

COACHES, **PLAYERS** IN DRAFT MODE

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THE NEW NORMAL: Former Jackson State/Colorado standouts Shedeur Sander (I.) and Travis Hunter (r.) projected as first round picks in this week's NFL Draft.

NFL DRAFT SURE THINGS, HOPEFULS; NEW LEADERS FOR FAMU MEN, VSU, CSU WOMEN

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

FORMER SWAC STAR IN WNBA DRAFT: Former Arkansas-Pine Bluff all-SWAC guard Zaay Green was taken by the Washington Mystics with the 23rd pick in the April 14 WNBA

The former HBCU star becomes the first Golden Lion ever selected in the draft and the third SWAC player to be picked in the past

four years.

Green transferred to UAPB in 2021 after brief stints at Tennessee and Texas A&M from 2016 to 2020. She spent three seasons with the Golden Lions and was named to the all-SWAC team in her final year. In 55 games at UAPB, Green averaged 16.3 points, 7.7 rebounds, 5.3 assists, and 2.1 steals before transferring to Alabama.

The 6-2 guard from Duncanville, Tx., was the Crimson Tide's second-leading scorer this season at 15.7 points per game. She had 22 points in an opening round NCAA tournament win over Green Bay.

NORFOLK STATE LOSES ONE OF ITS HOOPS STARS:

The Norfolk State University community is mourning



the loss of legendary Spartan basketball player John "Essex" McKinney III, who passed away on Saturday, April 5, at the age

One of the most talented student-athletes to play for NSU, McKinney played a pivotal role in the Spartans' rise to national prominence in the late 1960s. In just three years on the court, he accumulated 1,572 points and 923 rebounds while shooting 57.6 percent from the floor...

As a sophomore while playing with future Hall of Famer Bobby Dandridge, McKinney helped lead Norfolk State to the 1968 CIAA regular season and tournament titles. He averaged 32.3 points per game during the 1969-70 season, earning Little All-American and All-CIAA first team honors. On Feb. 23, 1970, in one of the most iconic moments in NSU athletics history, McKinney scored 54 points in a 123-112 win over Old Dominion. The performance remains the most points ever scored by a Norfolk State player in a single game.

McKinney was drafted in the fourth round of the NBA Draft with the 55th pick by the Boston Celtics in 1970. He played for the CBA's Milwaukee Muskies and the ABA's Dallas Chaparrals.

THE STAT CORNER

NUMBER OF HBCU PLAYERS TAKEN EACH YEAR IN NFL DRAFT HISTORY

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20240	197824
20231	197719
20224	197653
20210	197542
20201	197443
20194	197344
20183	197251
20174	197162
20163	197067
20154	196966
20142	196870
20132	196751
20121	NFL/AFL MERGE
20114	1966
20102	(NFL)22
20094	(AFL)10
20085	1965
20075	(NFL) 18
20063	(AFL)15
20056	1964
20042	(NFL)18
20038	(AFL)9
20025	1963
20024	(NFL)14
2000 13	(AFL)7
19997	1962
19988	(NFL) 13
199713	(AFL)8
199617	1961
199513	(NFL) 12
	(AFL)8
199413	(AFL)
19938	
199230	(NFL)9
199118	(AFL)9
199019	AFL BEGINS
198915	195913
198820	19587
198716	19573
1986 11	1956 8
198512	19558
198415	19541
198322	19533
198220	19522
198118	19511
198025	19501
1979 17	NFL ONLY

NFL Draft: The historic flip-flop of HBCU prospects

LUT WILLIAMS BCSP Editor

As the 2025 NFL Draft, the 90th in draft history, comes upon us this week – Thursday, April 24 thru Saturday, April 26 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay, Wisconsin - there's an opportunity to reflect on how things have changed over the years for black college prospects.

The 2025 Scene

This week, the names of former Jackson State standout quarterback Shedeur Sanders and JSU two-way defensive back/wide receiver **Travis Hunter** are forefront in the minds of NFL decision makers and media coverage.

Both continued their sterling play over the last two seasons at Colorado with Sanders now considered the second best QB in the draft and the Heisman Trophy-winning Hunter held as the most intriguing prospect since his coach at JSU and Colorado, Hall of Famer **Deion Sanders**.

Running backs Bhayshul Tuten of North Carolina A&T and Jacory Croskey-Merritt of Alabama State, who finished their careers at Virginia Tech and Arizona respectively, are also high on draft boards.

