



Norfolk State Sports Photo

MICHAEL VICK: New Norfolk State head coach and his new cohorts one of the top stories as BCSP year 32 kicks off.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2025 TEAM-BY-TEAM, HOMECOMINGS, BOWL, CLASSICS & CHAMPIONSHIP GAME SCHEDULES

BCSP at 32: "The times they are a-changing"

LUT WILLIAMS
BCSP Editor

Exciting new additions to the HBCU head coaching ranks are creating as much buzz as subtractions and additions to rosters spurred by NIL money and the transfer portal. These are the top stories to watch as the 32nd year of the **BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE** kicks off this week.

THE COACHES

NFL veterans **Michael Vick** (Norfolk State), **DeSean Jackson** (Delaware State), **Reggie Barlow** (Tennessee State), **Sam Shade** (Alabama A&M) **Terrell Buckley** (Mississippi Valley State), **Tony Carter** (Central State) and **Chris Goode** (Miles) have stepped in as new head coaches for the 2025 season. NFL Hall of Famer **Deion Sanders**, now at Colorado, is deemed the forerunner of this trend after he took over at **Jackson State** in 2020 and led the Tigers to back-to-back **SWAC** titles in 2021 and 2022.

Now, everyone seems to be looking for similar 'lightning in a bottle' by bringing in these NFL-experienced players as head coaches.

Good luck! As 'Coach Prime' will tell you, "there's only one Deion Sanders." The fate of these new coaches will generate headlines in 2025 black college football.

ADDITIONS AND SUBTRACTIONS

There's no more frustrating trend college coaches have to deal with today than the roster changes caused by the introduction of Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) money and the proliferation of the transfer portal.

Over the last month, we chronicled some 70 players that left the HBCU FCS ranks for FBS programs and 117 that left the FBS to join HBCU FCS outfits. We don't have a count of how many left the Div. II programs of the **CIAA** and **SIAC** for the moneyed FBS but there were plenty of them as well. It will be interesting to see if the quality of those

coming down to the HBCU ranks is equal to those who moved up.

This phenomenon may not shift the balance of power in each conference but it will certainly make a difference. Almost every HBCU with standout players had one or more of them pilfered by an FBS program. It's the new normal and an unwelcome extra headache for black college coaches.

So whoever won championships in 2024, check the rosters before you pencil them in as repeat champions in 2025. Many of their studs have moved on to 'greener' pastures, if you know what I mean!

One sign of this trend is that four of the five players with HBCU experience taken in this year's NFL Draft (**Travis Hunter**, **Bhayshul Tuten**, **Shedeur Sanders** and **Jacory Croskey-Merritt**) all finished their careers after transferring to FBS schools.

So, who's the favorite for black college player of the year in 2025? Which teams will scale new heights as **Miles** and **Virginia Union** did a year ago (getting their first ever Div. II playoff wins)?

Which new coach will emerge and steal the spotlight like **Chennis Berry** at **South Carolina State** and **T. C., Taylor** at **Jackson State** did in 2024?

Who will be champions in the **CIAA**, **MEAC**, **SIAC** and **SWAC**, and can black colleges win titles or make some noise in the **OVC** and **CAA**?

I'm looking forward to these questions and more being answered in 2025. I know you are too. Year 32 of the BCSP promises to be as interesting, intriguing and exciting as the previous 31. Stay tuned!

CLASSIC, BOWL & CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

Forty-three (43) games designated as classic, bowl or championship games dot nearly every week of the 2025 schedule (see THE STAT CORNER I).

In addition to the always intriguing big draws — like the *Magic City* (**Alabama A&M** vs. **Alabama**

State), *Bayou* (**Southern** vs. **Grambling State**), *Florida* (**Bethune-Cookman** vs. **Florida A&M**) and *Southern Heritage* (**Arkansas-Pine Bluff** vs. **Alcorn State**), *Circle City* (**Morgan State** vs. **Miles**), *Turkey Day* (**Tuskegee** vs. **Alabama State**), and *Orange Blossom* (**Florida A&M** vs. **Howard**), etc., there are just as exciting newbies like the *Black College Football Hall of Fame* (SIAC champ **Miles** vs. CIAA champ **Virginia Union**), *Red Tail* (**Tuskegee** vs. **Winston-Salem State**), *HBCU New York* (**Morehouse** vs. **Howard**) and others.

