FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 18 -24, 2025



FINISHING TOUCHES UNDERWAY has Rattlet's making for SWAC basketball race.

Florida A&M Sports Photo PATRICK CRAREY II: New Florida A&M men's head coach has Rattlers making late move in

DEFENSIVE

Caleb Simmons, 6-4, Sr., G/F, FSU - Avad, 14.0

ppg., 11.5 rebounds with 5 points, 12 rebounds

. WSSU, 23 pts., 11 rebounds vs. Livingstone

TIM O'NEAL BREAKING THRU ON CHAMPIONS TOUR; HBCU LEGACY BOWL SET; CIAA TOURNEY WEEK AWAY

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

THIRD TOP-20 2025 FINISH FOR TIM O'NEAL:



Former Jackson State golfer Tim O'Neal earned his third top-20 finish in as many starts Sunday at the PGA Tour Champions Chubb Classic in Naples, Fla.

> O'Neal finished in a 12th-place tie with seven others (Cameron Percy, Bernard Langer, Michael Wright, Steve Flesch, Dicky Pride, Mario Tiziani and Felipe Aguilar) after rounds of 72-68-70 - 210 (-6) on the 6.897-yard, par-72

Tiburon Golf Club. The finish earned him a paycheck of \$31,748.

O'Neal, 52, finished in another tie with two others (Vijay Singh and Thongchai Jaidee) for 12th at the seasonopening Jan. 16-18 Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai in Kailua Kona, Hawaii. His three-round total of -12 followed rounds of 67-70-67 - (204) and pocketed him his largest payday this season of \$42,333.

In the second start of the season at the Trophy Hassan II Tourney at the 7,3299-yard, par-73 Royal Golf Course Dar Es Salam in Rabat, Morocco, O'Neal shot rounds of 70-71-78 219 (E) to finish tied for 19th with five others (Flesch, Y. E. Yang, Hiroyuki Fujita, Angel Cabrera and Justin Leonard). His take home was \$30,208.

Thru three weeks, O'Neal is 16th on the 2025 PGA Champions Money List with \$104,289.

He's far ahead of his 2024 total of \$804,081 in 30 starts that was good for 31st on the Money List and earned his tour card for 2025. He notched his first Champions Tour win at last October's Dominion Energy Classic in Virginia.

He pocketed just \$72,542 in 17 starts in his first year on the Champions Tour in 2023.

HBCU LEGACY BOWL THIS SATURDAY:

The fourth annual HBCU Legacy Bowl the postseason all-star game showcasing 100 of the best NFL draft-eligible football players from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) is set for this Saturday, February 22 in New Orleans at Tulane University's Yulman Stadium.

The game will kick off at 3 p.m. CT and will be carried live on NFL Network.

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

	NTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE	MEAC	MID EA	ASTERI ONFEF			SIAC	SOUTHERN II ATHLETIC				SWAC	SOUTH ATHLETIC (E
NORTH DIVISION Virginia State Bowie State Lincoln (PA) Virginia Union Bluefield State Elizabeth City State SOUTH DIVISION Fayetteville State Claflin Johnson C. Smith Livingstone Shaw	$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $	Norfolk State S. C. State Howard Delaware State Morgan State N. C. Central Coppin State Md. E-Shore OFFENSIVE PLAYER Brian Moore Jr., 6-6 team-high 17 points, s ROOK/E Blake Harper, 6-5,	ATHLETIC C CONF W 8 6 6 5 5 4 2 0 8 5 5 4 2 0 8 5 5 4 2 0 8 5 5 4 2 0 8 5 5 5 4 2 0 8 5 5 5 7 4 2 0 7 5 5 5 7 5 7 5 7 6 8 6 6 7 5 5 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7	L 1 3 4 4 5 7 9 SU - I Is vs.	ALL W 18 13 11 13 11 13 11 4 4 4 0 UME	L 8 12 15 11 14 15 20 21 week, S, 20 week,	EAST Clark Atlanta Albany State Edward Waters Morehouse Fort Valley State Savannah State Benedict Allen WEST Miles Tuskegee Kentucky State Central State Spring Hill Lane	ATHLETIC CONF W 14 13 12 10 9 8 4 2 10 9 8 4 2 16 9 9 8 8 6 5 5	L 4 5 5 7 8 9 13 15 1 8 8 8 12 12	All W 17 16 16 16 13 10 10 4 6 20 11 12 13 8 5	L 8 9 8 12 14 11 20 17 3 12 10 11 15 17	SWAC Southern Jackson State Florida A&M Bethune-Cookman Texas Southern Alabama State Alcorn State Grambling State Alabama A&M Prairie View A&M Arkansas-Pine Bluf Miss. Valley State PLAYER OF THE V Milton Matthews,	ATHLETIC C CON W 12 9 9 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 5 3 1 1 VEEK	F L 1 4 4 5 5 5 7 8 10 12 12	ALL W 17 9 12 11 11 12 8 9 9 9 4 4 2 3	
Jacob Cooper, 5-8, . had 24 points, 5 assist of 20 FTs vs. ECSU 3 sists vs. Bluefield Stat NEWCOMER Ezekiel Cannedy, 6-2 JCSU transfer had 24	Jr., G VSU - In 2-0 week, s, 3 rebounds including 17 Saturday, 2 points, 10 as-		6-7, So., F 8.0 points 13 points 13 points eam-highs	ounds , 4 re , NS , 7.5 , 6 re , 6 re	s, 5 a: bour U - l rebo boun 3 poii	n 2-0 ounds ids, 4 nts, 9		5 4 5, Sr, G, CL , 8.0 rpg. in , 2 blocks vs nds vs. Sava	12 14 ATL - two v s Edw nnah	5 4 In 2-0 wins v vard V State	17 21 week, vith 19 Vaters,		6-3, Sr., d 20.5 j , 2 assis	points	s wit	th

