

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE

UPS AND DOWNS

AD TROUBLE AT TEXAS SOUTHERN, FAMU; UFL TITLE GAME; NEW COACH AT SAVANNAH STATE



Atlanta Falcons photo
D. J. WILLIAMS: Son of legendary Grambling and Super Bowl-winning QB takes over quarterbacks for the Atlanta Falcons.

BCSP Notes

Florida A&M AD accused of stealing \$24,000 at previous job

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -- The Associated Press reported Monday that **Florida A&M University** athletics director **Angela Suggs** has been arrested on fraud and theft charges for allegedly using a corporate credit card for personal use totaling more than \$24,000 at her former job.

FAMU Interim President **Timothy Beard** said in a statement that the university is aware of the allegations connected to her work with a "former employer."

Suggs, 55, turned herself in and was booked at the Leon County Jail. She was later released on a \$13,500 bond. She was charged with two felonies: grand theft and scheme to defraud. She also was charged with four misdemeanor counts of false claims on travel vouchers.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement said Suggs made wire transfers, cash withdrawals and personal purchases at casinos during business trips while she was the CEO of the Florida Sports Foundation.

The AP story said the investigation began last November after the FDLE received a criminal referral from the Florida Department of Commerce's Inspector General, which audited Suggs' business credit card purchases and corresponding travel reimbursements at the FSF. The FSF is a direct-support organization operating under the Florida Department of Commerce.

The audit revealed that Suggs falsified travel vouchers by coding the unauthorized charges as meals, according to the FDLE. When asked about the unauthorized charges, Suggs claimed some were for business meals and others were accidentally charged to the business card. She failed to fully repay FSF for her personal expenditures, the FDLE said.

"While the matter is unrelated to her duties as an employee at FAMU, we are monitoring the situation and will respond in the future as appropriate," Beard said.

Suggs was hired in October 2024 by Beard after the forced resignation of **Tiffani Dawn-Sykes**, part of an across-the-board leadership change at FAMU. FAMU's Board of Trustees approved a three-year contract worth \$750,000 (\$250,000 per year) for Suggs.

Texas Southern AD facing civil suit for sexual assault and harassment, responds

HOUSTON — **Texas Southern University** has placed **Dr. Kevin Granger**, the vice president of intercollegiate athletics, on administrative leave following a civil lawsuit for sexual assault and harassment.

The lawsuit was filed on June 2 by a current Texas Southern University staff member and client of well-publicized attorney Tony Buzbee's law firm in Houston. The TSU staff member claims that Dr. Granger made inappropriate comments, engaged in unwelcomed physical contact, and escalated to a groping incident in late April.

Buzbee's client is listed as the Plaintiff who is requesting "monetary relief exceeding \$1,000,000.00, which encompasses damages of all types, penalties, costs, expenses, pre-judgment interest, post-judgment interest, and attorney's fees," mentioned in the legal filing in Harris County Texas.

Buzbee is the attorney that has a history of involvement in prominent legal cases involving NFL player Deshaun Watson, Jay-Z, over 120 plaintiffs in the ongoing trial of music mogul **Sean "Diddy" Combs** and most recently **Shannon Shaarpe**.

Last Wednesday, Letitia Quinones-Hollins, the attorney for Granger, sent a prepared statement to **HBCU Legends**.

"These are serious allegations, and they deserve a serious response, which we will make at the appropriate time and in court. In the meantime, I can tell you that no sexual assault occurred and any indication that it did, is false. Dr. Granger is an incredibly well-respected part of the TSU community and his work there, over many years, has created opportunities for the school and its students that did not exist before."

The statement marked the first response from representatives of Dr. Granger since the longtime TSU athletics department leader was served with legal action against him.

Granger is a Texas Southern athletics legend since his days of becoming an NCAA basketball scoring leader averaging 27 points per game in the 1996 season. While playing for the legendary basketball coach **Robert Moreland**, his 1,971 career points scored makes Granger the fifth-leading scorer in TSU history.

The two-time Black College Basketball All-American and **Southwestern Athletic Conference** Basketball Tournament MVP (1994) has been inducted into the Hall of Fames for Texas Southern Athletics and the SWAC.

Norfolk State vs. Delaware State football moved from Dover to Philly's Lincoln Financial Field

New **Norfolk State** head coach **Michael Vick** and new **Delaware State** head coach **DeSean Jackson**, the hottest new names and faces in 2025 black college football, will have a Thursday, Oct. 30 meeting of their teams at their former NFL home, Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia.

Delaware State is substituting the game in Philly for a home game originally scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 1 at Alumni Stadium in Dover, DE.

Vick and Jackson played at Lincoln Field and were teammates and standouts with the Philadelphia Eagles for five seasons (2009-13). During the time, Vick, a QB out of Virginia Tech, passed for over 9,000 yards and 57 touchdowns while Jackson, a receiver out of UC Berkeley, posted three 1,000-yard receiving seasons and scored 30 TDs.

