

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



Delaware State Sports photo

CAMP TIME FOR HBCUs & PROS

44 IN NFL CAMPS; LOW EXPECTATIONS FOR HAMPTON, NC A&T IN CAA FOOTBALL; SWAC, SIAC TV SCHEDULES

STAN WATERMAN: Gets three-year extension to continue progress of Delaware State men's basketball.

Preseason CAA: Hampton 11th, NC A&T 14th

Hampton is predicted to finish 11th and North Carolina A&T is picked last in the pre-season voting of head coaches in the 14-member Coastal Athletic Association (CAA).

Additionally, only two players, one from Hampton and one from NC A&T, were voted as first team All-CAA selections.

The picks were unveiled last Wednesday (July 23) as the conference held its preseason Football Media Day online.

HAMPTON

Hampton is coming off a 5-7 overall mark in 2024, 2-6 in CAA play, in its first year under head coach **Trenton Boykin**. The Pirates went 4-0 against HBCU competition and four of their conference losses were by single digits last season.



Boykin

Boykin focused on last season and his projections for this season at Media Day.

"Our team stuck together in tough times, both during the season and through the winter and spring," he said.

"We want to go out there, execute, and be 1-0 on Saturday. If we do that, we'll reach the goals we're after."

Statistically and on the field, the Pirates were very competitive excelling on both sides of the ball.

The offense increased its scoring output from 23.3 points per game to 29.6, an increase of 6.3. The Pirate offense ranked second in

the CAA in rushing, averaging 195.8 yards per game with 32 touchdowns.

Defensively, Hampton led the CAA in total defense yielding 317.7 yards per game, placing them 22nd nationally in the FCS. The Pirate pass defense was tops in the CAA with just 167.8 yards per game and the team had 19 takeaways with 32 sacks.

The Pirates return four starters each on offense and defense and three on special teams.

The lone preseason all-CAA selection is senior long snapper **Jonathan Ward**. Redshirt sophomore safety **Will Hicks** (6-2, 195), who posted 48 tackles, 24 solos, one interception and four pass-break-ups, is the top returning tackler. He received preseason honorable mention.

Redshirt senior running back **Ja'Quan Snipes** (6-1, 215) is back after rushing for 561 yards (5.6 yards per carry) and six TDs. Redshirt sophomore **Marshawn Ferguson Jr.** (5-9, 180) is the top returning receiver. He had 24 catches for 248 yards and two TDs in 2024.

NC A&T

North Carolina A&T finished 1-11 overall, 0=8 in CAA play in its second year under former head coach **Vincent Brown**. It was the Aggies second straight 0-8 mark under Brown.

Former 11-year A&T running backs coach **Shawn Gibbs** left after three years as the head coach at **Fort Valley State** to assume the reins of the program hoping

to return the Aggies to their winning ways.

On his return to A&T, Gibbs said, "No. 1, it's home for me – the state of North Carolina is home. North Carolina A&T is where I spent the majority of my career. And I believe in the potential of this university. I think we have great people, great players, had great coaches, have a great alumni base, No. 1 HBCU in the world. So it was a no-brainer for me."

Gibbs spoke of rebuilding the winning culture and finding the best players in and out of the state to fit that culture.

Fifth-year offensive line starter **Korion Sharpe** (6-4, 315) was the lone Aggie picked to the preseason first team. Defensive back/kick returner, redshirt senior **Aaron Harris** (5-11, 185) who averaged 29.9 yards per kick return with one TD and had 30 tackles, one interception and nine pass break-ups, received honorable mention.

Settling on a quarterback will be one of the big decisions coming out of fall practice as well as finding capable receivers. The top three receivers from 2024 are no longer on the roster.

Junior **Shimique Blizzard** (5-8, 191) returns as the leading rusher (431 yards, 3 TDs). Redshirt junior **Cameron Dalrymple** (6-0, 174) had 276 rushing yards and one TD. Veteran **Wesley Graves** (5-9, 225) returns after playing in only four games because of injury.

