

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



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SHEDEUR SANDERS: Former Jackson State QB throws for 138 yards and two TDs in his pro debut for the Cleveland Browns.

WATCHIN' AND WAITIN'

SEE WATCH LISTS FOR BCFHOF POY, BUCHANAN, PAYTON, AENEAS WILLIAMS, HBCU POY AWARDS

BCSP Notes

2025 Black College Football Hall of Fame Player of the Year Award Watch List Announced

Atlanta, GA (August 12, 2025) – The *Black College Football Hall of Fame* (BCFHOF) announced Tuesday the initial 2025 Watch List for the 10th *Black College Football Player of the Year Award* presented annually to the most outstanding football player from a Historically Black College & University (HBCU).

The original list includes 50 outstanding players from America's HBCUs and includes players from the four HBCU conferences – the **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA)**, the **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC)**, the **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC)** and the **Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC)** – and players from non-HBCU conference programs at **Tennessee State** and **Langston**.

The Watch List candidates have been selected based on past performance and future potential. Additions to the list will be made as the 2025 season progresses.

Among the favorites for the award are 2025 preseason player of the year selections from each of the conferences. **Morgan State** running back **Jason Collins Jr.** and MSU linebacker **Erick Hunter** are among 11 MEAC players on the list. **Southern** defensive lineman **Ckelby Givens** and **Jackson State** quarterback **Jacobian Morgan** led 18 SWAC players on the initial list. **Albany State** quarterback **Isaiah Knowles** and **Benedict** linebacker **Ty'Metrius Patterson** are featured among nine SIAC players. The CIAA, which did not select preseason players of the year, has eight players on the list.

2024 SWAC and *Celebration Bowl* champion Jackson State has six players on the list to lead all programs.

The finalists and the winner will be chosen by a selection committee. Four finalists will be chosen after the season. The winner will be announced during halftime of the 2026 Allstate *HBCU Legacy Bowl* and be presented with the *Deacon Jones Trophy*. The Allstate HBCU Legacy Bowl takes place on Saturday, February 21, 2026 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The game will be broadcast live on NFL Network.

"The Black College Football Player of the Year Award honors the talent, dedication, and spirit of today's HBCU football players," said **Doug Williams**, BCFHOF co-founder and 2011 BCFHOF inductee. "These young men uphold a proud legacy and inspire future generations to dream bigger and to always aspire for greatness."

"In HBCU football, no accolade carries greater meaning than the Deacon Jones Trophy," said BCFHOF Co-Founder and 2012 Inductee **James Harris**. "Deacon's greatness wasn't just in his dominance on the field, but in the way he inspired others through his leadership, integrity, and unwavering commitment to excellence. His legacy continues to set the standard for what Black College Football represents."

Former **North Carolina A&T** and NFL running back **Tarik Cohen** was selected as the inaugural recipient of the Award in 2016; **Bowie State** quarterback **Amir Hall** was the 2017 and 2018 recipient; former **Tennessee State** and NFL wide receiver **Chris Rowland** who now stars in the NFL current was the 2019 recipient; former **Alabama A&M** QB **Aqeel Glass** was the recipient in the Spring 2021 and Fall 2021 seasons; former **Jackson State** and now NFL QB **Shedeur Sanders** was the 2022 winner of the Award; **North Carolina Central** quarterback **Davius Richard** and **Florida A&M** QB **Jeremy Moussa** were the co-winners in 2023; and in 2024, **Virginia Union** prolific running back **Jada Byers** was the sole recipient.

Three black college players on 2025 Buchanan, Payton Watch Lists

The 2025 Watch Lists for *Stats Perform* FCS postseason awards honoring black college football legends **Junius "Buck" Buchanan** of **Grambling** and **Walter Payton** of **Jackson State** are notably short on current black college players.