Increasingly, starting and starring at an FCS or NCAA Div. II HBCU program and finishing elsewhere like Sanders, Hunter, Tuten and Crosskey-Merritt, is now the avenue and the ticket to greater exposure and draftability.

Given that, we present here the primary prospects in this week's three-day, seven-round NFL Draft.

The Heyday

Today is a marked departure from the late 1960s when black college players were not only featured in the draft but spent their entire college careers at HBCUs.

After the NFL and AFL merger in 1967,

DAY ONE - ROUND 1



Travis Hunter Jackson State / Colorado Wide Receiver/Defensive Back



Shedeur Sanders Jackson State / Colorado



Bhayshul Tuten NC A&T / Virginia Tech Running Back



Jacory Crosskey-Meritt Alabama State / Arizona

DAY THREE - ROUNDS 4 - 7 OR TOP FREE AGENTS TO BE SIGNED



McDaniel

Jackson State, DB

Robert Carson



Alabama A&M, OL



Kenny Gallop, Jr.



Aaron Smith SC State, DB





Kendall **Bohler** Florida A&M, DB

Mulligan

taken in the draft (see STAT CORNER). A year later, an all-time high of 70 players were taken, followed by 66, 67 and 62 in subsequent years - a total of 316 black college players over a fiveyear span (1967 - 1971).

Vinson

It is from this period that we get the names of Pro Football Hall of Famers like Claude Humprey (Tennessee State), Lem Barney (Jackson State), Willie Lanier (Morgan State), Rayfield Wright (Fort Valley State), Charlie Joiner (Grambling), Art Shell (Maryland State, now Eastern Shore), Elvin Bethea (NC A&T), Ken Houston (Prairie View A&M) and others. Most were taken in the early rounds.

In the next five years (1972-76), the there were a record 51 black college players numbers never dipped below 42. Though

decreasing, they stayed in double-digits in 20 of the next 21, and 22 of 24 years through 2000.

This is in great contrast to the period from 1950, when the first black college player was drafted - NC A&T's Bob "Stonewall" Jackson in the 16th round – to 1967 where if black college players were taken at all, they were selected in the later rounds of the draft.

After 2000

In the last 24 years, black college numbers have dwindled into single digits and below (twice at zero). Many of those draftees started at Power Five or Power Four programs before coming home to HBCUs. That trend is undergoing a change now in the era of the transfer portal and Name, Image and Likeness (NIL).

BCSP Hoops News

Heisman Trophy winner Charlie Ward to lead Florida A&M men's basketball

TALLAHASSEE, FL – Everyone in the black college sports world wants to make a splash these days by hiring the highest profile former professional athlete to lead an athletic program. See Michael Vick at Norfolk State football and DeSean Jackson at Delaware State football as examples. Call it the "Deion Sanders (former football coach at Jackson State) effect."

Well, **Florida A&M** took that idea a step further when it named former Florida State Heisman Trophy winner Charlie Ward last Wednesday as its new head basketball coach. His official introduction was Monday at the Al Lawson Center on campus.

Ward, 54, the first Heisman Trophy winner to play in the NBA and the first to lead a college basketball program, had served as the head basketball coach at Florida High in Tallahassee since 2018.

"Today marks an exciting new chapter for our men's basketball program as we proudly welcome Charlie Ward—a true legend and exceptional leader," said Florida A&M Director of Athletics Angela Suggs.

"I'm excited for the opportunity to join FAMU and serve as head coach of the men's basketball program," Ward said. "I look forward to leading a Rattlers team that will be defined by our P.A.C.E. — Preparation, Accountability, Competitive Spirit, Commitment and Effort — as we continue the great legacy of FAMU Athletics."

Florida A&M is a homecoming of sorts for Ward. His parents met as undergraduates there in the late 1950s. Ward's sister is also an alumna of the school. His father played for legendary FAMU head football coach Alonzo "Jake" Gaither.

He made his mark in college at Florida State as an outstanding athlete on the football field and the basketball court.

On the gridiron, Ward won the 1993 Heisman Trophy, Maxwell Award, and the Davey O'Brien Award as a quarterback for Florida State University. He subsequently led the Seminoles to their first-ever national championship when FSU defeated Nebraska 18-16 in the 1994 Orange Bowl. Ward holds the fourth-largest margin of victory in the history of Heisman trophy balloting.

