FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 21 - 27, 2025

# HEADED **FOR THE** HOME STRETCH

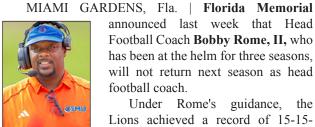
Texas SouthernI Sports Photo VERNETTE SKEETE: Texas Southern women's head coach has Lady Tigers at 5-0 atop SWAC race after taking down defending champ Jackson State.

LEGACY BOWL ROSTERS, DEACON JONES TROPHY NOMINEES FINALIZED; COACHING CHANGE AT FMU

### UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

FLA. MEMORIAL MAKES COACHING CHANGE:



announced last week that Head Football Coach Bobby Rome, II, who has been at the helm for three seasons, will not return next season as head football coach

Under Rome's guidance, the Lions achieved a record of 15-15-1, including a record of 6-3-1 in

Rome

his final season. With Rome at the helm, the FMU Lions rewrote the history books and set several school records. His commitment to the sport and to the student-athletes of FMU has been unwavering, and his contributions have significantly shaped the football program for further success in the future.

The school announced that a national search for a new head coach will begin immediately.

### AUTOMATIC BIDS COME TO D2 FOOTBALL:

Division II's football-sponsoring delegates at Friday's business session of the 2025 NCAA Convention approved a membership-sponsored proposal to provide automaticqualification privileges to all conferences that sponsor football, eliminating the current earned access legislation.

In effect, it means football champions of the CIAA and SIAC will receive berths in postseason NCAA playoff tournaments.

Division II football had been the only team sport across all three NCAA divisions that did not use automatic qualification.

### THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

### **ROSTERS FOR FEB. 22** LEGACY BOWL IN NEW ORLEANS

**TEAM GAITHER** WR - Ah'shaan Belcher, Shaw; Jalal Dean, Tennessee State; Jacquez Jones Norfolk State; Joaquin Davis, N.C. Central; Kasey Hawthorne, Howard; Trejon Spiller, Prairie View A&M; TE - Keshawn Toney, S.C. State; Kameron King, Fayetteville State:

### 2024-25 BLACK COLLEGE BASKETBALL (Men's Standings and Weekly Honors)

CIAA CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION	MEAC MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	SIAC SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	SWAC AT
DIV CONF ALL	CONF ALL	CONF ALL	
NORTH DIVISION W L W L W L	W L W L	EAST WLWL	
Virginia State 1 0 6 0 12 4	Howard 3 0 8 11	Clark Atlanta 8 2 11 6	Southern
Lincoln (PA) 1 0 6 0 12 5	Norfolk State 3 1 13 8	Edward Waters 8 3 12 6	Texas Southern
Elizabeth City State 1 0 3 4 10 6	S. C. State 3 1 9 10	Albany State 8 3 11 7	Bethune-Cookman
Bluefield State 0 1 3 3 10 6	N. C. Central 2 2 9 12	Morehouse 6 3 9 8	Jackson State
Virginia Union 0 1 1 3 7 9	Morgan State 2 2 8 12	Fort Valley State 5 5 6 11	Alabama State
Bowie State 0 1 1 5 9 9	Delaware State 1 3 9 10	Savannah State 5 6 7 8	Alcorn State
SOUTH DIVISION W L W L W L	Coppin State 1 3 3 16	Benedict 3 8 3 14	Prairie View A&M
Fayetteville State 3 0 5 3 12 6	Md. E-Shore 0 3 4 15	Allen 1 8 4 10	Alabama A&M
Claflin 1 0 4 3 11 7		WEST	Florida A&M
Shaw 1 1 4 3 9 8	OFFENSIVE PLAYERS	Miles 10 1 13 3	Grambling State
Johnson C. Smith 0 1 3 5 8 8	Kameron Hobbs, 5-10, R-Sr., G, MSU - Led Bears	Tuskegee 6 4 8 8 Kentucky State 6 7 9 9	Arkansas-Pine Bluff
Livingstone 0 2 1 7 9 10	with 23 points, 8 rebounds, 4 assists and 2 steals in	Kentucky State 6 7 9 9 Central State 5 7 8 10	Miss. Valley State
Winston-Salem State 0 1 0 2 2 12	win over Norfolk State.	Spring Hill 4 7 6 10	
	ROOKIE	Lane 3 8 3 13	PLAYERS OF THE W
PLAYERS OF THE WEEK	Blake Harper, 6-2, Fr., G, HOW - Averaged	LeMoyne-Owen 3 9 3 15	Trey Thomas, 6-2, Jr.
Xavier Tubbs-Matthews, 6-3, So., F, ECSU - 55	22.0 points, 10.0 rebounds in 1-1 week. Had	Lewoyne-Owen 5 5 5 15	26.5 points in two wi
points (27.5 ppg.), 13 assists (6.5 apg.), 8 steals	25 pts., 12 rebounds vs. CSU, 19 pts., 8 re-	PI AYER	rebounds vs. MVSU, 3
(4.0 spg.) in two games.	bounds vs. BSU.	Kusamae Draper, 6-9, Jr., F, TUSK - Averaged	vs. UAPB.
DEFENSIVE PLAYER	DEFENSIVE	23.0 points, 8.0 rebounds in two wins with 17	Sterling Young, FAI
Dericka Williams, So., F, ECSU - 23 rebounds,	Martaz Robinson, 6-2, Gr., G, DSU - Aver-	points, 4 rebounds, 2 blocks, 2 steals vs. CSU	points in two wins v
28 points, 4 blocks, 2 steals in two games.	aged double-double of 12.5 points and 10.0 rebounds in1-1 week with 14 pts., 8 boards vs.	and 29 points, 12 rebounds, 2 steals vs. KSU.	bounds, 4 assists vs.
ROOKIE	NCCU, 11 pts., 12 boards vs. VUL.	DEFENSE	rebounds, 2 assists vs
Bobby Gardner, Fr., G, VUU - Career-high 14	1000, 11 pts., 12 poarus vs. vol.	Hassan Diallo, 6-7, So., F, FVSU - Averaged	NEWCOMER
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	

Hassan Diallo, 6-7, So., F. FVSU - Averaged 12.5 points and 7.5 rebounds in two wins with 11 points, 8 rebounds, 3 blocks vs. Benedict, 14 points, 7 rebounds, 3 steals vs. Allen

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK Trey Thomas, 6-2, Jr., G, B-CU - Averaged 26.5 points in two wins with 22 points, 3 rebounds vs. MVSU, 31 points, 4 rebounds vs. UAPB. Sterling Young, FAMU - Averaged 27.0

points in two wins with 17 points, 2 rebounds, 4 assists vs. MVSU, 37 points, 3 rebounds, 2 assists vs. UAPB. NEWCOMER

CONF ALL SAC 11 2 15 2 Langston - 1st SUN Florida Memorial - 3rd 2 13 4 GLVC Lincoln (Mo.) - T5th MEC W. Virginia State - 7th 5 CAA Hampton - 9th 10 9 NC A&T - 11th 0 4 16 OVC Tennessee State - T8th 3 5 7 12

**INDEPENDENTS** 

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Jaedaun Slack, 6-6, Sr., F, WVSU - 25 points, 6 rebounds, 1 assist and 1 steal in win over W. V. Wesleyan. DEFENSE

# **Basketball races halfway home**

### LUT WILLIAMS

**BCSP Editor** 

points vs. VSU

These are the latest developments in black college hoops over the past week.

### CIAA

Virginia State and Lincoln (Pa.) out of the North Division remained the only unbeaten teams in men's CIAA play. VSU (1-0, 6-0, 12-4) won at home over Winston-Salem State (74-68) and Virginia Union (78-74) while Lincoln won at home over **Bowie State** (64-50).