The real newbies however are the games set for new places. How about the Boston, Massachusetts area coming together to honor the legacy and excellence of HBCUs and get a taste of the culture at the *Essence HBCU Football Classic* on Aug. 30 in Cambridge, Mass. matching **Morehouse** and **J. C. Smith**.

Abolitionist and statesman **Fredrick Douglass** is honored in a *Classic* bearing his name when **Lane** tackles **Central State** on Sept. 27 in Rochester, New York. Another black icon, late Congressman **John Lewis**, is honored at the *Good Trouble Heritage Classic* on Oct. 18 in Augusta, Ga., between **Savannah State** and **Fort Valley State**. On the same date the first *Caribbean HBCU Puerto Rico Bowl* kicks off in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico when **Kentucky State** takes on Franklin Pierce. And last but certainly not least, 'Sin City,' as it's called, hosts the *Las Vegas HBCU Classic* on Oct. 25 at new Allegiant Stadium matching fierce **SWAC** rivals **Grambling State** and **Jackson State**.

HOMECOMINGS

October, or "Homecoming Month," is looked forward to with forty (40) of the fifty (50) special dates in the month (see THE STAT CORNER II).

Singling out any one would not do justice to the others. They all are special!

THE STAT CORNER I

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

2025 CLASSIC, BOWL AND CHAMPIONSHIP GAME SCHEDULE

| CLASSIC | MATCHUP | DATE | LOCATION |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|-------------------|
| MEAC/SWAC Challenge | Southern vs. NC Central | Aug. 23 | Atlanta, GA |
| Detroit Football Classic | Central State vs. Kentucky State | Aug. 30 | Detroit, MI |
| Essence HBCU Classic | J. C. Smith vs. Morehouse | Aug. 30 | Cambridge, MA |
| John Merritt Classic | NC A&T @ Tennessee State | Aug. 30 | Nashville, TN |
| Labor Day Classic | Prairie View A&M vs. Texas Southern | Aug. 30 | Houston, TX |
| Orange Blossom Classic | Florida A&M vs. Howard | Aug. 30 | Miami Gardens, FL |
| Shreveport Football Classic | Grambling State vs. Langston | Aug. 30 | Shreveport, LA |
| Week Zero Labor Day Classic | Clark Atlanta vs. Valdosta State | Aug. 30 | B'ham, AL |
| Black College Hall of Fame Classic | Miles vs. Virginia Union | Aug. 31 | Canton, OH |
| Red Tail Classic | Tuskegee vs. Winston-Salem State | Aug. 31 | M'gomery, AL |
| Louis Crews Classic | Alcorn State @ Alabama A&M | Sept. 6 | Huntsville, AL |
| Battle for Greater Baltimore | Towson @ Morgan State | Sept. 6 | Baltimore, MD |
| Pete Richardson Classic | Alabama State @ Southern | Sept. 6 | Baton Rouge, LA |
| The Legacy Series | Alabama A&M @ Tenn. State | Sept. 13 | Nashville, TN |
| W.C. Gordon Classic | Tuskegee @ Jackson State | Sept. 13 | Jackson, MS |
| HBCU NY Football Classic | Morehouse vs. Howard | Sept. 13 | E. R'fd, NJ |
| Down East Viking Classic | Eliz. City St. vs. Fayv. State | Sept. 20 | Rocky Mt., NC |
| Aggie-Eagle Classic | NC A&T @ NC Central | Sept. 20 | Greensboro, NC |
| NC Truth and Service Classic | Hampton vs. Howard | Sept. 20 | Wash., D.C. |
| Boombax Classic | Lane State @ Southern | Sept. 27 | B. Rouge, LA |
| Frederick Douglass HBCU Classic | Johns vs. Central State | Sept. 27 | R'chester, NY |
| Southern Heritage Classic | Ark.-Pine Bluff vs. Alcorn State | Sept. 27 | Memphis, TN |
| State Fair Classic | Grambling St. vs. Pr. View A&M | Sept. 27 | Dallas, TX |
| Circle City Classic | Morgan State vs. Miles | Sept. 27 | Indy., IN |
| Battle of the Bay | Norfolk State @ Hampton | Oct. 4 | Hampton, VA |
| Gulf Coast Challenge | Alabama A&M vs. Jackson State | Oct. 4 | Mobile, AL |
| Morehouse-Skeegge Classic | Morehouse vs. Tuskegee | Oct. 4 | M'gomery, AL |
| Caribbean HBCU Puerto Rico Bowl | Kentucky State vs. Franklin Pierce | Oct. 18 | Mayaguez, PR |
| Good Trouble Heritage Classic | Savannah State vs. Fort Valley State | Oct. 18 | Augusta, GA |
| Las Vegas HBCU Classic | Grambling St. vs. Jackson St. | Oct. 25 | Las Vegas, NV |
| Magic City Classic | Alabama A&M vs. Alabama State | Oct. 25 | B'ham, AL |
| Commemorative Classic | Livingston @ J. C. Smith | Nov. 8 | Charlotte, NC |
| Fountain City Classic | Albany State vs. Ft. Valley St. | Nov. 8 | Columbus, GA |
| CIAA Championship | No. 1 seed vs. No. 2 seed | Nov. 15 | Durham, NC |
| SIAC Championship | No. 1 seed vs. No. 2 seed | Nov. 15 | TBD |
| Port City Classic | Alabama St. vs. Miss. Valley St. | Nov. 15 | Mobile, AL |
| Soul Bowl — Capital City Classic | Alcorn State @ Jackson State | Nov. 22 | Jackson, MS |
| Florida Classic | Bethune-Cookman vs. Florida A&M | Nov. 22 | Orlando, FL |
| Turkey Day Classic | Tuskegee @ Alabama State | Nov. 27 | M'gomery, AL |
| Bayou Classic | Grambling State vs. Southern | Nov. 29 | New Or., LA |
| SWAC Championship | SWAC East vs. SWAC West | Dec. 6 | TBD |
| Celebration Bowl | MEAC Champ vs. SWAC Champ | Dec. 13 | Atlanta, GA |