On the hardcourt, Ward led the Seminoles to the brink of the 1993 Final Four, falling one game shy. He also started on FSU's Sweet 16 team in 1992 and hit the game-winning shot in its Metro Conference Tournament Championship game. Ward played 11 seasons in the NBA, the first 10 with the New York Knicks, and helped the Knicks reach the NBA Finals in 1999.

He is the 16th head coach in FAMU history and replaces Patrick Crarey II who left after one season to become head men's coach at **Grambling State.**

WSSU brings back former player as new women's head coach

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. - The Winston-Salem State University Department of Athletics has announced last Tuesday the hiring of Tierra **Terry** as the 12th head women's basketball coach in school history.

"We are thrilled to welcome Coach Tierra Terry back home to Winston-



Salem State University," said Etienne Thomas, Director of Athletics. "As a proud WSSU alumna and a proven leader in collegiate women's basketball, Coach Terry brings a deep understanding of our tradition, a passion for developing student-athletes, and a winning mindset." "First I would like to say thank you God. Next, I

would like to say thank you to AD Thomas, Chancellor (Bonnita J.) Brown, the committees, and my family for believing in me," Terry said. "Coming back to WSSU is a full circle moment. "I am excited to rejoin my RAMILY and lead this

team to greatness." Terry was a four-year member of the WSSU's women's basketball team and earned her bachelor's degree in psychology, while earning a minor in sociology in 2008.

HEAD RATTLER: New Florida A&M men's head basketball coach Charlie Ward (c.) flanked by interim President Dr. Timothy L. Beard (I.) and Athletics Director Angela Suggs (r.).



Terry joins the Rams after spending five seasons with CIAA member Virginia Union where they went 60-51 during her tenure. Prior to VUU, Terry spent three seasons as an assistant coach at The College of William and Mary. Before William & Mary, Terry was a recruiting coordinator at Western Carolina. She began her coaching career at WSSU.

Millette Green announced as next Virginia State women's coach

ETTRICK, VA - Millette Green was presented last Thursday



responsibility."

(April 17) on campus as the seventh head coach of the Virginia State University women's basketball program by Associate Vice President and Director of Intercollegiate Athletics, Tiffani-Dawn B. Sykes. "In VSU Athletics, we're committed to aligning

with both departmental and institutional priorities, and that starts with putting students at the center of everything we do," said Sykes. "We were intentional about identifying a leader who prioritizes the student experience above all else, and Coach Millette Green understands that

Green most recently served as an assistant coach at Wake Forest beginning in the 2022–23 season. Prior Wake Forest, Green served as head coach of the Augusta University women's basketball program (2017– 22), top assistant at William & Mary (2013-17), associate head coach at Fairleigh Dickinson (2010-13), assistant coach at Indiana University-Purdue s (2008–10), and assistant coach at Robert Morris (2007–08).

"With great honor and gratitude, I am excited to lead the women's basketball program at Virginia State University," said Green. "This program has a winning tradition with five CIAA conference championships. I strive to build upon the foundation laid here and compete for championships at every level. I look forward to representing and engaging with the Trojan community."

Green played and is a 2003 graduate of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). She began her collegiate career at East

Mosley leaves Arizona State to lead Coppin State women

BALTIMORE - Coppin State has named Darrell Mosley as the



Mosley

next head coach of its women's basketball program. Mosley spent the last three seasons as an assistant

at Arizona State, including the last two as the Sun Devils' associate head coach. Mosley was promoted to associate head coach after his first season at ASU He has 15 years of coaching experience at the

collegiate level, including a six-year stretch as the head women's basketball coach at Division II Lincoln (Pa.). Following a season at University of Delaware

under head coach Natasha Adair, he joined Adair in Tempe. In six seasons as head coach at Lincoln, Mosley guided the Lions to 82 wins, the second-most in program history, from 2015 to 2021. Lincoln

advanced to three-straight CIAA semifinals from 2017 to 2019. In his final complete season during the 2019-20 campaign, he was named the league's Coach of the Year and a finalist for WHoopDirt.com

National Coach of the Year following a school-record 23 victories. Prior to being named the head coach at Lincoln, Mosley served as an assistant coach on the Lions' men's basketball staff at his alma mater for five seasons.

Born and raised in Chester, Pa., Mosley played collegiately at Delaware State (2006-08).