VSU plays at Bluefield State on Wednesday (Jan. 22) before travelling to Lincoln Sunday (Jan. 26) in a battle for N. Div. supremacy. Lincoln plays at Elizabeth City State Wednesday.

Fayetteville State (3-0, 5-3, 12-6) leads the S. Div. after wins over Shaw (80-) and WSSU (80-65). FSU hosts Livingstone Thursday and Claffin Saturday.

The ladies of FSU (3-0, 6-2, 10-6) lead the S. Div. after wins at Shaw (65-51) and WSSU (69-46) and head with the men to Livingstone and Claffin this week.

Virginia State (13-4) and Bowie State (12-7) lead the N. Div. with 1-0 division and 6-1 conference records. BSU is hosting Virginia Union and VSU is at Bluefield State Wednesday. BSU hosts ECSU Saturday while VSU hosts Lincoln Sunday.

The Norfolk State and Howard men's and women's team are headed for a showdown this Saturday in Norfolk, Va.

In the men's race, Howard (3-0), despite two non-conference losses last week to Div. II HBCUs (Bowie State and Morehouse), has a one-game lead over NSU and SC State, both at 3-1. Norfolk State suffered its first conference loss on Monday of last week at Morgan State (78-74). SC State men and women will be in action at N. C. Central Saturday.

For the women, Norfolk State (4-0) has a half-game lead over Howard (3-0). Every other ladies team has at least two losses. Both NSU and HU will have virtually a week of rest headed into their showdown Saturday.

The HU/NSU men will play at 12:30 p.m. followed by the women at 4 p.m.

## **BCSP** Notes

### Allstate Legacy Bowl rosters completed, **Deacon Jones Award finalists named**

The two 50-man rosters for the Feb. 22 Allstate HBCU Legacy **Bowl** in New Orleans, featuring the top seniors and grad seniors in black college football, have been completed (see STAT

SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

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Texas Southern (5-0), under third-year head coach Vernette Skeete, has surged to the top of the SWAC women's standings after a big 69-54 win over defending champion Jackson State Thursday and a 70-48 win over Alcorn State Saturday.

Skeete's Lady Tigers will play at Alabama A&M, one of their nearest pursuers at 4-1 along with JSU and Southern, on Thursday. JSU will be hosting Bethune-Cookman while Southern is at Arkansas-Pine Bluff. TSU plays at Alabama State Monday.

Southern (5-0) is ahead of three 4-1 teams (Texas Southern, Bethune-Cookman and Jackson State) on the men's side. The Jaguars defeated defending champion Grambling State Saturday (67-60). They will play at Arkansas-Pine Bluff Saturday and at Miss. Valley State Monday.

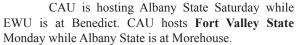
The TSU men handed JSU its first conference loss Monday in Houston (81-73) while B-CU defeated UAPB (73-64).

TSU heads to Alabama A&M Saturday and to Alabama State on Monday. B-CU plays at JSU Saturday and at Alcorn State Monday. JSU hosts Florida A&M Monday.

### SIAC

Clark Atlanta (8-2) bounced back from a 52-50 loss at Savannah State Saturday to nip Edward Waters 63-61 Monday to retain its lead in the East Div. men's race.

EWU (8-3), who had defeated Morehouse (70-66) Saturday, is tied with Albany State (8-3) behind CAU. Albany defeated Allen Friday (78-63) and handled Benedict Monday (74-64).



Miles is at 10-1 and leads the West Div. after crushing LeMoyne-Owen 90-59 Monday. Fred Watson's squad hosts Tuskegee Saturday and Spring Hill Monday. Just like the men, the CAU (7-3) and Miles (8-

Watson

2) women lead their respective divisions. Miles hosts Tuskegee Sat. and Spring Hill Mon., while CAU hosts Albany State Sat. and FVSU Monday.