The *Buck Buchanan Award*, presented annually to the national defensive player of the year in FCS college football, has just three black college players among its 30 athletes: **Southern** senior defensive lineman **Ckelby Givens**, **Morgan State** senior linebacker **Erick Hunter** and **North Carolina Central** senior defensive back **Malcolm Reed**.

Givens (has made just about every preseason FCS all-American list after posting 27.5 tackles for loss in 2024 that was best in the SWAC and second in the FCS. He also had 12 sacks, second in the SWAC and sixth



Givens Hunter Reed Morgan King Terrell

in the FCS. Hunter is back after an injury-plagued 2024 campaign. He led the MEAC in tackles in 2023. Reed (6-3, 180) is the returning tackles leader for NCCU after registering with 60 tackles, 34 solo stops in 2024. He also had two picks and nine pass break-ups.

The 30-player preseason watch list for the 2025 *Walter Payton Award*, presented annually to the national offensive player of the year in Division I FCS college football, also has just three on the list: **Jackson State** graduate senior quarterback **Jacobian Morgan**, **Norfolk State** senior running back **Kevon King** and Jackson State sophomore running back/kick returner **Travis Terrell Jr.**

Morgan (6-4, 228), a Syracuse transfer, led JSU to SWAC and Celebration Bowl titles in 2024 while passing for 2,236 yards, 21 TDs with eight interceptions and completing 63.7% of his passes. King, Terrell averaged 6.1 yards per carry while rushing for just 439 yards and 4 TDs. He however led the SWAC in both kickoff returns (30.6 ypr., 2 TDs) and punt returns (16.7 ypr.) finishing fourth and third respectively in the FCS.

The Buchanan Award enters its 31st season in 2025 after beginning in 1995. The Walter Payton, first presented in 1987, is in its 39th season.

Six black college players have taken home the Buchanan Award with **Tennessee State** defensive end **Terrell Allen** the most recent. He won the award in 2023. Other winners are **Florida A&M** linebacker **Isaiah Land** (2021), **Southern** defensive end **Jordan Lewis** (2020), **Norfolk State** linebacker **Deon King** (2015), **Bethune-Cookman** defensive back **Rashean Mathis** (2002) and **North Carolina A&T** edge rusher **Chris McNeil** (1997).

Grambling running back **Walter Dean** (1990) and **Alcorn State** quarterback **Steve McNair** (1994) are the only black college winners of the Payton Award.

Stats Perform also gives out several other awards named for black college legends – the *Jerry Rice Award* (for FCS Freshman Player of the Year), the *Eddie Robinson Award* (for FCS Coach of the Year), the *HBCU National Player of the Year* and the *Doris Robinson Scholar-Athlete of the Year*. Each award will be handed out at the Stats Perform FCS National Awards Presentation.

FCS Football Central Announces 2025 Aeneas Williams Award Preseason Watch List

OKLAHOMA CITY – The Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame (OSHO) released the 4th Annual *Aeneas Williams Award* Preseason Watch List. The list includes 15 of the nation's best defensive backs in Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Division I college football.

The Aeneas Williams Award is presented by the Chickasaw Nation and awarded to the best defensive back in HBCU Div. I college football based on performance on the field, athletic ability and character.

James Burgess Jr. from **Alabama State** won the award in 2024. The preseason watch list is selected by a screening committee in partnership with DraftHBCUPlayers and the Paycom Jim Thorpe Award. This list is not final, and players who have outstanding seasons may be added to the semifinalists and finalists lists as the season progresses.

The award was established in 2022 and serves as one of its kind in HBCU history in honor of its namesake, **Southern University** walk-on and Pro Football Hall of Famer, **Aeneas Williams**.