Blaise Wallace, 6-7. So. F. ALB - Averaged double-double of 16.0 ppg., 11.5 rpg. in two wins with 17 and 10 vs. Allen, 15 and 13 vs. Benedict.

while Tuskegee hosts Spring Hill.

race.

Moore

in a loss to **DelState**

	CONF	1	ALL W	1		CONF
Southern	12	1	17	9	SAC	
Jackson State	9	4	9	16	Langston - T4th	15
Florida A&M	9	4	12	12	SUN	
Bethune-Cookman	8	5	11	15	Florida Memorial - 2nd	12
Texas Southern	8	5	11	15	GLVC	
Alabama State	8	5	12	14	Lincoln (Mo.) - T7th	9
Alcorn State	8	5	8	18	ovc	
Grambling State	6	7	9	17	Tennessee State - T4th	9
Alabama A&M	5	8	9	17	MEC	
Prairie View A&M	3	10	4	22	W. Virginia State - 5th	8
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	1	12	4	22	CAA	
Miss. Valley State	1	12	3	23	Hampton - 9th	6
					NC A&T - 14th	1
PLAYER OF THE WEEK						
Milton Matthews, 6-3,	Sr., 6	6, F /	٩MU	- In	PLAYER OF THE WEE	
two wins, averaged 20	.5 pc	oints	with	n 15	Jahnathan Lamothe, 6	
points, 5 rebounds, 2 as	ssists	VS.	JSL	J, 26	Averaged 21.0 points,	
points, 3 assists vs. Alcor	'n.				week with 21 points, 6 r	
					winning 3 pointer at E	
					CAA win, team hghs o	
					rebounds in loss to Cha	riesto

MEAC

Blake Harper of Howard. The Bison are tied for second with S. C. State

at 6-3. The rookie leads the league in scoring at 19.5 ppg., is second in

rebounding at 6.6 per game, is fourth in assists at 3.6 per game while playing

34.5 minutes per game, third most in the league. Harper tied his season-high

with 34 points in a win over UMES. He had another team-high of 18 Saturday

per game are third best in the league. The tough 6-2 backcourt ace led his

team with 26 points and 9 rebounds as they subdued Howard 90-69 Saturday.

and perhaps the sleeper in the MEAC race so far. The Bulldogs have been

led by double-figure scorers Drayton Jones (12.7 ppg.) and Omar Croskey

(11.2) but Martin employs a total of 11 players that average double-digits

in minutes led by Jones's 23.5 mpg. It has produced big wins recently over

Howard (89-66) and Morgan State (90-62) and a close loss at Norfolk State

Speaking of DSU, guard Martaz Robinson's 16.0 ppg. and 6.5 boards

SCSU, led by second-year head coach Erik Martin, is the surprise team

Norfolk State (8-1) is still on top of the men's race as it went on the road

to defeat winless Maryland-Eastern Shore 75-63 Saturday

and then travelled home to cool off hot Delaware State 96-

84 Monday. Six-six grad guard Brian Moore Jr., second

in the league in scoring at 18.9 points per game had 17 vs.