### BCSP NFL PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

For Divisional playoff games of January 18-19, 2025



- #73 TRENT SCOTT, OT, Washington (7th season, GRAMBLING STATE) - In Washington's 45-31 win over NFC top-seed Detroit Saturday, Scott came in for an injured offensive lineman and





RB - Jada Byers, Virginia Union; Jaden Sutton Delaware State; Jarett Hunter Howard; Elijah Burris Hampton;

QB - Eric Phoenix S.C. State; Draylen Ellis, Tennessee State; Romelo Williams Virginia State;

OL - Nick Taiste, S.C. State; Cam Johnson, S.C. State; Michael Todd, Fayetteville State; Jared Achuff, Bowie State; Darius Fox, Howard; Keith Quick, Winston-Salem State; Queonte Hilliard, Shaw; Eric Brown, S.C. State; Larry Jones, Virginia Union; Jamaree MoyeR, Virginia Union;

K/P - Dylan West, Howard; Juan Velarde, N.C. Central;

DB - Justin Fleming, Winston-Salem State; Jordan White, Hampton; Carlvainsky Decius, Morgan State; Terron Mallory, Norfolk State; Kenny Gallop Jr., Howard; Kolby Merritt, Fayetteville State; Carson Hinton, Howard; Kole Jones, N.C. Central; Elijah Williams Morgan State: Xavier Robiou Howard University:

DL - Shi Gaskin, Fayetteville State; Isaac Anderson Jr., Virgina Union; Jayden Broughton, S.C. State; Saevion Gibbs, Shaw; John Hannibal, S.C. State; Jamel Stewart, Howard; Quantez Mansfield, N.C Central:

LB - Benari Black, Johnson C. Smith; Jack Smith, Johnson C. Smith; Sadiq Salawu, Bowie State; Terrance Hollon, Howard; Ahmad Nelson, Tennessee State; Keandre Booker Tennessee State; Carson Buchanan, Tennessee State;

### **TEAM ROBINSON**

WR - Shemar Savage, Prairie View A&M; Jamari Gassett, Florida A&M; DaShun Mitchell, Savannah State; DeJuan Bell, Fort Valley State; Anthony Evelyn, Lane; Keenan Hambrick, Alabama A&M; TE - Thomas Nance, Bethune-Cookman; Tavarious Griffin, Alcorn State:

RB - Irv Mulligan, Jackson State; Brandon Marshall, Fort Valley State; Walter Wilbon, Florida Memorial University; Isaiah (Ike) Brown, Lane; Donovan Eaglin, Alabama A&M;

QB - Myles Crawley, Grambling State; Daniel Richardson, Florida A&M; Jhaydon Sullivan, Savannah State;

OL - Steve Carter, Alcorn State; Jalen Goss, Florida A&M; Evan Henry, Jackson State; Christian Twymon, Miles; Aurelious Dunn, Alabama State; Kirk Ford Jr., Jackson State; Mehdi Torrence, Texas Southern; Austin Euler, Clark Atlanta; Jordan Taylor, Benedict; Christon Love, Arkansas-Pine Bluff;

P/K - James Lowery, Tennessee State University; Matt Noll, Jackson State University;

LS - Braxston Blackwell, Southern;

DB - Kendall Bohler, Florida A&M; James Burgess, Alabama State; Robert McDaniel, Jackson State; Marcell Blocker, Florida Memorial; Edwin Summerour, Alcorn State; Travis Martin, Langston; KeVric Wiggins Jr., Jackson State; Raymond Woodie Jr., Bethune-Cookman; Amon Scarbrough, Alabama State;

S - Javius Williams, Texas Southern; Donte Reed, Mississippi Valley State;

DL - Aaron Miller Benedict; Treqwan Thomas, Alabama State; Roc Dowdell, Miles; Tru Thompson, Jackson State; Fred Stokes, Prairie View A&M; CJ Pressley, Prairie View A&M; Jarell Culberth, Tuskegee;

LB - Rico Dozier, Alabama State; Stemarion Edwards, Alcorn State; Antwann Davis, Florida Memorial; Tyshun Gaiter, Lane; DeMarkus Cunningham, Alabama State; Caleb Grant, Morehouse:

CORNER).

