

# BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



Prairie View A&M sports photo

## FLIPPIN' THE SCRIPT

**TREMAINE JACKSON:** An HBCU-best 22 FBS transfers have joined the new Prairie View A&M head football coach.

**FBS TO HBCU FCS NUMBERS; JACKSON STATE'S DYNAMIC DUO; NBA TO SHOWCASE TWO HBCUS**

# BCSP Notes

## Dynamic receiving duo at Jackson State featured in Hero Sports FCS preview

The only two black college players to make Sam Herder's *Preseason FCS Preview Central* for *Hero Sports'* list of the 30 best returning wide receivers in 2025 FCS football are both at defending SWAC and *Celebration Bowl* champion **Jackson State** – redshirt juniors **Nathan Rembert** and **Joanes Fortilien**.



Fortilien

Fortilien, a 6-5, 220-pound match-up nightmare at wideout, is the player that lit up MEAC champion **South Carolina State** for TD receptions of 4 and 14 yards in JSU's 28-7 win in last year's *Celebration Bowl*. In both scoring receptions on fade patterns in the end zone, Fortilien used his size to hold off defenders.

Fortilien is particularly a weapon in the redzone where he led the SWAC last season with 11 TD receptions off a total of 41 receptions for 627 yards. That is one TD for every 3.8 receptions. He was identified as the 28th best FCS receiver.

With Rembert, a first team all-SWAC transfer from **Mississippi Valley State**, as his receiving partner and *Celebration Bowl* MVP **Jacobian Morgan** returning as his quarterback, Fortilien should put up better numbers this season.

The 5-9, 180-pound Rembert is a stunning contrast to Fortilien. He lit up the SWAC at 1-11 MVSU last season tying for league bests with 70 receptions for 1,038 yards, averaging 81 receiving yards per game. Both the latter stats were second-best in the league. Needless to say, he was the lone bright spot for the Delta Devils and the only MVSU player to earn all-SWAC status. He decided to stay at Jackson State after briefly stating in April that he was entering the transfer portal.

Before moving to MVSU, Rembert was a standout at **Edward Waters** of the **SIAC** in 2023 where he averaged 22.8 yards per catch en route to earning first-team all-conference honors. He is rated seventh among returning FCS receivers.

A 2024 black college player that likely would have made Herder's FCS list is former **Tennessee State** wideout **Karate Brenson** who transferred to FBS and ACC member Wake Forest. The 6-2, 215-pounder totalled 79 catches for 1,088 yards and six touchdowns in 2024, the most by any Tigers receiver since **Chris Rowland** caught 104 passes for 1,437 yards and eight touchdowns in 2019.



Rembert

Herder's wide receiver list, topped by North Dakota State's 6-3, 208-pound Bryce Lance, who he pegs as the top FCS prospect for the 2026 NFL Draft, is online at <https://herosports.com/fcs-football-top-returning-2025-wide-receivers-bzbz/>.

### BEST RETURNING FCS WIDE RECEIVERS

7. Nathan "Nate" Rembert, Jackson State (transfer from Miss. Valley State)  
Redshirt Junior, 5-9, 180  
2024: 12 games, 70 receptions (T1st in SWAC), 1,038 yards (2nd), 4 TDs (T6th), 14.8 ypr. (12th), 86.5 rypp. (2nd) - 1st team all-SWAC  
2023 (at Edward Waters): 9 games, 32 receptions (13th), 730 yards (5th), 22.8 ypg. (2nd), 8 TDs (2nd), 81.1 rypp. (4th) - 1st team all-SIAC
28. Joanes Fortilien, Jackson State  
Redshirt Junior, 6-5, 220  
2024: 13 games, 41 receptions (T7th), 627 yds. (6th), 11 TDs (1st), 44.8 ypg. (8th)  
2 TD receptions in Celebration Bowl  
2023: 7 games, 4 receptions, 33 yds., 1 TD

## Transfers going both ways: More leaving FBS for HBCU FCS than the other way around

Last week the BCSP published Sam Herder of *Hero Sports'* list of the 70 players leaving the black college FCS ranks for FBS programs.

This week, we feature Herder's list of 117 players moving to black college FCS programs from the FBS (see **THE STAT CORNER**).