The contribution of HBCUs to the landscape of college football and the NFL has forever left an impact on the game. HBCUs hold an incredibly rich athletic tradition, tied to the game of football, that continues to exemplify the culture of these schools for over the past century

2025 AENEAS WILLIAMS AWARD PRESEASON WATCH LIST

- | | |
|---|---|
| Diego Addison, Jr., S, S. Carolina State | Herman Brister III, So., S, Southern |
| Jadon Carter, Sr., CB, Morgan State | Blake Davis, Sr., CB, Grambling State |
| Wayne Favors III, Jr., CB, Delaware State | Aaron Harris, Gr. Sr., CB, N. C. A&T |
| Johnny Harris III, Sr., CB, Bethune-Cookman | Shamar Hawkins, Sr., CB, Jackson State |
| Kahleef Jimmison, Gr. Sr., S, Norfolk State | Horacio Johnson, Gr. Sr., S, Southern |
| Keane Lewis, Sr., S, Alabama State | Twillie Lovette, Sr., CB, Alabama State |
| Malcolm Reed, Jr., CB, N. C. Central | Jameel Sanders, Sr., CB, Florida A&M |
| Jarod Washington, Sr., CB, S. C. State | |



First	Last	Position	School	Conference
Curtis	Allen	RB	Virginia Union	CIAA
Torrence	Bardell	QB	Langston	MAC
Josh	Barker	DT	South Carolina State	MEAC
Andrew	Body	QB	Alabama State	SWAC
Luke	Bracey	TE	North Carolina Central	MEAC
Bryce	Cage	DL	Grambling State	SWAC
Brevin	Caldwell	WR	Johnson C. Smith	CIAA
Jason	Collins Jr.	RB	Morgan State	MEAC
Carlos	Dunovant Jr.	DB	Morehouse College	SIAC
Kelvin	Durham	QB	Johnson C. Smith	CIAA
Marquis	Edmond	DB	Virginia State	CIAA
Stemarion	Edwards	LB	Norfolk State	MEAC
Joanes	Fortillien	WR	Jackson State	SWAC
Thad	Franklin Jr.	RB	Florida A&M	SWAC
Ckelby	Givens	DE	Southern	SWAC
Armone	Harris	WR	Clark Atlanta	SIAC
Walker	Harris	QB	North Carolina Central	MEAC
TJ	Huggins	DB	Florida A&M	SWAC
Trevon	Humphrey	OL	North Carolina Central	MEAC
Erick	Hunter	LB	Morgan State	MEAC
Javion	Jackson	WR	Albany State	SIAC
Eden	James	RB	Howard	MEAC
Nay'Ron	Jenkins	LB	Florida A&M	SWAC
Horacio	Johnson	DB	Southern	SWAC
Kevon	King	RB	Norfolk State	MEAC
Isaiah	Knowles	QB	Albany State	SIAC
Marvin	Landy	TE	Jackson State	SWAC
Javonta	Leatherwood	RB	Miles College	SIAC
Keane	Lewis	DB	Alabama State	SWAC
Delanie	Majors	WR	Tennessee State	OVC
Lawrence	McConnell	DB	Kentucky State	SIAC
Da'Shun	Mitchell	WR	Savannah State	SIAC
Keyshawn	Monk	DB	Fayetteville State	CIAA
Jacobian	Morgan	QB	Jackson State	SWAC
Vincent	Paige Jr.	LB	Southern	SWAC
Ty'Metrius	Patterson	LB	Benedict	SIAC
Nate	Rembert	WR	Jackson State	SWAC
Micah	Robinson	RB	Bowie State	CIAA
Shemar	Savage	WR	Jackson State	SWAC
Jacorian	Sewell	RB	Alcorn State	SWAC
Gentry	Sparks	TE	Albany State	SIAC
Isaiah	Stephens	LB	Benedict	SIAC
Sammy	Taylor	LB	Tennessee State	OVC
Travon	Tensley	RB	Shaw	CIAA
Kam'Ryn	Thomas	WR	Norfolk State	MEAC
D'Andre	Townes-Blue	OL	Jackson State	SWAC
Jarod	Washington	DB	South Carolina State	MEAC
Antwone	Watts	S	Bethune-Cookman	SWAC
Davion	Westmoreland	DL	Florida A&M	SWAC
Jimmy	Williams	RB	Virginia State	CIAA

The *Stats Perform* HBCU Player of the Year award is a relatively new accolade, first presented in 2024, recognizing the most outstanding player from the 21 FCS HBCUs. **South Carolina State** quarterback **Eric Phoenix** was the first recipient of the award in 2024.