Redshirt juniors **Steven Davis II** (6-1, 170) at cornerback and **Mack David II** (5-11, 240) at linebacker return as the top tacklers with 45 and 51 stops between them. Mack also had 3.5 sacks.

THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

BLACK COLLEGE PLAYERS IN NFL TRAINING CAMPS

Forty-five (45) players from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), including 15 rookies, are in NFL training camps as the process begins of sorting out who will make the rosters of all 32 teams in the 2025 season.

Training camps began on July 15 thru July 23 with the Los Angeles Chargers and Detroit Lions – who will face off in the first preseason game, the Hall of Fame Game, this Saturday July 31 in Canton, Ohio – the first two teams to have rookies and veterans report. Chargers veterans reported on July 16, while Lions veterans reported on July 19.

Thirty-four (34) black college players were on 2024 opening day NFL rosters. Notably absent from this year's list are veterans **Antonio Hamilton** (South Carolina State) and **Ricky Lee** (North Carolina A&T).

How many of these players will make opening day rosters in 2025?

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE (AFC, 21)						
NO.	NAME	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE
BALTIMORE RAVENS (1)						
71	Carson Vinson	OT	6-7	320	R	Alabama A&M
BUFFALO BILLS (1)						
29	Brandon Coddington	CB	5' 9"	185	2	North Carolina Central
CINCINNATI BENGALS (0)						
CLEVELAND BROWNS (3)						
72	Jason Ivey	OT	6-5	300	R	North Carolina A&T
83	Kisean Johnson	WR	6-0	216	R	Alabama State/W. Kentucky
12	Shedeur Sanders	QB	6-1	212	R	Jackson State/Colorado
DENVER BRONCOS (2)						
80	Joaquin Davis	WR	6-4	195	R	North Carolina Central
53	Andrew Farmer	OLB	6-3	250	2	Lane College
HOUSTON TEXANS (1)						
71	Tytus Howard	OT/OG	6-5	322	7	Alabama State
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS (3)						
61	Devonta Davis	DT	6-3	300	R	Jackson State/Florida Atlantic
55	Isaiah Land	DE	6-3	235	3	Florida A&M
90	Grover Stewart	DT	6-4	314	9	Albany State
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS (3)						
12	Travis Hunter	WR/CB	6-0	185	R	Jackson State/Colorado
32	Cam/Ron Simmon-Craig	S	5-10	185	R	Jackson State/Colorado
33	Bhayskul Tuten	RB	5-9	209	R	NC A&T/Virginia Tech
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS (2)						
6	Bryan Cook	S	6-1	206	4	Howard/Cincinnati
2	Joshua Williams	CB	6-3	193	4	Fayetteville State
LAS VEGAS RAIDERS (0)						
LOS ANGELES CHARGERS (0)						
MIAMI DOLPHINS (2)						
56	Quinton Bell	OLB	6-3	258	4	Prairie View A&M
71	Kion Smith	OL	6-5	300	3	Fayetteville State
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS (2)						
29	Isaiah Bolden	CB	6-26	205	3	Jackson State
26	Terrell Jennings	RB	6-0	217	1	Florida A&M
NEW YORK JETS (1)						
48	Aaron Boog Smith	LB	6-1	230	R	South Carolina State
PITTSBURGH STEELERS (0)						
TENNESSEE TITANS (0)						
NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE (NFC, 24)						
NO.	NAME	POS	HT	WR	EXP	COLLEGE
ATLANTA FALCONS (4)						
19	Chris Blair	WR	6-2	215	2	Alcorn State
4	Khadarell Hodge	WR	6-2	210	6	Prairie View A&M
75	Brandon Parker	OT	6-8	320	8	North Carolina A&T
74	Tyrone Wheatley Jr.	OT	6-5	320	2	Morgan State
ARIZONA CARDINALS (1)						
60	Nick Leverett	OG/OC	6-4	310	5	NC Central/Rice
CAROLINA PANTHERS (2)						
65	Ja'Tyre Carter	OG	6-3	311	3	Southern
53	Claudin Cherelus	ILB	6-1	230	3	Alcorn State
CHICAGO BEARS (2)						
78	Joshua Miles	OT	6-5	318	4	Morgan State
33	Ian Wheeler	RB	5-10	206	2	Howard
DALLAS COWBOYS (2)						
14	Markquese Bell	S	6-2	205	4	Florida A&M
53	James Houston	DE	6-1	241	4	Jackson State
DETROIT LIONS (0)						
GREEN BAY PACKERS (1)						
31	Emanuel Wilson	RB	5-11	226	3	Fort Valley State
LOS ANGELES RAMS (2)						
14	Cobie Durant	CB	5-10	182	4	South Carolina State
19	Xavier Smith	WR	5-9	176	2	Florida A&M
MINNESOTA VIKINGS (2)						
98	Javon Hargrave	DE	6-1	305	10	South Carolina State
69	Elijah Williams	DE	6-2	270	R	Morgan State
NEW ORLEANS SAINTS (1)						
68	Torrice Simpson III	G/OC	6-5	312	R	NC Central/South Carolina
NEW YORK GIANTS (2)						
9	DaQuan Felton	WR	6-6	216	R	Norfolk State/Virginia Tech
12	Jamie Gillan	PT	6-1	207	7	Arkansas-Pine Bluff
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES (0)						
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS (0)						
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS (0)						
TAMPA BAY BUCCANERS (1)						
28	Shilo Sanders	S	6-0	195	R	Jackson State/Colorado
WASHINGTON COMMANDERS (4)						
47	Robert McDaniel	CB	6-2	207	R	Jackson State
37	Bobby Price	CB	6-3	205	5	Norfolk State
73	Trent Scott	OT	6-5	320	8	Grambling State
32	Jacory Croskey-Merritt	RB	5-10	208	R	Alabama State/Arizona