UMES and 20 vs. DSU. Moore, playing for the first-place

Spartans, is the likely leader in the MEAC player of the year

A likely contender for the honor is 6-5 lefthand freshman

W. Virginia State - 5th 8 8 12 11 CAA 8 14 13 Hampton - 9th 6 NC A&T - 14th 1 13 5 22 PLAYER OF THE WEEK Jahnathan Lamothe, 6-4, So., G. NCA&T-Averaged 21.0 points, 8.0 rebounds in 1-1 week with 21 points, 6 rebounds and game winning 3 pointer at Elon for Aggies first CAA win, team hghs of 21 points and 10 rebounds in loss to Charlesto DEFENSIVE PLAYER Nikolaos Chitikoudis, 6-9, So., F, NCA&T - 19 points and team-high 9 rebounds with blocks in win over Elon, 19 points and team highs of 11 rebounds vs. Charleston.

INDEPENDENTS

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3 22 5

19 7

BCSP Hoops Notes

rebounds, 6 assists with 3 steals vs. DSU.

Last regular season week for CIAA as three battle for top seed in men's North Division; Miles men clinch men's SIAC West CIAA

The last week of regular season play is upon us as the CIAA will tip off tournament season next week (Feb. 25 - March 1) at CFG Arena in Baltimore. Before the festivities start there are a couple decisions related to tournament seeding that will be determined this week.

In the North Division, Virginia State (5-2) entered the week with a halfgame lead over Bowie State (5-3) with the teams meeting Tuesday at BSU. Defending tournament champion Lincoln (Pa.) and Virginia Union are at 4-4.

A VSU win over BSU would give the division crown and the division's top tournament seed to head coach Lonnie Blow Jr.'s Trojans. A BSU win would set up the Bulldogs for their finale Saturday hosting Lincoln. VSU finishes the regular season Saturday at VUU. VUU hosts ECSU Tuesday before its finale (vs. VSU)

In the men's South, Fayetteville State (10-0) has clinched the top seed. The Broncos have their final conference game at second-place Claffin (6-2) Wednesday.

Tourney favorite FSU features the league's second- and third-leading

scorers in 6-4 senior guard Caleb Simmons (17.5 ppg.) and 6-2 senior guard Tairell Fletcher (17.2 ppg.). Six-two junior guard Ezekiel Cannedy is a third double-digit scorer at 16.0 ppg. Simmons is second in rebounding at 9.6 per game. Simmons

The tightest race and the most to be determined is in the women's North with

Virginia Union and Virginia State both at 7-1 and Bowie State a game back at 6-2. The three will engage each other in the final week with the top division seed hanging in the balance.

First on Tuesday, VSU and BSU met in Bowie, Md. while VUU hosted ECSU. On Saturday, VSU and VUU square off in Richmond, Va. while BSU finishes at 1-7 Lincoln.

In the women's South, FSU moved to 8-1 and wrapped up the top seed with wins over WSSU (81-31) and Livingstone (57-49). Livingstone and Claffin are both 5-3 in second place. FSU hosts Claffin Wednesday in its finale.

SIAC

Clark Atlanta offset a 30-point night from 6-6 junior Edward Waters

star guard Prince Davies III Saturday in knocking off the

Tigers 83-75 to take over sole possession of first place in the

East Division at 14-4. The Panthers added a 70-66 win over

Savannah State Monday. Six-five senior Jalen Williams



Williams

NSU is at Coppin State Saturday and returns home to meet Morgan State Monday. Howard plays at MSU Saturday and at CSU Monday. SCSU and DelState meet this Saturday in Dover and then SCSU travels to UMES Monday.

He had 17 and 5 rebounds in the loss to NSU Monday.

Norfolk State's women (9-0) continued with their unblemished conference record with wins over DSU (92-44) and UMES (70-48). Grad point guard Diamond Johnson, the league's top scorer at 19.1 points per game, was one point off her season high with 31 vs. DSU.

Howard (8-1) and Coppin State (7-2) kept pace with two wins. CSU senior forward Laila Lawrence, the league's top rebounder (10.0 rpg.) and second-leading scorer (17.2 ppg.), averaged a double-double of 15.5 points and 14.5 rebounds in the Lady Eagles two victories.

Coppin State takes its second shot at NSU Saturday at home in Baltimore and then hosts Howard Monday.

SWAC

Southern (12-1) stayed atop the men's race with a three-game lead after home wins over Prairie View Saturday (72-60) and Texas Southern (66-57) Monday.



Fletcher

(67-65).

Saturday's game was preceded by the Monday, Feb.