THE STAT CORNER II

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

2025 HOMECOMING SCHEDULE

| DATE | HOMECOMING HOST | OPPONENT |
|----------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Sept. 27 | Johnson C. Smith | Bluefield State |
| | West Virginia State | Fairmont State |
| Oct. 4 | Alabama State | Bethune-Cookman |
| | Bluefield State | Shaw |
| | South Carolina State | Savannah State |
| Oct. 11 | Alabama A&M | Miss. Valley State |
| | Alcorn State | Lincoln (CA) |
| | Arkansas-Pine Bluff | Westgate |
| | Central State | Morehouse |
| | Delaware State | S. Connecticut State |
| | Fayetteville State | Bowie State |
| | Grambling State | Texas Southern |
| | Jackson State | Alabama State |
| | Kentucky State | Edward Waters |
| | Lane | Miles |
| | Langston | Arkansas-Baptist |
| | Morgan State | Virginia Lynchburg |
| | North Carolina A&T | South Carolina State |
| Oct. 18 | Albany State | Tuskegee |
| | Florida A&M | Alcorn State |
| | Florida Memorial | Warner |
| | Miles | Clark Atlanta |
| | Miss. Valley State | Lincoln (CA) |
| | Morehouse | Lane |
| | Shaw | Johnson C. Smith |
| | Southern | Prairie View A&M |
| | Tennessee State | Howard |
| | Texas Southern | Virginia-Lynchburg |
| | Virginia Union | Lincoln (PA) |
| | Winston-Salem State | Livingstone |
| Oct. 25 | Bethune-Cookman | Arkansas-Pine Bluff |
| | Clark Atlanta | Edward Waters |
| | Fort Valley State | Lane |
| | Hampton | Monmouth |
| | Howard | Morgan State |
| | Lincoln (PA) | Elizabeth City State |
| | Norfolk State | South Carolina State |
| | North Carolina Central | Delaware State |
| | Prairie View A&M | Lincoln (CA) |
| | Savannah State | Morehouse |
| | Virginia State | Bluefield State |
| | Benedict | Virginia Lynchburg |
| | Bowie State | Elizabeth City State |
| | Edward Waters | Central State |
| | Lincoln (MO) | Truman State |
| | Livingstone | Shaw |
| | Tuskegee | Lane |
| Nov. 8 | Allen | Edward Waters |
| | Elizabeth City State | Bluefield State |