While new, much ballyhooded former NFL standouts and now HBCU head coaches **DeSean Jackson** at **Delaware State** and **Michael Vick** at **Norfolk State** have each signed six Div. I players, they are by no means the leaders in this category.

That distinction goes to new **Prairie View A&M** head coach **Tremaine Jackson** who has brought in 22 players from the FBS ranks seeking a quick turnaround from last season's 5-7 mark. Jackson, a **Texas Southern** graduate, led Valdosta State to the No. 1 ranking in NCAA Div. II football a year ago and said he intends to land the Panthers at the top of the SWAC race in his first season.

"We're not here to be an elite SWAC school," Jackson has declared. "We're here to be a premier, elite FCS program."

**Florida A&M** second-year head man **James Colzie III** garnered the second most FBS transfers with 17. The Rattlers are coming off a 7-5 campaign in 2024.

New **Tennessee State** head man **Reggie Barlow** is bringing in 12 FBS transfers looking to continue the progress the Tigers made last season under head coach **Eddie George** who left to take over at Bowling Green. George's TSU troops finished 9-4 overall and with a share of the Big South/OVC title at 6-2. Not one to rest on his laurels, **Jackson State** head man **T. C. Taylor** and his staff landed ten FBS transfers to be the fourth HBCU to get double-digit transfers from Div. I this season.

# THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

## FBS TO HBCU FCS TRANSFERS

NAME	POS	FBS TEAM	FCS TEAM
Kiel Eldridge (Jr)	DL	Toledo	Alabama A&M
JD Davis II (rFR)	QB	Western Michigan	Alabama A&M
JR Gardner (So)	RB	Alabama	Alabama State
Braylen Ragland (So)	QB	Georgia State	Alabama State
Marvin Lee (So)	OL	Jacksonville State	Alabama State
Te'Sean Smoot (So)	QB	Jacksonville State	Alabama State
Jaylen Jarret (So)	DT	Kennesaw	Alabama State
Deontre Morris (Sr)	DB	Kennesaw	Alabama State
Josh Washington (So)	TE	Mississippi State	Alabama State
Alan Wright (Sr)	DB	Vanderbilt	Alabama State
Jarvis Rush (Sr)	WR	Akron	Alcorn State
Ja'Coby Matthews (Sr)	WR	FIU	Alcorn State
Tabias Hinton (So)	LB	Mississippi State	Alcorn State
Damion Miller (rFR)	DB	Southern Miss	Alcorn State
Josh Richards (So)	WR	Maryland	Ark.-Pine Bluff
Timothy McClain (Sr)	QB	Arkansas State	B.-Cookman
Amari Jones (Jr)	QB	FIU	B.-Cookman
Maleek McNeil (Sr)	OL	Georgia State	B.-Cookman
Devin Gunter (Sr)	DB	Nevada	B.-Cookman
Montravius Lloyd (So)	RB	Pitt	B.-Cookman
Elija Payne (So)	OL	Arizona	Delaware State
Derek Boyd II (Jr)	RB	Hawaii	Delaware State
Anthony Arnou (Sr)	QB	Michigan	Delaware State
Antonio Gates Jr. (So)	WR	Michigan State	Delaware State
Alexander Cobbs (So)	LB	San Jose State	Delaware State
Reese Clark (Jr)	TE	Temple	Delaware State
Jalik Thomas (Sr)	DB	App State	Florida A&M
Anthony Rosier (rFR)	OLB	App State	Florida A&M
Tyler Jefferson (So)	QB	Central Michigan	Florida A&M
Tequan Latimore (Sr)	DB	Charlotte	Florida A&M
Daylyn Diston (So)	DB	ECU	Florida A&M
Gavin Hill (rFR)	TE	Florida	Florida A&M
Lawrence Wright IV (rFR)	QB	Florida	Florida A&M
Xavier Perkins (So)	DE	Florida State	Florida A&M
Kenari Wilcher (Jr)	WR	Illinois	Florida A&M
Jahon Myers (Sr)	DL	Kennesaw	Florida A&M
Mozell Williams (Jr)	OL	Rutgers	Florida A&M
RJ Johnson III (So)	QB	Toledo	Florida A&M
Isiah Davis (Jr)	DB	UConn	Florida A&M
DJ Jones (Jr)	DL	Virginia	Florida A&M
Andrew Abu-Akel (So)	K	Western Michigan	Florida A&M
Jamal Hailey (Jr)	RB	Western Michigan	Florida A&M
Decoldest Crawford (So)	WR	LA Tech	Grambling
Adam Lamar (Sr)	DL	LA Tech	Grambling
Tyrell Raby (Sr)	DB	Middle TN State	Grambling
Jaz Boykin (So)	DB	Indiana	Hampton
Maxwell Moss (Jr)	WR	JMU	Hampton
Keion Mitchell (Sr)	DL	San Diego State	Howard
Carmello Jones (Jr)	LB	Baylor	Jackson State
Carmelo Jones (So)	LB	Baylor	Jackson State
Jamari Broady (Jr)	DB	Charlotte	Jackson State
Quincy Ivory (Jr)	DE	Florida	Jackson State
Kameron Sallis (So)	LB	Kansas State	Jackson State
Donerio Davenport (Sr)	RB	LA Tech	Jackson State
Khamauri Rogers (Jr)	DB	Mississippi State	Jackson State
Kenan Christon (Sr)	RB	San Diego State	Jackson State
Vernorris Chaney (Sr)	DB	Southern Miss	Jackson State
Jaylan Ware (Sr)	DT	ULM	Jackson State
Isaiah Atchison (Fr)	WR	Central Michigan	Miss. Valley State
Brandon Nunez (Sr)	QB	New Mexico State	Miss. Valley State
Dante Kelly (So)	LB	Southern Miss	Miss. Valley State
Joshiah Bushnell (rFR)	QB	Air Force	Morgan State
Hiroshi Carr (Jr)	DB	Air Force	Morgan State
Jerrold Burrell (Sr)	OL	Akron	Morgan State
Evan Cooke (So)	OL	Kent State	Morgan State
John Burris III (Sr)	DB	UTEP	Morgan State
Khalib Gilmore (Sr)	LB	Ball State	Norfolk State
Kendric Nowling (Sr)	LB	Eastern Michigan	Norfolk State
Earl Woods III (So)	QB	Kennesaw	Norfolk State
BJ Blake (Sr)	DB	LA Tech	Norfolk State
Rontravious Perry (Sr)	LB	New Mexico State	Norfolk State
Daniel Ademisoye (Jr)	OL	Tulsa	Norfolk State
Israel Carter (Jr)	QB	USF	Norfolk State
Ryan Stephens (Jr)	WR	ECU	N. Carolina A&T
Champ Long (So)	QB	Maryland	N. Carolina A&T
Cameron Bonner (Sr)	WR	Baylor	Prairie View A&M
Cornelius Davis (Jr)	DB	Campbell	Prairie View A&M
Ray'Quan Bell (rFR)	OL	Houston	Prairie View A&M
Trae Davis (rFR)	WR	Kansas State	Prairie View A&M
Ja'Koby Banks (Jr)	WR	Memphis	Prairie View A&M
Cameron Pascal (Sr)	OL	Memphis	Prairie View A&M
Calvin McMillan (Sr)	OL	Memphis	Prairie View A&M
Matthew Moore (So)	LB	North Texas	Prairie View A&M
Ellis Bynum (Jr)	RB	Oregon	Prairie View A&M
Ashton Ojiaku (rFR)	DB	Rice	Prairie View A&M
Jalen O'Neal (So)	DB	Sam Houston	Prairie View A&M
Jyzaiah Rockwell (Jr)	WR	Sam Houston	Prairie View A&M
Malik Gucake (Sr)	DE	San Diego State	Prairie View A&M
Donte Thompson (Sr)	DB	Texas State	Prairie View A&M
Darrell Starling (Sr)	DB	Troy	Prairie View A&M
Joshua Goines (So)	TE	Tulane	Prairie View A&M
Mandel Eugene (Jr)	LB	Tulane	Prairie View A&M
Travor Randle (Sr)	DB	ULM	Prairie View A&M
Brandon Campbell (Sr)	RB	UMass	Prairie View A&M
Michael Ray Jr. (Sr)	DB	UTEP	Prairie View A&M
Aiden Webb (rFR)	K	UTEP	Prairie View A&M
CK Carter (Sr)	OL	UTEP	Prairie View A&M
Michael Lunz II (Sr)	LB	Tulane	S. Carolina State
Mike Franklin (Sr)	RB	Jacksonville State	Southern
Xavier Franks (Sr)	WR	Southern Miss	Tennessee State
Jackson Howell (So)	OL	Alabama	Tennessee State
Jack Brandon (Sr)	QB	Boston College	Tennessee State
Breon Brown (So)	OL	JMU	Tennessee State
Jayden Cook (So)	CB	Kansas State	Tennessee State
Tyson Edwards (So)	WR	Memphis	Tennessee State
James Stewart (Sr)	DE	Middle TN State	Tennessee State
Caleb Reid (rFR)	OLB	Middle TN State	Tennessee State
Shamar Crawford (Jr)	OL	Middle TN State	Tennessee State
Syncore Safeeullah (So)	DB	Nebraska	Tennessee State
Caleb McCreary (rFR)	QB	Troy	Tennessee State
Brock Montgomery (rFR)	WR	UConn	Tennessee State
Jelani Willis (Sr)	LB	Western Michigan	Tennessee State
Jaheim Miller (rFR)	DB	FAU	Texas Southern
Garfield Lawrence (Sr)	DL	Houston	Texas Southern
Justice Ugo (Sr)	DB	Houston	Texas Southern
Khalib Johnson (Jr)	QB	Kennesaw	Texas Southern
Jordyn Morgan (Jr)	DB	LA Tech	Texas Southern
Xavier Phipps (rFR)	WR	UTEP	Texas Southern