2025 HBCU National Player of the Year Award Watch List

- (profile and stats compiled by Kyle T. Moseley, HBCU Legends)
- **Bryce Cage**, 6-5, 269, R-Sr., DL, **Grambling State** – Named to the 2025 SWAC preseason first team. ... Received 2024 Bayou Classic Defensive MVP.
 - **Jason Collins Jr.**, 5-9, 185, R-So., RB, **Morgan State** – 2025 MEAC Preseason Offensive Player ... 2024 rookie of the year. ... 634 rushing yards and eight touchdowns...
 - **Desmond Daniels**, 6-6, 303, Gr., OL, **Alabama State** – 2025 SWAC preseason first team; 2024 All-SWAC second team. ... B-CU transfer with only one sack allowed
 - **Stemarion Edwards**, 6-0, 220, Gr., LB, **Norfolk State** – Alcorn State transfer ... Posted a breakout season with 91 tackles, 13.5 TFLs and three forced fumbles.
 - **Ckelby Givens**, 6-3, 250, Sr., DE, **Southern** – 2025 Stats Perform Preseason All-America first team and SWAC Preseason Defensive Player of the Year. ... Finished the 2024 season with 73 tackles, an FCS-high 27.5 TFLs, 12 sacks and three forced fumbles.
 - **Ashton Grable**, 6-4, 315, R-Sr., OL, **Florida A&M** – 2025 Stats Perform Preseason All-America third team. ... Selected to the 2024 All-SWAC first team, gaining similar honors this preseason. ... Anchored FAMU's O-line.
 - **Walker Harris**, 6-1, 195, R-Sr., QB, **North Carolina Central** – 2025 MEAC preseason first team after ending the 2024 season on the second team. ... Completed 61% of his passes for 1,882 yards, 18 touchdowns and a 151.8 pass efficiency rating.
 - **T.J. Huggins**, 6-3, 185, R-Sr., DB, **Florida A&M** – 2025 SWAC preseason first team. ... Huggins led the Rattlers in interceptions with three and pass breakups with seven.
 - **Trevon Humphrey**, 6-5, 255, R-Jr., **North Carolina Central** – 2025 MEAC preseason first team, 2024 postseason first team. ... Prototypical NFL length.
 - **Erick Hunter**, 6-4, 210, Sr., LB, **Morgan State** – 2025 Stats Perform Preseason All-America third team to go with MEAC Preseason Defensive Player of the Year. ... Only in two games in 2024.
 - **Kevon King**, 5-11, 200, Sr., RB, **Norfolk State** – 2025 MEAC preseason first team; 2024 All-MEAC second team. ... Rushed for 944 yards and 10 touchdowns, averaging 5.9 yards per carry.
 - **Noah Miles**, 6-4, 250, Sr., DL, **Howard** – 2025 Stats Perform Preseason All-America third team and MEAC preseason first team. ... All-MEAC first team, fourth in the conference in TFLs (11.5) and sacks (eight). He finished with 35 tackles.
 - **Jacobian Morgan**, 6-4, 228, Gr., QB, **Jackson State** – 2025 SWAC Preseason Offensive Player of the Year. ... Led JSU to SWAC and Celebration Bowl titles
 - **Cam Ransom**, 6-3, 220, R-Sr., QB, **Bethune-Cookman** – 2025 SWAC preseason second team. ... 2,007 yards of total offense, 16 total touchdowns
 - **Malcolm Reed**, 6-3, 180, Sr., DB, **NC Central** – 2025 Stats Perform Preseason All-America ... 60 tackles, nine pass breakups, two interceptions and one fumble recovery.
 - **Nathan Rembert**, 5-8, 150, Jr., WR, **Jackson State** – 70 catches, 1,038 yards, 4 touchdowns at MVSU
 - **Jacorian Sewell**, 5-9, 195, Gr., RB, **Alcorn State** – 2025 SWAC preseason first team. ... 804 yards and six touchdowns, 5.7 ypc. in career
 - **Ja'Quan Snipes**, 6-1, 215, R-Sr., RB, R-Sr., **Hampton** – Big-bodied running back in just nine games, finished with 595 yards and six touchdowns on 5.6 yards per carry.
 - **Travis Terrell Jr.**, 5-9, 170, Sr., RB/KR, **Jackson State** – Led SWAC in punt and kick returns. ... Stats Perform 2025 first team all-American kick returner.
 - **Jeremiah Williams**, 6-2, 314, R-Sr., DL, **Jackson State** – 2025 Stats Perform Preseason All-America third team ... Celebration Bowl Defensive MVP



