



ONE **LAST HURRAH!**

Steven J. Gaither/HBCU Gameday Photo 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

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		
RUSHING TARDS	CL		G	CAR	YDS	AVG	IDS	LNG	AVG/G	
Jada Byers, VUU	SR	2	14	329	2061	6.3	27	75	147.2	
Walter Wilbon, FLAMEM	SF	2	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	GF	?	12	205	1245	6.1	13	54	103.8	
Jaden Sutton, DSU	GF	₹	12	184	1216	6.6	12	72	101.3	
PASSING YARDS	CL	G	CM - 4	AT - INT	PCT	YDS	TDS	LNG	VPG	
		•								
David Wright III, CLATL	JR	11	248-4	402- 16	61.7	3271	31	68	297.4	
Torrence Bardel, LANG	JR	9	169-3	334-7	50.6	2464	21	76	273.8	
Isaiah Knowles AI R	R-SO	10	190-	289_8	65.7	2555	32	78	255 5	

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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	R/G
Brevin Caldwell, JCSU	JR	10	85	1090	8	53	12.8	109.0	8.5
Armone 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

3 ,	JR R-SO	10	42	1069	10	74		4.2	106.9
JaVonnie Gibson, ARKPB	R-SO	12	70	1215	9	60	17.4	5.8	101.3
Armone 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
COOPING							

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, FVSU	GR	10	15	0	0	0	90	9.0

ALL DUDDOSE VADOS

ALL-PURPOSE TARDS	CL	G	RUSH	RCV	PR	KK	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, FVSU	GR	10	926	439	0	0	1365	136.5	
Joel Felder, WVSU	SR	11	976	478	9	0	1463	133.0	
KICKOFF RETURNS	CI		G	NO	YDS	TD	LNG	AVG	

KICKOFF KETOKNS	CL	G	NO	YDS	טו	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
DUNT DETUDNE			NO V	DC T	_		****

Dejuan Bell, FVSU		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
DUNTING	01	•	NO	VDC	TD	FC BL 6	r 100	50. INC

G NO YDS TB FC	BLK 120	50+ LNG	AVG
11 37 1658 4 16	6 0 14	11 70	44.8
12 59 2556 8 9	0 8	13 80	43.3
12 66 2840 4 24	1 0 25	17 67	43.0
12 41 1758 5 9	0 13	9 57	42.9
13 32 1372 1 4	0 10	10 61	42.9
12 59 2556 8 9 12 66 2840 4 24 12 41 1758 5 9	0 8 40 25 0 13	13 80 17 67 9 57	43 43 43

TACKLES	CL	G	POS	SOLO	Ast.	тот	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

SACKS	CL	G	POS	SOLO	Ast	YDS	тот	AVG/G
Treqwan Thomas, ALST	R-JR	12	LB	11	2	59	12	1.00
Xavier Esquillen, SAVST	SO	10	DL	8	3	56	9.5	.95
Caleb Grant, MHS	SR	10	LB	9	1	68	9.5	.95
Ashaad Hall, SCSU	JR	12	DE	11	0	56	11	.92
Ckelby Givens, SOU	JR	13	DE	9	6	46	12	.92
Elijah Williams, MSU	SR	12	DL	10	2	112	11	.92

TACKLES FOR LOSS	CL	G	POS	SOLO	AST	YDS	тот	AVG/0
Ckelby Givens, SOU	JR	13	DE	21	13	99	27.5	2.12
Andrew Jones, GSU	R-JR	12	LB	14	13	71	20.5	1.71
Malachi Bailey, ALC	JR	12	DL	15	9	79	19.5	1.63
Armonnie Wise, LANG	SR	9	DE	12	5	57	14.5	1.61
Davion Watkins, LIV	FR	10	DE	13	4	59	15.0	1.50