Jackson earned three Pro Bowl nods with Philadelphia in 2009, 2010, and 2013, and he was named second team All-Pro in 2009. In 2010 alone, Vick earned a Pro Bowl nod, the **Bert Bell Award**, which is given to the best football player that season, and he was named the **NFL Comeback Player of the Year**.

In the Eagles' official press release, Chief Operating Officer Frank Gumienny said, "...Lincoln Financial Field is excited to serve as the host venue for this highly anticipated HBCU matchup. We look forward to shining a much-deserved spotlight on the Delaware State and Norfolk State football programs."

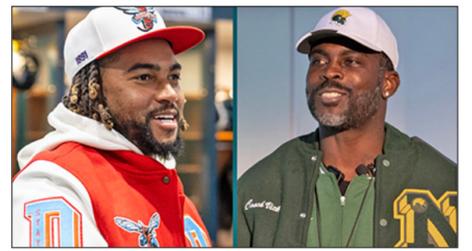
In a statement, Jackson said, "I came to Delaware State University to start a new phase of my career with a unique institution that cares about its students and is helping to transform their futures. I know Coach Vick feels the same way at Norfolk State."

"A part of that transformation is opening our students and scholar-athletes up to a whole new set of experiences at the highest level. For our teams to be playing in Philly, at Lincoln Financial Field, on the field Coach Vick and I called home for many years, will be special for our players, our coaching staffs, our alumni and fans, and for HBCU culture around the country."

"Today's announcement represents a significant and historic milestone for our university and the **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference**,"

FORMER TEAMMATES:

Former Philadelphia Eagles' teammates **DeSean Jackson** (l.) and **Michael Vick** (r.) will square off at Lincoln Financial Field, home of the Eagles, on October 30 when their new teams meet. Jackson is the new head coach at Delaware State and Vick is the new coach at Norfolk State.



DelState sports photo Norfolk State sports photo

Norfolk State Director of Athletics **Dr. Melody Webb** said.

"I am deeply appreciative of the shared vision demonstrated by Norfolk State President **Dr. Javaune Adams-Gaston**, Delaware State University President **Dr. Tony Allen** and Director of Athletics **Tony Tucker** in making this opportunity a reality. "A game of this magnitude deserves a national platform, and I would like to commend the Philadelphia Eagles organization for providing us with an amazing venue for this highly anticipated event. This matchup will highlight the talent and legacy of HBCU football."

All will have to hope the teams enter their late October matchup in better shape than either team posted a season ago. Delaware State is looking to bounce back from its 1-11 (0-5 MEAC) record in 2024 under former head coach **Lee Hull**. Norfolk State is coming off a 2024 campaign of 4-8 (2-3 MEAC) under **Dawson Odums**.

Tickets for the Delaware State-Norfolk State game will go on sale on Tuesday, June 17 at 10 a.m. on ticketmaster.com.

The Norfolk State vs. Delaware State football game in Philadelphia is expected to be streamed live on ESPN+ as part of the MEAC's agreement, which states that all conference matchups will be streamed on ESPN+.

However, the official broadcast designation for this specific game has not yet been formally announced and will be confirmed closer to the game.

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Interim tag removed, Thompson named Savannah State men's basketball head coach

Savannah, GA - **Savannah State University** has officially named **Clevan Thompson** as the head coach of the men's basketball program. Appointed interim head coach on January 6th after the midseason retirement of former head coach **Horace Broadnax**, Thompson now becomes the 12th head coach in the history of the program.

"We are pleased to officially announce Coach Thompson as the head coach of our men's basketball program," Savannah State Director of Athletics **Opio Mashariki** said Friday. "He has been an integral part of the team's growth over the past couple of seasons and understands what it takes to build a winning culture. After leading the team to a championship last season, we are confident that he is the right person to lead our program forward."

Thompson led the Tigers to a 13-6 mark since being named the interim coach, including an unblemished 7-0 mark at home, and clinched the 2025 **SIAC** Men's Basketball Tournament Championship with a last-second 67-66 win over **Tuskegee**. The title win earned the Tigers a berth in the NCAA Division II Men's Basketball Tournament where they lost to Nova Southeastern, 76-64.

"I'm truly grateful for the opportunity to represent my alma mater, Savannah State University—a place that has played such a meaningful role in shaping the person I am today," Coach Thompson said. "It's an honor to give back to a community that has given so much to me."

A 2003 graduate of Savannah State with a bachelor's degree in computer information systems, Thompson has been a part of the SSU men's basketball program since the 2023-2024 season.

Prior to returning to SSU, Thompson spent nearly two decades as the head boys' basketball coach at nearby Bethesda Academy, where he led the Blazers to 265 victories, twelve Final Four Appearances, six state title appearances, and two state championships. His teams claimed 2012 the Georgia Independent School Association (GISA) State Championship, and the 2015 South Carolina Independent School (SCISA) Class AAA Title.