atlantafalcons.com Photo

SIX!! Atlanta wide receiver **CHRIS BLAIR** (#19, **ALCORN STATE**) beats Detroit safety Nick Hallet (#36) and hauls in this 13-yard scoring pass from Falcons' QB Easton Stick. Blair had three receptions for 54 yards, including a 29-yarder in the 17-10 loss to the Lions



jaguars.com Photo

AGGIE SCRUM!! Jacksonville running back **BHAYSHUL TUTEN** (#33, **NC A&T/Virginia Tech**) bulls his way for an 8-yard TD in the arms of fellow former Aggie **RICKY LEE** (#66, **N. C. A&T**) in the Jaguars' 31-25 loss Saturday to Pittsburgh. Tuten had 24 rushing yards and two catches for 16 yards.

BCSP NFL PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

For preseason games of August 7 - 10, 2025



OFFENSE

– **#19 CHRIS BLAIR**, WR, Atlanta (2nd season, **ALCORN STATE**) - In the Falcons' 17-10 loss to Detroit Friday, Blair had three receptions in four targets for 54 yards (18.0 ypc.) with a long reception of 29 yards. His catches included a 13-yard TD hookup in the second quarter for Atlanta's only TD. Participation stats were not available.
VIDEO CLIP: <https://www.atlantafalcons.com/video/>



DEFENSE

– **#41 JAMES HOUSTON**, LB, Dallas (4th season, **JACKSON STATE**) - In Saturday's 31-21 loss to the LA Rams, Houston had four total tackles, one solo, while playing 46 snaps on defense (69%) and five on special teams (21%).



SPECIAL TEAMS

– **#29 BRANDON CODRINGTON**, CB/KR, NY Jets (2nd season, **NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL**) - In 34-25 loss to the New York Giants Saturday, Codrington returned one punt for 4 yards and one kickoff for 22 yards. He also had one solo tackle on defense. Codrington was in for 20 plays on defense (25%) and 11 on special teams (33%).



ROOKIE ON OFFENSE

– **#12 SHEDEUR SANDERS**, QB, Cleveland (Rookie, **JACKSON STATE/Colorado**) - Started in the Browns' 30-10 win over Carolina Friday completing 14 of 23 passes for 138 yards without an interception and first-half TD throws of 7 and 12 yards to wide receiver Kaden Davis. He was sacked twice. Sanders played thru three quarters and was in for 47 offensive snaps (68%).
VIDEO CLIP: <https://www.clevelandbrowns.com/video/shedeur-sanders-best-plays-from-2-td-game-preseason-week-1>



ROOKIE ON DEFENSE

– **#99 ELIJAH WILLIAMS**, DE, Minnesota (Rookie, **MORGAN STATE**) - In 20-10 win over Houston, Williams had two solo tackles and two hits on the quarterback, one leading to a fourth quarter interception. Williams was in on 21 defensive plays (38%).