2025 TEAM-BY-TEAM BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL SCHEDULES

BLUEFIELD STATE

8/30.....Tusculum.....7

9/6.....Concord.....1

9/13.....@ Wingate.....6

9/27.....@ Johnson C. Smith.....2

10/4.....Shaw (HC).....1

10/11.....Lincoln.....12n

10/18.....Bowie State.....1

10/25.....@ Virginia State.....6

11/1.....@ Virginia Union.....1

11/8.....@ Elizabeth City State.....1

BOWIE STATE

9/6.....@ Shippensburg.....1

9/13.....@ Delaware State.....1

9/20.....@ Livingstone.....4

9/27.....Winston-Salem State.....1

10/4.....Fayetteville State.....1

10/11.....Virginia State.....1

10/18.....@ Bluefield State.....1

10/25.....@ Virginia Union.....1

11/1.....Elizabeth City State (HC).....1

11/8.....@ Lincoln (PA).....1

ELIZABETH CITY STATE

8/30.....@ Chowan.....6

9/6.....@ Hampton.....6

9/13.....Johnson C. Smith.....1

9/20.....Fayetteville State in Rocky Mt., NC.....1

9/27.....Elizabeth City State in Rocky Mt., NC.....1

10/4.....@ Virginia Union.....1

10/11.....@ Virginia State.....2

10/18.....@ Virginia State.....2

10/25.....@ Lincoln (PA).....1

11/1.....@ Bowie State.....2

11/8.....Bluefield State (HC).....1

FAYETTEVILLE STATE

8/30.....@ Benedict.....5

9/6.....@ UNC Pembroke.....6

9/13.....@ NC Central.....6

9/20.....Elizabeth City State in Rocky Mt., NC.....1

9/27.....Virginia State.....1

10/4.....@ Bowie State.....1

10/11.....Livingstone (HC).....1:30

10/25.....@ Shaw.....1

11/1.....Johnson C. Smith.....1

11/8.....Winston-Salem State.....1

JOHNSON C. SMITH

8/30.....Morehouse in Cambridge, MA.....3:30

9/6.....Valdosta State.....12n

9/13.....@ Elizabeth City State.....1

9/20.....@ Virginia Union.....1

9/27.....Bluefield State (HC).....2

10/4.....@ Virginia State.....2

10/18.....@ Shaw.....1

10/25.....Winston-Salem State.....1

11/1.....@ Fayetteville State.....1

11/8.....Livingstone.....1

LINCOLN (PA)