The game, set for 3:00 p.m. CT at Tulane's Yulman Stadium, will be carried live on the NFL Network. It is presented by the Black College Football Hall of Fame and will feature stars like 2024 black college rushing leader Jada Byers of CIAA champion Virginia Union and Tennessee State quarterback Draylen Ellis who led the Tigers to a share of the OVC/Big South title and an FCS

playoff berth.

Both Byers and Ellis will play for the team named after legendary former Florida A&M head coach Alonzo "Jake" Gaither. The Gaither team is selected from senior standouts from the CIAA, MEAC, Tennessee State, Hampton and North Carolina A&T.

The team named for legendary former Grambling head coach Eddie Robinson was selected from SIAC, SWAC and Langston standouts. Among the exciting players on the Robinson team are SWAC rushing leader Irv Mulligan of SWAC champion Jackson State and the Aeneas Williams Award winner as the best black college defense back, James Burgess of Alabama State.

Twelve (12) Legacy Bowl selectees are among the 16 finalists for the 2024 Deacon Jones Trophy given to the black college player of the year and to be presented at halftime of the game in New Orleans.

They include Byers, Ellis, Mulligan, Burgess, Alabama State linebacker DeMarkus Cunningham, South Carolina State QB Eric Phoenix, the MEAC offensive player of the year, Florida A&M QB Daniel Richardson, Alabama A&M RB Donovan Eaglin, SC State wide

logged 46 snaps on offense (61%) and eight on special teams (28%). The Commanders ran for 182 yards and three TDs and passed for 299 yards and two other scores while giving up no sacks.

### DEFENSE

- #6 BRYAN COOK, S, Kansas City (3rd season, HOWARD / Cincinnati) - In Kansas City's 23-14 win over Houston in an AFC Divisional playoff game, Cook had five solo tackles and one assisted tackle on special teams while playing 39 defensive snaps (57%) and nine on special teams (35%). SPECIAL TEAMS

-#19 XAVIER SMITH, WR/KR, Los Angeles Rams (3rd season, FLORIDA A&M) - In the Rams' 28-22 loss to Philadelphia Sunday, Smith returned two punts for 21 yards (10.5 yards per return) with a long return of 18 yards. Smith was in for 14 special teams' snaps (44%).

receiver Justin Smith-Brown, J. C. Smith linebacker Benari Black, the CIAA defensive player of the DEACON JONES AWARD WINNERS year, Morgan State defensive 2016 Tarik Cohen, RB, North Carolina A&T 2017 Amir Hall, QB, Bowie State lineman Elijah Williams, the 2018 Amir Hall, QB, Bowie State MEAC defensive player of the year and SC State offensive lineman Nick Taiste.

The other finalists are junior wide receiver Brevin Caldwell, Southern defensive lineman

2019 Chris Rowland, WR, Tennessee State 2020 Ageel Glass, QB, Alabama A&M

2023 Jeremy Moussa, QB, Florida A&M

Ckelby Givens, J. C. Smith junior QB Darius Ocean and Clark Atlanta junior QB David Wright III.