9 DE	12	5	57 14.5	1.61
10 DE	13	4	59 15.0	1.50
G	INT YDS	TD	LONG	AVG/G
13	8 148	1	52	0.62
11	5 103	2	65	0.45
10	4 66	0	34	0.40
10	4 41	0	25	0.40
11	4 147	0	59	0.36
Ī	G 13 11 10 10	DE 13 G INT YDS 13 8 148 11 5 103 10 4 66 10 4 41	DE 13 4 S INT YDS TD 13 8 148 1 11 5 103 2 10 4 66 0 10 4 41 0	10 DE 13 4 59 15.0 G INT YDS TD LONG 13 8 148 1 52 11 5 103 2 65 10 4 66 0 34 10 4 41 0 25

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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; Ckelby Givens, Jr., Southern; Tregwan 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; Armone 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, Fr., Benedict;

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE 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; Dahlil 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, Gr., Fort Valley State:

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE 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 CIAA title and third straight NCAA Div. II playoff berth during his four years

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 fomer 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

TIGERS George

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

Jones

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

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.

Larry Jones Jr. on the offensive line.

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 Dahlil 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-

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, Tennesse 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 vds., 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 Tregwan Thomas (Sr., Alabama State), Ckelby 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.

BCSP Notes

Michael Vick the new Norfolk State football coach

Excitement permeated the Norfolk State campus Monday as a packed house, including local NBA Hall of Famer Allen Iverson and a host of dignataries, were on hand as the Spartans introduced former NFL first-round overall pick, star quarterback and four-time NFL Pro Bowler Michael Vick as its new head football coach.

"It's awesome to look around this room and see the support," Vick said from the stage at the NSU Student Center in a sit-down interview following his introduction. "It means a lot when I say full-circle moment," the Newport News product said of returning to coach in the Hampton Roads Virginia area. Vick grew up in nearby Newport News.

"I'm so glad I made this decision," Vick added saying that he consulted former Jackson State and now Colorado head coach Deion **Sanders** about the move. "It wasn't the easiest decision to make but, I love the game of football, I love teaching it and this is just another step and the start of a new journey."

Vick takes over from **Dawson Odums** who was let go after posting a 15-31 record in three years at the helm of the program.

Tremaine Jackson takes over at Prairie View A&M

Tremaine Jackson, fresh off leading Valdosta State to the NCAA Div. II championship game Saturday, was named over the weekend as the new head football coach at Prairie View A&M.

Jackson, whose VSU team was ranked first in the nation and knocked off SIAC champion Miles and CIAA champion Virginia Union in this year's Div. II Super Region II playoffs, announced following VSU's 49-14 loss

to Ferris State in the championship game Saturday, that he was leaving the Blazers to take over the Panthers' program.

Jackson is no stranger to the Southwestern Athletics Conferencee (SWAC). He played at **Texas Southern** in the 2002 and 2003 seasons and later served on the TSU coaching staff from 2008 to 2011. He had posted a 30-9 record in three years at VSU.

Jackson takes over from Bubba McDowell who was let go after posting a 17-18 record in three seasons.



CORRALLED!!

Kansas City defensive back JOSHUA WILLIAMS (#2, FAYETTEVILLE **STATE**) takes down Houston QB C. J. Stroud for a sack. (chiefs.com photo)



Jackson

BCSP NFL PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

For NFL games of December 19 - 23, 2024

DEFENSE - #2 **JOSHUA WILLIAMS**, DB, Kansas City (3rd season,

FAYETTEVILLE STATE) - In Kansas City's 27-19 win over Houston Saturday, Williams started at cornerback and had five total tackles, three solos, and was credited with one sack for -12 yards and one pass defended. Willams played 34 defensive snaps (58%) and four on special teams (17%).

OFFENSE

- #72 TERRON ARMSTEAD, OT, Miami (12th season, ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF) - In Miami's 29-17 win San Francisco, Armstead started at left tackle as the Dolphins rushed for 166 yards and a TD and passed for 215 yards while the line did not surrender a sack. He was in on all 67 offensive snaps (100%).

SPECIAL TEAMS

- #6 JAMIE GILLAN, P, New York Giants (6th season, ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF) - In the Giants' 34-7 loss to Atlanta, Gillan punted five times for 210 yards (42.0-yard average) with a net average of 40.8 yards. He landed three punts inside the 20 and had a long punt of 51 yards. Gillan was in for six special teams' snaps (25%).