8/30.....@ Grand Valley State.....1:30

9/6.....@ Duquesne.....12n

9/13.....@ Winston-Salem State.....6

9/20.....Shaw.....1

9/27.....Livingstone.....4

10/11.....@ Bluefield State.....12n

10/18.....@ Fayetteville State.....1:30

10/25.....@ Winston-Salem State.....1

10/27.....Virginia Lynchburg.....2

11/1.....Shaw (HC).....2

11/8.....@ Johnson C. Smith.....1

SHAW

8/30.....Albany State.....1

9/13.....@ Ferrum.....1

9/20.....@ Lincoln (PA).....1

9/27.....Virginia Union.....1

10/4.....@ Bluefield State.....1

10/11.....Winston-Salem State.....1

10/18.....Johnson C. Smith (HC).....1

10/25.....@ Shaw.....1

11/1.....@ Livingstone.....2

11/8.....@ Emory & Henry.....1

VIRGINIA STATE

8/28.....@ Barton.....7

9/6.....@ Norfolk State.....6

9/20.....@ Winston-Salem State.....1

9/27.....@ Fayetteville State.....1

10/4.....Johnson C. Smith.....2

10/11.....@ Shaw.....1

10/18.....Elizabeth City State.....2

10/25.....Bluefield State (HC).....2

11/1.....@ Lincoln (PA).....2

11/8.....@ Virginia Union.....1

WINSTON-SALEM STATE

8/31.....Tuskegee in M'gomery, AL.....6

9/6.....@ Mars Hill.....7

9/13.....@ Lincoln (PA).....6

9/20.....Virginia State.....1

9/27.....@ Bowie State.....1

10/4.....Virginia Union.....1

10/11.....@ Shaw.....1

10/18.....Livingstone (HC).....1:30

10/25.....@ Johnson C. Smith.....1

DELAWARE STATE

8/28.....@ Delaware.....7

9/6.....Albany.....1

9/13.....Bowie State.....3

9/20.....@ St. Francis.....1

9/27.....@ Sacred Heart.....12n

10/4.....@ Monmouth.....1

10/11.....S. Connecticut State (HC).....12n

10/18.....@ North Carolina Central.....3:30

10/25.....Norfolk State in Philadelphia.....1

11/1.....@ Morgan State.....12

11/15.....@ Howard.....1

11/23.....South Carolina State.....1

HOWARD

8/30.....@ Florida A&M.....4

9/6.....@ Temple.....2

9/13.....Morehouse in E Rthfrd., NJ.....1

9/20.....@ Hampton.....4

9/27.....@ Richmond.....2

10/4.....@ Sacred Heart.....1

10/18.....@ Tennessee State.....3:30

10/25.....Morgan State (HC).....TBD

11/1.....North Carolina Central.....1

11/8.....@ South Carolina State.....1

11/15.....@ Delaware State.....1

11/22.....Norfolk State.....1:30

MORGAN STATE

8/30.....@ South Alabama.....7

9/6.....Towson.....7

9/13.....@ Toledo.....12n

9/20.....Central State.....2

9/27.....Miles in Indianapolis.....2

10/4.....@ Georgetown.....1

10/11.....Virginia Lynchburg (HC).....1

10/25.....@ Howard.....TBA

11/1.....@ South Carolina State.....2

11/8.....Delaware State.....3:30

11/15.....@ Norfolk State.....12n

11/22.....North Carolina Central.....12n

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL

8/23.....Southern in Atlanta.....7:30

8/30.....New Hampshire.....6

9/6.....@ Old Dominion.....6

9/13.....Fayetteville State.....6

9/20.....@ North Carolina A&T.....4

9/27.....@ East Texas A&M.....7

10/11.....@ Florida A&M.....3

10/25.....Delaware State (HC).....1

11/1.....@ Howard.....1

11/8.....@ Norfolk State.....2

11/15.....South Carolina State.....2

11/22.....@ Morgan State.....1

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE

8/30.....Wofford.....6

9/6.....@ South Carolina.....7

9/13.....Bethune-Cookman.....6

9/20.....@ South Florida.....12n

9/27.....@ Charleston Southern.....6

10/4.....Savannah State (HC).....1:30

10/11.....@ North Carolina A&T.....1

10/25.....@ North Carolina A&T.....1

11/1.....Morgan State.....2

11/8.....@ North Carolina Central.....1

11/22.....@ Delaware State.....1

ALBANY STATE

8/30.....@ Shaw.....1

9/6.....@ Kentucky State.....2

9/13.....@ Florida A&M.....7

9/27.....@ Allen.....1

10/4.....@ Lane.....3

10/11.....@ Clark Atlanta.....3

10/18.....Tuskegee (HC).....1

10/25.....@ Benedict.....2

11/1.....Savannah State.....1