BCSP Notes

SWAC announces 2025 ESPN and SWAC TV football schedules

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. - The Southwestern Athletic Conference has announced its 2025 ESPN and SWAC TV football schedules. The ESPN package includes 14 games on its family of networks with the inaugural slate set for SWAC TV to include a total of 45 games.

The ESPN schedule is highlighted by several highly anticipated games on ESPN's linear and digital platforms.

Defending SWAC West Division champion **Southern** will kick off ESPN's league coverage during Week 0 on Saturday, August 23rd when the Jaguars travel to Atlanta to face **North Carolina Central** in the 2025 *Cricket MEAC/SWAC Challenge Kickoff*, live on ABC at 7:30 p.m. EST.

The schedule of ESPN SWAC games is highlighted by several other classic match-ups, including the *Invesco QQQ Orange Blossom Classic (Howard vs. Florida A&M)*, the *Boom Box Classic (Jackson State at Southern)*, the *Magic City Classic (Alabama State vs. Alabama A&M)*, and the *Florida Classic (Florida A&M vs. Bethune-Cookman)*.

The 2025 *Pepsi SWAC Football Championship Game* will air live on ESPN2 on Saturday, December 6th.

Southern will also kick off league coverage on SWAC TV during Week 1 on Saturday, August 30th when the Jaguars travel to Itta Bena, Miss. to face **Mississippi Valley State** at 4 p.m. CST.

The schedule of SWAC TV games is highlighted by several classic match-ups, including the *Labor Day Classic (Texas Southern vs. Prairie View A&M on Aug. 30)*, the *Shreveport Classic (Langston vs. Grambling State)*, the *W.C. Gordon Classic (Tuskegee at Jackson State)*, and the *State Fair Classic (Grambling State vs. Prairie View A&M)*.

The 2025 *Turkey Day Classic* featuring **Tuskegee at Alabama State** will conclude SWAC TV coverage on Thursday, Nov. 27 at 2 p.m. CST.