# BCSP Tidbits



Jerry Mack



Willie Simmons

## Two former HBCU head coaches in EA Sports College Football '26

*College Football '26*, a video game from EA Sports, is set to drop this week and two former black college head coaches will get some screen-time in the game, according to a story published this week by HBCU Gameday founder **Steven J. Gaither** on the Gameday website (<https://hbcugameday.com/2025/07/05/college-football-26-to-feature-two-former-hbcu-coaches/>).

Former **Florida A&M** head man **Willie Simmons** is set to make his debut as a coach in the series as he starts his career as the new head coach at Florida International University (FIU).

**Jerry Mack**, a former **MEAC** championship-winning head man at **North Carolina Central** who went 31-15 during four years leading the Eagles, will be in the game as the new head coach at Kennesaw State University. Mack was hired just ahead of Simmons.

This year's game is the second since the EA Sports series restarted in 2024, re-branding as *College Football* instead of using the previous NCAA Football moniker. Last year's game didn't use the names, images or likenesses of real coaches, but this year's game will.

Simmons was hired as FIU head coach in December after spending one season at Duke as a running backs coach and recruiting coordinator. Before he left FAMU he took the program back to the top of the HBCU football world, winning the **SWAC** title and *Celebration Bowl* in 2023.

He compiled a 45-13 record in five years at FAMU (2018-23), 32-5 in conference play. He also went 21-11 in three years as head man at **Prairie View A&M** (2015-17).

Simmons previously appeared in the college football video game, however. During his playing days as a quarterback at Clemson from 2000-2002 he was on the game. But he was simply quarterback No. 7, as no player names were used during that iteration of the game.

After leaving NCCU, Mack had stints as the offensive coordinator and associate head coach at Rice (2018-20), running backs coach at Tennessee (2021-23) and running backs coach for the NFL's Jacksonville Jaguars in 2024.

No HBCUs will be natively featured in this game as FCS schools haven't been a part of the product for over 15 years.

The global release date for *College Football '26* is July 10, but it is available earlier if you want to spend a little more.

## Three former black college players in NBA Summer Leagues

Three black college players – one vet and two rookies – have and will hit the floor as NBA Summer League season play began over the weekend.

Former **Winston-Salem State** standout **Javonte Cooke** was on the NBA Miami Heat's roster for the 2025 California Classic Summer League that played from July 5-8 and is expected to be on the roster when the Heat play in the NBA 2K26 Summer League in Las Vegas from July 10-20.

Cooke, a 6-6 guard, played last season for the Oklahoma City Blue, the NBA G-League affiliate of the 2025 NBA champion Oklahoma City Thunder. He started 10 of 11 games, averaging 30.5 minutes per game, third highest on the team. He finished the season averaging 18.0 points per game, also third best on the team, while shooting 41.1 percent from the field and 35.4 percent from 3-point range.