### 2024-25 BLACK COLLEGE BASKETBALL (Women's Standings and Weekly Honors)

CIAA CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION	MEAC MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	SIAC SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	SWAC SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	INDEPENDENTS
NORTH DIVISION         W         L         CONF         ALL           Virginia State         1         0         6         1         13         4           Bowie State         1         0         6         1         12         7           Virginia Union         0         1         4         1         10         4           Lincoln (PA)         0         1         4         3         8         9           Elizabeth City State         0         1         4         3         7         8           Bluefield State         1         0         1         5         8         9           SOUTH DIVISION         W         L         W         L         W         L         W           Fayetteville State         3         0         6         2         10         6           Clafiin         1         0         4         3         8         6         Livingstone         1         0         3         3         5         10           Shaw         0         2         2         5         6         11         Johnson C. Smith         1         1         6         5	4         Norfolk State         4         0         17         4           7         Howard         3         0         10         8           4         Coppin State         2         2         11         9           4         Coppin State         2         2         11         9           6         Morgan State         2         2         9         10           8         N. C. Central         2         2         4         14           9         Md. E-Shore         1         2         6         12           5         S. C. State         1         3         2         18           6         Delaware State         0         4         3         14           6         OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK         Da'Brya Clark, 5-7, So, G, NSU - In 2-0         week, averaged 18.5 points, 4.5 assists, 3.0	CONF         ALL           EAST         W         L         W           Clark Atlanta         7         3         13         5           Allen         6         3         11         5           Benedict         5         5         7         8           Edward Waters         5         5         8         6           Savannah State         4         7         7         10           Fort Valley State         3         8         6         11           WEST         WEST          5         5         6           Miles         8         2         11         3         Lane         7         3         11         5           Tuskegee         6         4         9         8         Central State         6         5         7         9           Spring Hill         5         5         6         11         Kentucky State         4         7         5         12	CONF         ALL           W         L         W         L           Texas Southern         5         0         6         10           Alabama A&M         4         1         11         6           Jackson State         4         1         6         10           Southern         4         1         6         12           Florida A&M         3         2         6         11           Grambling State         2         3         5         11           Alabama State         2         3         4         13           Prairie View A&M         2         4         5         10           Alcorn State         1         4         3         13           Miss. Valley State         1         5         2         15           Arkansas-Pine Bliuff         0         5         2         13           PLAYER & DEFENSIVE PLAYER         OF THE WEEK         V         V	CONF       ALL         W       L         SUN         Florida Memorial - 1st       7         1       14         CAA         NC A&T - 1st       6       0         MEC         W. Virginia State - 9th       3       5         W. Virginia State - 9th       3       5       7         OVC       Tennessee State - T10th       0       8       4       14         GLVC       Lincoln (Mo.) - 15th       0       8       1       13
<ul> <li>Nya Morris, Sr., G, CLAF - In two wins, had career-high 29 points in win over Livingstone, 23 in win over WSSU.</li> <li>DEFENSIVE PLAYER</li> <li>Mahogany Collis, Jr., C, SHAW - 15 blocks in two games with 18 rebounds.</li> <li>ROOKIE</li> <li>Kanyah O'Neal, 5-8, So., G, FSU - 2 points, 2 rebounds, 3 steals vs. JCSU, 14 points, 7 rebounds, 4 steals vs. Shaw.</li> <li>Saniya King, 5-7, Fr., G, HOW - Led the Biwon with 17 points, 6 assists, 3 steals and 5 rebounds in win over CSU.</li> <li>DEFENSIVE PLAYER</li> <li>Jada Tiggett, 6-2, So., F, NCCU - Career-highs of 20 points and 11 rebounds with 3 steals and 4 blocks in win vs. DSU.</li> </ul>		Aylasia Fantroy, 5-11, So., G, TSU - Averaged 13.5 points, 8.5 rebounds, 2.5 blocks and 2.0 steals with 20 points, 6 rebounds, 2 blocks and a 2 steals vs. JSU, 7 points, 11 rebounds, 3 assists, 5 steals vs. Albany State, 16 points, 6 rebounds, 5 assists, 4 steals and 1 block vs. FVSU.		Jordyn Dorsey, 5-9, Sr., G, NC A&T - In two wins, averaged 19.5 points, 2.0 re- bounds with 25 points, 2 rebounds, 3 as- sists vs. Stony Brook, 14 points, 2 rebounds vs. Drexel. DEFENSE Mikayla Woods, 5-7, Gr., G, LANG - Had 20 points, 11 rebounds, 2 steals, a block and an assist in win Monday over Mid-Atlantic Christian.

2021 Aqeel Glass, QB, Alabama A&M 2022 Shedeur Sanders, QB, Jackson State Davius Richard, QB, North Carolina Central