

FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 22 - 28, 2025

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

AND READY!

COACHES, PLAYERS IN DRAFT MODE

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

July 2022 Sports Illustrated Cover

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

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 Draft.

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 of 77.

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

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

NUMBER OF HBCU PLAYERS TAKEN EACH YEAR IN NFL DRAFT HISTORY

|           |    |               |    |
|-----------|----|---------------|----|
| 2024..... | 0  | 1978.....     | 24 |
| 2023..... | 1  | 1977.....     | 19 |
| 2022..... | 4  | 1976.....     | 53 |
| 2021..... | 0  | 1975.....     | 42 |
| 2020..... | 1  | 1974.....     | 43 |
| 2019..... | 4  | 1973.....     | 44 |
| 2018..... | 3  | 1972.....     | 51 |
| 2017..... | 4  | 1971.....     | 62 |
| 2016..... | 3  | 1970.....     | 67 |
| 2015..... | 4  | 1969.....     | 66 |
| 2014..... | 2  | 1968.....     | 70 |
| 2013..... | 2  | 1967.....     | 51 |
| 2012..... | 1  | NFL/AFL MERGE |    |
| 2011..... | 4  | 1966          |    |
| 2010..... | 2  | (NFL).....    | 22 |
| 2009..... | 4  | (AFL).....    | 10 |
| 2008..... | 5  | 1965          |    |
| 2007..... | 5  | (NFL).....    | 18 |
| 2006..... | 3  | (AFL).....    | 15 |
| 2005..... | 6  | 1964          |    |
| 2004..... | 2  | (NFL).....    | 18 |
| 2003..... | 8  | (AFL).....    | 9  |
| 2002..... | 5  | 1963          |    |
| 2001..... | 4  | (NFL).....    | 14 |
| 2000..... | 13 | (AFL).....    | 7  |
| 1999..... | 7  | 1962          |    |
| 1998..... | 8  | (NFL).....    | 13 |
| 1997..... | 13 | (AFL).....    | 8  |
| 1996..... | 17 | 1961          |    |
| 1995..... | 13 | (NFL).....    | 12 |
| 1994..... | 13 | (AFL).....    | 8  |
| 1993..... | 8  | 1960          |    |
| 1992..... | 30 | (NFL).....    | 9  |
| 1991..... | 18 | (AFL).....    | 9  |
| 1990..... | 19 | AFL BEGINS    |    |
| 1989..... | 15 | 1959.....     | 13 |
| 1988..... | 20 | 1958.....     | 7  |
| 1987..... | 16 | 1957.....     | 3  |
| 1986..... | 11 | 1956.....     | 8  |
| 1985..... | 12 | 1955.....     | 8  |
| 1984..... | 15 | 1954.....     | 1  |
| 1983..... | 22 | 1953.....     | 3  |
| 1982..... | 20 | 1952.....     | 2  |
| 1981..... | 18 | 1951.....     | 1  |
| 1980..... | 25 | 1950.....     | 1  |
| 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, there were a record 51 black college players

DAY ONE - ROUND 1

Travis Hunter

Jackson State / Colorado

Wide Receiver/Defensive Back

Shedeur Sanders

Jackson State / Colorado

Quarterback

Bhayshul Tuten

NC A&T / Virginia Tech

Running Back

Jacory Crosskey-Meritt

Alabama State / Arizona

Running Back

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

Robert McDaniel

Jackson State, DB

Carson Vinson

Alabama A&M, OL

Kenny Gallop, Jr.

Howard, DB

Aaron Smith

SC State, DB

Kendall Bohler

Florida A&M, DB

Irv Mulligan

Jackson State, RB

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 five-year span (1967 - 1971).

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 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

HEAD RATTLER: New Florida A&M men's head basketball coach **Charlie Ward** (c.) flanked by interim President Dr. Timothy L. Beard (l.) 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 (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 responsibility."

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 Carolina.

Mosley leaves Arizona State to lead Coppin State women

BALTIMORE – **Coppin State** has named **Darrell Mosley** as the 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 *WWhoopDirt.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).

© AZEEZ Communications, Inc. Vol. XXXI, No. 38