ESPN SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME (CST)	MATCHUP	PLATFORM
Sat, Aug 23	7:30 p.m.	North Carolina Central vs. Southern	ABC
Sat, Aug 30	4 p.m.	Howard vs. Florida A&M	ESPN+
Sat, Sep 6	7 p.m.	Alabama State at Southern	ESPN+
Sat, Sep 27	7 p.m.	Jackson State at Southern	TBD
Sat, Oct 11	3:30 p.m.	Alabama State at Jackson State	TBD
Sat, Oct 11	7 p.m.	Texas Southern at Grambling State	TBD
Sat, Oct 18	4 p.m.	Alcorn State at Florida A&M	TBD
Sat, Oct 25	3:30 p.m.	Alabama State vs. Alabama A&M	TBD
Sat, Nov 1	7 p.m.	Jackson State at Florida A&M	TBD
Sat, Nov 8	4 p.m.	Southern at Alcorn State	TBD
Sat, Nov 22	3:30 p.m.	Alcorn State at Jackson State	TBD
Sat, Nov 22	3:30 p.m.	Bethune-Cookman vs. Florida A&M	TBD
Sat, Dec 6	2 p.m.	Pepsi SWAC Championship	ESPN2
Sat, Dec 13	12 p.m.	Cricket Celebration Bowl	ABC

SWAC TV SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME (CST)	MATCHUP	PLATFORM
Sat, Aug 30	4 p.m.	Southern at Mississippi Valley State	SWAC TV
Sat, Aug 30	7 pm	Prairie View A&M at Texas Southern	SWAC TV
Sat, Aug 30	7 pm	Langston vs. Grambling State	SWAC TV
Sat, Sept 6	6 pm	UT-Rio Grande Valley at Prairie View A&M	SWAC TV
Sat, Sept 13	2 pm	Tuskegee at Jackson State	SWAC TV
Sat, Sept 13	6 pm	Kentucky State at Grambling State	SWAC TV
Sat, Sept 13	6 pm	Lamar at Texas Southern	SWAC TV
Sat, Sept 13	6 pm	Lincoln at Arkansas-Pine Bluff	SWAC TV
Sat, Sept 13	6 pm	Albany State at Florida A&M	SWAC TV
Sat, Sept 20	6 pm	Lane at Alabama A&M	SWAC TV
Sat, Sept 20	6 pm	East Texas A&M at Grambling State	SWAC TV
Sat, Sept 20	6 pm	Northwestern State at Prairie View A&M	SWAC TV
Sat, Sept 27	2 pm	Alabama A&M at Bethune-Cookman	SWAC TV
Sat, Sept 27	4 pm	Texas Southern at Mississippi Valley State	SWAC TV
Sat, Sept 27	6 pm	Grambling State vs. Prairie View A&M	SWAC TV
Sat, Oct 4	2 pm	Bethune-Cookman at Alabama State	SWAC TV
Sat, Oct 4	3 pm	Prairie View A&M at Alcorn State	SWAC TV
Sat, Oct 4	4 pm	Florida A&M at Mississippi Valley State	SWAC TV
Sat, Oct 4	6 pm	Arkansas-Pine Bluff at Texas Southern	SWAC TV
Sat, Oct 11	2 pm	Mississippi Valley State at Alabama A&M	SWAC TV
Sat, Oct 11	2 pm	Lincoln at Alcorn State	SWAC TV
Sat, Oct 11	2 pm	Southern at Bethune-Cookman	SWAC TV
Sat, Oct 11	2 pm	Westgate at Arkansas-Pine Bluff	SWAC TV
Sat, Oct 18	2 pm	Grambling State at Arkansas-Pine Bluff	SWAC TV
Sat, Oct 18	2 pm	Virginia-Lynchburg at Texas Southern	SWAC TV
Sat, Oct 18	2 pm	Lincoln at Mississippi Valley State	SWAC TV
Sat, Oct 25	2 pm	Mississippi Valley State at Alcorn State	SWAC TV
Sat, Oct 25	2 pm	Arkansas-Pine Bluff at Bethune-Cookman	SWAC TV
Sat, Oct 25	2 pm	Lincoln at Prairie View A&M	SWAC TV
Sat, Oct 25	4 pm	Florida A&M at Southern	SWAC TV
Sat, Nov 1	2 pm	Mississippi Valley State at Bethune-Cookman	SWAC TV
Sat, Nov 1	2 pm	Southern at Arkansas-Pine Bluff	SWAC TV
Sat, Nov 1	2 pm	Alabama A&M at Grambling State	SWAC TV
Sat, Nov 1	2 pm	Alabama State at Prairie View A&M	SWAC TV