11/8.....Edward Waters (HC).....2

BENEDICT

8/30.....Fayetteville State.....5

9/13.....@ Central State.....1

9/27.....Tuskegee.....7

10/4.....@ Clark Atlanta.....3

10/11.....@ Norfolk State.....2

10/18.....Fort Valley State.....2

10/25.....@ Edward Waters.....6

11/1.....@ Albany State.....2

11/8.....@ Savannah State.....3

CENTRAL STATE

8/30.....Kentucky State in Detroit.....1

9/6.....@ Tuskegee.....6

9/13.....@ Benedict.....1

9/20.....@ Morgan State.....12

9/27.....Lane in Rochester, NY.....5

10/4.....@ Fort Valley State.....2

CLARK-ATLANTA

8/30.....Valdosta State in Birmingham.....12n

9/6.....Florida Memorial.....3

9/13.....Fort Valley State.....8

9/20.....@ Allen.....6

9/27.....@ Benedict.....3

10/4.....@ Albany State.....1

10/11.....@ Miles.....2

10/25.....Edward Waters (HC).....1

11/1.....@ Kentucky State.....3

11/8.....Morehouse.....3

EDWARD WATERS

8/30.....@ Savannah State.....6

9/6.....Miles.....4

9/13.....Virginia Union.....4

9/20.....@ Bethune-Cookman.....3

9/27.....Morehouse.....6

10/4.....@ Kentucky State.....2

10/11.....Benedict.....2

10/25.....@ Clark Atlanta.....1

11/1.....Central State (HC).....2

11/8.....@ Allen.....1

FORT VALLEY STATE

8/30.....@ West Alabama.....5:15

9/11.....@ Clark Atlanta.....7

9/20.....@ Delta State.....3

9/27.....Tuskegee.....1

10/4.....Central State (HC).....2

10/11.....Benedict.....2

10/18.....Savannah State in Augusta, GA.....2

10/25.....@ Lane.....2

11/1.....Miles.....6

11/8.....Albany State in Columbus, GA.....2

KENTUCKY STATE

8/30.....Central State in Detroit.....1

9/6.....Albany State.....2

9/13.....@ Grambling State.....7

9/20.....@ Alabama A&M.....6

9/27.....@ Savannah State.....6

10/4.....@ Miles.....3

10/11.....Edward Waters (HC).....2

10/18.....Franklin Pierce in Puerto Rico.....1

11/1.....Clark Atlanta.....3

11/8.....@ Lane.....1

LANE

8/30.....Lincoln (MO).....2

9/14.....@ Allen.....6

9/20.....@ Alabama A&M.....6

9/27.....Central State in Rochester, NY.....2

10/4.....Albany State.....2

10/11.....Miles (HC).....3

10/18.....@ Morehouse.....2

10/25.....Fort Valley State.....2

11/1.....@ Tuskegee.....2

11/9.....Kentucky State.....2

MILES

8/31.....Virginia Union in Canton, OH.....3

9/6.....@ Edward Waters.....3

9/13.....@ Kentucky State.....1

9/20.....Savannah State.....5

9/27.....@ Edward Waters.....6

10/4.....Tuskegee in M'gomery, AL.....7

10/11.....@ Central State.....1

10/18.....Lane (HC).....1

10/25.....@ Savannah State.....3

11/1.....@ Clark Atlanta.....3

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE

8/30.....J. C. Smith in Cambridge, MA.....3:30

9/13.....Howard in East Rthfrd., NJ.....1

9/20.....Kentucky State.....1

9/27.....@ Edward Waters.....6

10/4.....Tuskegee in M'gomery, AL.....7

10/11.....@ Central State.....1

10/18.....Lane (HC).....1

10/25.....@ Savannah State.....3

11/1.....@ Clark Atlanta.....3

SAVANNAH STATE

8/30.....Edward Waters.....6

9/6.....@ Miles.....3

9/13.....@ Tuskegee.....3

9/27.....Kentucky State.....2

10/4.....@ South Carolina State.....1:30

10/11.....@ Allen.....6

10/18.....Fl. Valley State in Augusta, GA.....6

10/25.....Morehouse (HC).....3

11/1.....@ Albany State.....1

11/8.....Benedict.....3

TUSKEGEE

8/31.....Winston-Salem State in M'gomery, AL.....6

9/6.....@ Central State.....2

9/13.....@ Jackson State.....6

9/20.....@ Benedict.....7

9/27.....Fort Valley State.....2

10/4.....Morehouse in M'gomery, AL.....6

10/18.....@ Albany State.....2

10/25.....@ Allen.....2

11/1.....Lane (HC).....2

11/8.....@ Miles.....2

11/28.....@ Alabama State.....2

ALABAMA STATE

8/28.....@ UAB.....7:30

9/6.....@ Southern.....6

9/13.....Miles.....4

9/27.....@