17 NFL HBCU Combine where 46 senior-eligible black college athletes (listed below) got to work out for scouts of the NFL's 32 teams. The NFL worked in partnership with the Black College

Football Hall of Fame to select the participants.

The workouts were held at the New Orleans Saints practice facility, the Ochsner Sports Performance Center.

THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

PARTICIPANTS AT THE MONDAY (FEB. 17) HBCU COMBINE IN NEW ORLEANS

Isaac Anderson, DL, Virginia Union Nana Asante*, Edge, Morgan State Kenny Bennett*, DB, Virginia State Kendall Bohler, DB, Florida A&M Jamarius Brown*, DB, Southern James Burgess, DB, Alabama State Elijah Burris, RB, Hampton Jada Byers, RB, Virginia Union Darren Cook*, DL, Delaware State Myles Crawley, QB, Grambling State DeMarkus Cunningham, LB, Alabama State Joaquin Davis, WR, NCCentral Carlvainsky Decius, DB, Morgan State Aurelious Dunn, OL, Alabama State Donovan Eaglin, RB, Alabama A&M Draylen Ellis, QB, Tennessee State Darius Fox, OL, Howard Jamari Gassett, WR, Florida A&M Tavarious Griffin, TE, Alcorn State Jacolby Hewitt*, WR, Alabama A&M Terrance Hollon, LB, Howard Jarett Hunter, RB, Howard Jason Ivey*, OL, North Carolina A&T

Cam Johnson, OL, SC State Robert Jones III, DB, Howard Jaquez Jones, WR, Norfolk State Terron Mallory, DB, Norfolk State Quantez Mansfield, DL, NC Central Travis Martin, DB, Langston Robert McDaniel, DB, Jackson State Irv Mulligan, RB, Jackson State Eric Phoenix, QB, SC State K'Vaughan Pope*, LB, Virginia State Jeremiah Pruitte*, TE, Florida A&M Daniel Richardson, QB, Florida A&M Xavier Robiu, DB, Howard Sadiq Salawu, LB, Bowie State Canary Simmons*, DB, Texas Southern Trejon Spiller, WR, Prairie View A&M Fred Stokes, DL, Prairie View A&M Jaden Sutton, RB, Delaware State Trequan Thomas, DL, Alabama State Tru Thompson, DL, Jackson State Keshawn Toney, TE, SC State Chris Walker*, Edge, Tennessee State Elijah Williams, DL, Morgan State * Not playing in Sat., Feb. 22 HBCU Legacy Bow

ACTIVE NFL PLAYERS AS OF LAST YEAR'S HBCU COMBINE AND LEGACY BOWL

Andrew Farmer, OLB, Denver Broncos (Lane College) Emmanuel Wilson, RB, Green Bay Packers (Fort Valley State) Xavier Smith, WR, Los Angeles Rams (Florida A&M) Brandon Codrington, CB, Buffalo Bills (North Carolina Central) Ian Wheeler, RB, Chicago Bears (Howard) Camron Peterson, DT, New Orleans Saints (Southern) Marcus Riley, WR, New York Jets (Florida A&M)

HBCU LEGACY BOWL PARTICIPANTS ONLY IN NFL

Keenan Isaac, CB, Las Vegas Raiders (Alabama State) Cherelus Claudin, LB, Carolina Panthers (Alcorn State)

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had 19 points in each game to pace CAU.

Albany State (13-5) stayed a game back with wins vs. Benedict Saturday (68-60) and at home vs.

Allen Monday (73-55). Six-seven sophomore forward Blaise Wallace had double-doubles in each game with 17 points, 10 rebounds vs. Allen, 15 points, 13 boards vs. Benedict.

Clark Atlanta and Morehouse stage the battle for Atlanta on Saturday at Forbes Arena on the Morehouse campus (site of the March 5-8 SIAC Tournament) while Edward Waters

hosts Savannah State. Albany State is at Fort Valley State. On Monday, the final week of regular season play has Albany State at Edward Waters, Clark Atlanta at Benedict and Morehouse at Allen.

Miles got 22 points and 8 rebounds from 6-8 junior Corey Trotter in a win Monday at LeMoyne-Owen to move to 16-1 atop the West. The Golden Bears are 20-3 overall but are not ranked in the NABC Div. II national poll. One of the three losses is to No. 14 Columbus State (Ga.), a 67-53 decision back on Nov. 15. The only SIAC loss is 77-75 in overtime at Morehouse on Jan. 4. Head coach Fred Watson has Miles on a 10-game winning streak.

Miles, seven games ahead of everyone else in the West, has three regular season games left beginning at Lane Saturday and home vs. Central State Monday.