Thompson further added, "I believe basketball is more than just a game—it's a powerful tool to inspire, teach, and mold young people into hardworking, resilient, and service-minded leaders. My vision is to build a program that not only chases excellence on the court but also leaves a lasting impact off of it. Together, we will strive for a level of success that reflects the pride, passion, and potential of Savannah State like never before."

A press conference will be scheduled and announced at a later date.

Son of black college legend Doug Williams named quarterbacks coach of the Atlanta Falcons

D. J. Williams, the son of legendary Grambling and Super Bowl-winning quarterback **Doug Williams**, has officially been promoted to quarterbacks coach for the Atlanta Falcons.

Williams, who served as the Falcons' assistant quarterbacks coach and offensive assistant last season, will now take the reins of a pivotal position as the team looks to develop its next generation of signal-callers.

Williams has steadily climbed the coaching ranks ladder since his days as a standout quarterback at Grambling. After graduating in 2015, DJ Williams had tryouts with several NFL teams before pivoting to coaching.

He joined the New Orleans Saints' staff in 2019 spending five seasons as an offensive assistant and played a key role in developing quarterbacks. In 2023, he helped Derek Carr achieve a top-10 NFL ranking in completions, touchdowns, and passer rating. In 2024, Williams moved to Atlanta, joining the Falcons as an offensive assistant and assistant quarterbacks coach. He worked closely with veteran Kirk Cousins and promising rookie Michael Penix Jr., earning praise for his ability to connect with players and translate complex offensive concepts. Veteran Taylor Heinicke joins the Falcons' quarterback room for the 2025 season.

Williams has also been a regular at the **NFL/Black College Football Hall of Fame Quarterback Coaching Summit** and served as the National Team quarterbacks coach at the 2023 Senior Bowl, further solidifying his standing among up-and-coming coaches in the league.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS



UFL photo

VICTORY ICE BATH: Former Tennessee State quarterback and current DC Defenders' interim head coach **Shannon Harris** absorbs an ice bath after his squad defeated the St. Louis Battlehawks 36-18 Sunday to earn a spot in this Saturday's UFL Championship game. The Defenders will face the Michigan Panthers at 8 p.m. EDT in the title game on ABC.

BLACK COLLEGE ALUMS POWER DC DEFENDERS TO SATURDAY'S UFL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME:

A former black college player will be at the helm of the DC Defenders Saturday and will lead several other former black college players when they face the Michigan Panthers for the second UFL championship.

Defenders' interim head coach **Shannon Harris** is a former quarterback at **Tennessee State** who took over this season after former Defenders' head coach **Reggie Barlow**, an **Alabama State** alum, left to become head coach at Harris's alma mater, TSU.

Harris also resigned from the Defenders to join Barlow at TSU but Barlow clarified that Harris and the Defenders coaching staff would finish out the 2025 season in DC before joining him in Tennessee.

The Defenders (7-4) will face the Michigan Panthers in the title game after defeating the St. Louis Battlehawks 36-18 Sunday in the XFL Conference title game. The Panthers (7-4) defeated the Birmingham Stallions 44-29 Sunday in the USFL Conference championship game.

After the semifinal win, Harris gave credit to Barlow. "We owe a lot to Coach Barlow," Harris said. "The foundation... been laid from year one, from 2023, and we just followed suit. It came down to us, we and ours... I'm so happy for these guys and the coaching staff that stayed together."

As a former quarterback at TSU, Harris set a school record for total offense in a season with 3,137 yards in 2001. Prior to joining Barlow with the Defenders as quarterbacks coach, Harris coached as an offensive assistant at **Virginia State**, **Alabama State**, **Hampton**, **Alcorn State** and TSU.

The Defenders' roster also features veteran wide receiver/kick returner **Chris Rowland**, another Tennessee State product, who was named to the All-UFL first team this season at both receiver and kick returner. He had five receptions for 42 yards in Sunday's win. Former **Virginia State** defensive back **Willie Drew** of the Defenders had one solo tackle Sunday. Former **Alcorn State** running back **Jarven Howard** ran for five yards on five carries and caught two receptions for 19 yards for the Battlehawks.

The 2025 UFL championship game is set for this Saturday, June 14, 2025, at The Dome at America's Center in St. Louis, Missouri. The game begins at 8:00 p.m. EDT and will air on ABC.

ARMSTEAD EXPLAINS RETIREMENT:

Former **Arkansas-Pine Bluff** standout offensive tackle **Terron Armstead** who earned five Pro Bowl appearances in an excellent 12-year NFL career, told **Shannon Sharpe** and Chad Johnson on their *Nightime Podcast* why he has decided to retire.

"God blessed me with so many great moments, great years and a great career, but my injury history is extensive," the 34-year old vet who played for New England and Miami, said. "The biggest part for me is my body. I still love this game; mentally, cerebrally, I could play this game forever. Physically, my body is slowing down."

"I've been dealing with a knee issue since my third year in the league. I didn't see a practice field and that's not because the Dolphins didn't want me to or I wanted to rest; I couldn't walk after games. I was only able to play under pain meds. I couldn't put any pressure on my knee, so it was like 'I can't keep doing that to myself.'"