	6.6	12	72	101.3

PASSING YARDS	CL	G	CM - AT - INT	PCT	YDS	TDS	LNG	YPG
David Wright III, CLATL	JR	11	248-402-16	61.7	3271	31	68	297.4
Torrence Bardell, LANG	JR	9	169-334-7	50.6	2464	21	76	273.8
Isaiah Knowles, ALB	R-SO	10	190-289-8	65.7	2555	32	78	255.5
Draylen Ellis, TNST	GR	13	257-415-8	61.9	3029	24	83	233.0
Darius Ocean, JCSU	JR	10	170-300-5	56.7	2301	16	56	230.1

PASS EFFICIENCY	CL	G	CMP - ATT - INT	PCT	YDS	TDS	LNG	AVG	EFF
Mark Wright, VUU	SR	12	130-199-7	65.3	2263	21	90	188.6	188.6
Isaiah Knowles, ALB	R-SO	10	190-289-8	65.7	2555	32	78	255.5	171.0
Romelo Williams, VSU	GR	11	142-232-7	61.2	2322	21	91	211.1	169.1
Jamir Dismukes, ALL	JR	10	113-192-10	58.9	1842	19	76	184.2	161.7
Kareem Keye, ALS	R-FR	9	82-140-4	58.6	1355	11	84	150.6	160.1

RECEPTIONS/GAME	CL	G	REC	YDS	TD	LNG	YPC	YDS/G	RIG
Brevin Caldwell, JCSU	JR	10	85	1090	8	53	12.8	109.0	8.5
Arnone Harris, CLATL	JR	11	75	1004	14	54	13.4	91.3	6.8
Jamal Jones, CLATL	JR	11	74	987	6	68	13.3	89.7	6.7
Kevin Allen, LANG	SR	9	55	907	5	66	16.5	100.8	6.1
Nathan Rembert, MVSU	SO	12	70	1038	4	76	14.8	86.5	5.8

RECEIVING YARDS	CL	G	REC	YDS	TD	LNG	YPC	RPG	YG
Brevin Caldwell, JCSU	JR	10	85	1090	8	53	12.8	8.5	109.0
Reginald Vick, Jr., VUU	R-SO	10	42	1069	10	74	25.4	4.2	106.9
JaVonnie Gibson, ARKPB	R-SO	12	70	1215	9	60	17.4	5.8	101.3
Arnone Harris, CLATL	JR	11	75	1004	14	54	13.4	6.8	91.3
Da'Shun Mitchell, SAVST	SR	10	49	913	9	77	18.6	4.9	91.3

TOTAL OFFENSE	CL	G	RUSH	PASS	PLAY	YDS	YDS/G
Torrence Bardell, LANG	JR	9	371	2464	421	2835	315.0
David Wright, CLATL	JR	11	116	3271	459	3387	307.9
Isaiah Knowles, ALB	R-SO	10	76	2555	371	2631	263.1
Draylen Ellis, TNST	GR	13	95	3029	490	3124	240.3
Eric Phoenix, SCSU	GR	12	242	2603	378	2845	237.1

SCORING	CL	G	TD	FG	XPT	2XP	PTS	AVG
Walter Wilbon, FLAMEM	SR	10	20	0	0	0	120	12.0
Jada Byers, VUU	SR	14	27	0	0	0	162	11.6
J'Mari Taylor, NCCU	R-JR	11	17	0	0	0	102	9.3
Joel Felder, WVSU	R-JR	11	17	0	0	0	102	9.3
Brandon Marshall, FVSVU	GR	10	15	0	0	0	90	9.0

ALL-PURPOSE YARDS	CL	G	RUSH	RCV	PR	KR	YDS	AVG
Jada Byers, VUU	SR	14	2061	154	180	0	2395	171.1
Jamal Jones, CLATL	JR	11	24	987	101	587	1699	154.5
Anthony Evelyn, LANE	SR	10	55	686	157	582	1480	148.0
Brandon Marshall, FVSVU	GR	10	926	439	0	0	1365	136.5
Joel Felder, WVSU	SR	11	976	478	9	0	1463	133.0

KICKOFF RETURNS	CL	G	NO	YDS	TD	LNG	AVG
Jaxon Williams, BEN	FR	10	17	665	2	96	39.1
C. J. Evans Jr., TNST	R-SR	13	19	614	2	99	32.3
Jamal Jones, CLATL	JR	11	19	587	2	84	30.9
Ja'qun Wilkins, JCSU	SO	10	19	582	1	89	30.6
Travis Terrell Jr., JSU	FR	13	18	551	2	96	30.6

PUNT RETURNS	CL	G	NO	YDS	TD	LNG	AVG
Dejuan Bell, FVSVU	GR	10	19	399	3	70	21.0
Cameron Watts, ALB	SO	10	13	250	1	64	19.2
Malique Leatherbury, MSU	SO	12	16	286	0	63	17.9
Travis Terrell Jr., JSU	FR	13	18	300	0	44	16.7
Maleek Huggins, B-CU	R-JR	12	12	187	1	77	15.6

PUNTING	CL	G	NO	YDS	TB	FC	BLK	I20	50+	LNG	AVG
Juan Velarde, NCCU	SR	11	37	1658	4	16	0	14	11	70	44.8
Alexander Davis, MVSU	SO	12	59	2556	8	9	0	8	13	80	43.3
Anthony Frederique, B-CU	SO	12	66	2840	4	24	0	25	17	67	43.0
Austin McCready, ALAM	JR	12	41	1758	5	9	0	13	9	57	42.9
Marvin Holmes, VUU	SR	13	32	1372	1	4	0	10	10	61	42.9

TACKLES	CL	G	POS	SOLO	AST	TOT	AVG/G
Benari Black, JCSU	SR	10	LB	49	65	114	11.4
Andrew Jones, GSU	R-JR	12	LB	57	65	122	10.2
Sadiq Salawu, BSU	R-SR	10	LB	55	38	93	9.3
Jalil Lenore, CSU	R-FR	10	LB	58	35	93	9.3
Devon Irving, LANE	JR	10	LB	35	57	92	9.2
Aaron Smith, SCSU	GR	10	LB	58	34	92	9.2

SACK