For the West Division women, Miles (12-4) moved back ahead of Tuskegee (12-5) after getting wins at Benedict Thursday (78-59) and at LeMoyne-Owen Monday (79-45) while Tuskegee (12-5) fell to Central State (58-52) Monday.

In the East, Clark Atlanta (13-3) stayed two games ahead of Allen (11-5) as both got two wins. Allen is at CAU Thursday. Miles is at Lane Saturday

The biggest story is Florida A&M getting wins at home over contenders Jackson State Saturday (76-71) and Alcorn State Monday (85-76). FAMU head coach Patrick Crarey II's Rattlers are winning in different ways.

They got 28 points off the bench from 6-1 Charlotte transfer guard Sterling Young in the win vs. JSU and 26 from 6-3 grad guard Milton Matthews, who Crarey brought with him from St. Thomas of the NAIA, in the victory vs. Alcorn.



The Rattlers at 9-4 are tied for second with JSU. FAMU has won nine of its last ten games to pull into the secondplace tie. Four others - Bethune-Cookman, Alcorn, TSU and Alabama State - are another game back at 8-5.



Remember Crarey is the former NAIA coach who was given a one-year "prove it" contract this season. He's doing it so far.

Southern is at Grambling Saturday. FAMU has Alabama dates at Alabama State Saturday and Alabama A&M Monday. JSU is hosting Alcorn Saturday, B-CU plays at A&M Saturday and at Alabama State Monday, TSU hosts Miss. Valley State Saturday and Arkansas-Pine Bluff Monday.

Former women's leader Texas Southern (11-2) suffered its first two losses in conference play Thursday to Southern (63-53) and Saturday to Grambling State (71-46). Jackson State (11-2) and Southern (11-2) moved into a tie for first after two wins, JSU beating B-CU (59-53) and FAMU (40-37) while Southern beat TSU and Prairie View (86-42). Alabama A&M is just a game back of the leaders at 103 after wins over UAPB (69-55) and MVSU (95-76).

In games involving the leaders, TSU hosts UAPB Thursday and MVSU Monday. JSU hosts Alcorn Thursday while Southern is at Grambling Saturday. Alabama A&M hosts FAMU Thursday and B-CU Saturday.

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

	ERCOLLEGIATE	MEAC	MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	SIAC	SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	SWAC	SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	INDEPENDENTS
NORTH DIVISIONWLVirginia State71Virginia Union71Bowie State62Bluefield State26Lincoln (PA)17Elizabeth City State17SOUTH DIVISIONWLFayetteville State81Livingstone53Shaw36	J - Team-high 15 twin over WSSU, b. Livingstone. UU - In three wins s. BSU, 17 points,	Diamond Johnso aged 24.0 points, with 17 points, 9 steal vs. UMES, steals vs. DSU. DEFENSIVE Laila Lawrence, aged double-doub rebounds in 2-0 w	CONF ALL W L W L 9 0 22 4 8 1 15 9 7 2 16 9 4 5 11 13 4 5 7 17 3 6 8 16 1 8 2 23 0 9 4 19 YER OF THE WEEK r, 5-5, Gr., PG, NSU - Aver- 7.0 rebounds, 5 assists and 1 31 points, 5 rebounds, 2 6-2, So., F, CSU - Aver- le of 15.5 points and 14.5 veek with 11 points, 11 re- vs. SCSU, 20 points, 18 U	aged 20.0 points with 18 points, points, 4 reboun DEFENSIVE Britney Bolin , 5 8 rebounds, 4 as	6 10 8 15 4 11 8 14 4 12 8 15 12 4 16 6 12 5 15 9 10 6 15 8 9 7 11 11 7 9 8 14 6 11 7 19 IE WEEK 5-0, Gr., G, CLATL - Avers, 5.0 rebounds vs. FVSU, 22 14 6 7 15 9 16 6 7 19	transfer had 18 p in win vs. MVSL and 7 rebounds v DEFENSIVE PLA Soniya Reed , 6- rebounds in win o	4 9 6 19 1 3 10 6 16 3 10 4 20 liuff 1 12 3 20 EWEEK 5, Sr., G, ALA&M - UAPB joints, 2 rebounds, 2 steals J, team-highs of 21 points vs. UAPB.	aged 27.5 ppg., 7.5 rpg., 5.5 spg., and 6.5 apg., with 33 points, 6 rebounds, 4 steals, 3 assists in win vs. St. Thomas, 22 points, 9 rebounds, 9 assists, 7 steals vs. Coastal Georgia.



Wallace