He spent the previous two seasons playing for the Minnesota Timberwolves G-League's Iowa Wolves. He averaged 8.0 ppg. in five starts (25 games) of the 2022-23 season and 16.8 ppg. in 27 starts (32 games) in the 2023-24 season.

He averaged 17.5 points, 3.9 rebounds 1.5 assists and 1.8 steals per game in his lone season at WSSU. He finished that season fifth in the **CIAA** in scoring, sixth in field goal percentage and first in 3-point field goal percentage and 3-point field goals per game.

**Alabama State** guard **TJ Madlock** received an invitation from the Detroit Pistons to participate in the 2025 NBA Summer League, according to Jon Chepkevich. The 6-3 senior was a key part of the Hornets' run to this season's **SWAC** championship and NCAA Tournament appearance. He averaged 12.5 points per game on the season, third-best on the team, while shooting 42.4 percent from the field and 29.2 percent from beyond the arc. He started all 31 games at ASU under his father **Tony Madlock** in the 2023-24 season and all 31 games under his father at **South Carolina State** in the 2021-22 season. He scored at a 11.2 ppg. in 23-24 at ASU and 12.7 ppg. as a freshman at SCSU.

Also named this week to a Summer League squad is former **Hampton** standout **Noah Farrakhan**. The 6-1 guard was added to the San Antonio Spurs roster for the California Classic SL. Before Hampton, Farrakhan played one season at Big 12 Conference member West Virginia.

At Hampton this season, the New Jersey native averaged 14.2 points per game, shooting 43 percent from the field, 10th-best in the Coastal Athletic Association (CAA). He finished in double figures on 21 occasions during the 2024-25 campaign and was named to the All-CAA Third Team.



Cooke



Madlock



Farrakhan

## NC A&T/Hampton to meet in 5th NBA HBCU Classic

RICHMOND, Va. (July 8, 2025) – The Coastal Athletic Association, **Hampton University** and **North Carolina A&T State University** announced Tuesday that an in-conference matchup between the two storied institutions will take place in the 2026 NBA HBCU Classic, presented by AT&T, as part of NBA All-Star Weekend 2026 in Los Angeles.

In conjunction with the NBA, the date, tip-off time, location and broadcast information will be announced at a later date.

"The CAA is excited to partner with the NBA in showcasing the Hampton and North Carolina A&T men's basketball programs in a conference matchup set to take place in the NBA HBCU Classic," said CAA Commissioner Joe D'Antonio.

"The NBA has been a consistent supporter in bringing elevated exposure to HBCUs. The ability to work with the world's premier organization for basketball is an incredible opportunity that aligns with the core values of the conference and its membership in maintaining the importance of being 'United in Excellence'. We are eager to see two of our institutions shine at NBA All-Star 2026 in February."

The 2026 NBA HBCU Classic presented by AT&T is a continuation of the NBA's commitment to increasing support and awareness for HBCU athletics and advancing educational, career and economic opportunities in partnership with HBCUs. Previous games have featured match-ups of **MEAC**, **SWAC**, **CIAA** and **SIAC** teams.

"We are incredibly honored and excited for Hampton Men's Basketball to participate in the 2026 NBA HBCU Classic during NBA All-Star 2026 in Los Angeles" said Hampton University Director of Intercollegiate Athletics **Anthony D. Henderson, Sr.**

"North Carolina A&T State University looks forward to taking our wonderful college basketball rivalry with Hampton University, steeped with rich history of both historically black institutions, and showcase it to the world at the 2026 NBA HBCU Classic during NBA All-Star 2026 in Los Angeles," said North Carolina A&T Athletics Director, **Earl M. Hilton III**.



BCSP photo

**CAA CLASSIC:** (L. to r.) NC A&T Chancellor Dr. James R. Martin II is joined by Coastal Athletic Association (CAA) Commissioner Joe D'Antonio and NC A&T head men's basketball coach Monte' Ross at Tuesday's press conference announcing that the Aggies will play fellow CAA member Hampton in February's 2026 NBA HBCU Classic during NBA All-Star weekend in Los Angeles.