Sat, Nov 8	2 pm	Jackson State at Mississippi Valley State	SWAC TV
Sat, Nov 8	2 pm	Bethune-Cookman at Grambling State	SWAC TV
Sat, Nov 8	2 pm	Prairie View A&M at Alabama A&M	SWAC TV
Sat, Nov 8	2 pm	Texas Southern at Alabama State	SWAC TV
Sat, Nov 15	2 pm	Grambling State at Alcorn State	SWAC TV
Sat, Nov 15	2 pm	Florida A&M at Alabama A&M	SWAC TV
Sat, Nov 15	2 pm	Texas Southern at Southern	SWAC TV
Sat, Nov 15	2 pm	Arkansas-Pine Bluff at Prairie View A&M	SWAC TV
Sat, Nov 15	4 pm	Alabama State vs. Mississippi Valley State	SWAC TV
Sat, Nov 22	2 pm	Mississippi Valley State at Prairie View A&M	SWAC TV
Thurs, Nov 27	2 pm	Tuskegee at Alabama State	SWAC TV

ABOUT ESPN+

ESPN+ is the No. 1 sports streaming platform, serving fans in the U.S. with exclusive access to more than 32,000 live sports events each year, an unmatched library of on-demand replays and acclaimed original content, and premium written articles by the top reporters and analysts from ESPN.com. Fans sign up for ESPN+ at ESPN.com, ESPNplus.com or in the ESPN App on mobile and connected devices. For more visit the ESPN+ Press Kit.

ABOUT SWAC TV

SWAC TV is the exclusive sports streaming platform of the Southwestern Athletic Conference, serving students, alumni, and fans in the U.S. with exclusive access to live league sports events each year, an unmatched library of on-demand replays and acclaimed original content, along with premium postseason events. Fans can download SWAC TV for free on Roku, Amazon Fire, Apple TV, Google Play, and Android TV. SWAC TV is also available online at SWAC TV.

SIAC announces 2025 football schedule on ESPN

ATLANTA — The Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) will play 22 football games on ESPN platforms this fall with 11 weeks of regular-season competition in addition to the highly anticipated conference championship on Nov. 15.

Tuskegee will open the season on Aug. 31 with an ESPN national cable broadcast against **Winston-Salem State** in the fifth annual *Red Tails Classic* at historic Cramton Bowl in Montgomery, Ala. **Clark Atlanta** and **Fort Valley State** will also square off on the same channel on Thursday, Sept. 11, in the primetime slot at CAU Panther Stadium.

The 2025 lineup will also feature some of the league's most revered traditions and inaugural classics. The lineup includes the *Morehouse-Tuskegee Classic*, the *Fountain City Classic (Fort Valley State and Albany State)*, the *Unity Classic (Edward Waters and Virginia Union)* and the *Good Trouble Heritage Classic (Fort Valley State and Savannah State)*.

2025 SIAC ESPN COLLEGE FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME (CST)	MATCHUP	PLATFORM
Sat, Aug 30	6:00 PM	Edward Waters at Savannah State	ESPN+
Sun, Aug 31	7:00 PM	Winston-Salem State at Tuskegee	ESPN+
Sat, Sep 6	4:00 PM	Miles at Edward Waters	ESPN+
Thu, Sep 11	7:00 PM	Fort Valley State	