

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



NC Central Sports Photo

TREI OLIVER: His NC Central Eagles opened with a win at MEAC/SWAC Challenge, look for 2-0 start hosting New Hampshire.

PLENTY TO SEE IN WEEK 1

27 WEEK ONE GAMES ON TV OR STREAMED; MEAC TV SCHEDULE; NCCU OPENS WITH WIN

Full menu, numerous debuts in Week 1

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BCSP Editor

The 2025 black college football season morphs into full swing this week with 32 games on tap running everyday from Thursday thru Sunday. Twenty-seven (27) of the games will be either televised or streamed (check the schedule).

There's a mix of a little of everything in these opening week games.

FIRST ACTS

Perhaps the most anticipated game takes place Thursday when former NFL No. 1 draft pick and eventual star **Michael Vick** debuts as the new head coach at **Norfolk State**. His Spartans host Towson at 7 p.m. in what is likely to be a sold out **Dick Price** Stadium in Norfolk.

Not only has the game been added to the ESPN menu, scheduled to be carried live on ESPN+, but **Stephen A. Smith** is bringing ESPN's *First Take* show to Norfolk State earlier Thursday (10 a.m.) to add to the hype.

The teams have exchanged wins over the past two seasons with Towson winning in Norfolk 28-23 last season and the Spartans, then under head coach **Dawson Odums**, winning 21-14 on the road in 2023.

Another former NFL star, dynamic wide receiver/kick returner **DeSean Jackson**, also makes his debut Thursday at 7 p.m. as the new head coach at **Delaware State**. His Hornets open on the road at Delaware in a game to be carried on ESPN+. Jackson will be looking to turn the tables on the Hens who have won all ten previous meetings with DelState. UD is making the jump from FCS to FBS status.

The two auspicious debuts are part of a six-game schedule on Thursday. In 7 p.m. contests, 2024 CIAA regular season champ **Virginia State** opens at Barton (CCDN), **Livingstone** is at Charleston (WV) and **Alcorn State** travels to Northwestern State (ESPN+). **Alabama State** is at UAB at 7:30 p.m. (ESPN+).

The lone game on Friday has **Bethune-Cookman** on the road at Florida International (6 p.m., ESPN+). Former **Florida A&M** head coach **Willie Simmons** is the new head man at FIU.

GAMES TO WATCH, MORE DEBUTS

Saturday's 25-game slate has plenty of intriguing match ups.

Defending SWAC champion and 2025 favorite **Jackson State** hosts **Hampton** at 2 p.m. in the first of 13 games to be streamed each Saturday on *HBCUGo.tv*. JSU is ranked 17th nationally in the preseason AFCA FCS poll. Hampton has won the last three meetings including a 17-13 decision at the 2008 *SWAC/MEAC Challenge*.

Two new coaches will do battle when **North Carolina A&T** travels to meet **Tennessee State** in Nashville Saturday (3:30 p.m., ESPN+). The programs have been going in different directions lately.

Former A&T assistant and former **Fort Valley State** head coach **Shawn Gibbs** takes over at A&T after the once-powerful Aggies went 2-21 in two years under former head coach **Vincent Brown**. Former **Alabama State** star



AUSPICIOUS DEBUTS: (L. to r.) Head coaches Michael Vick at Norfolk State, DeSean Jackson at Delaware State, Shawn Gibbs at NC A&T and Reggie Barlow at Tennessee State make their debuts this week. Gibbs' and Barlow's teams meet in Nashville Saturday at 3:30 p.m. on ESPN+.

and NFL vet and former Hornets' head coach **Reggie Barlow**, who also had stints as the head coach at **Virginia State** and with the NFL's DC Defenders, is the new man at TSU. He comes in after **Eddie George** turned the fortunes around for the Blue Tigers in four years including a 9-4 record, OVC/Big South co-championship and FCS playoff berth in 2024 before bolting to Bowling Green.

A&T has won four of five meetings with TSU including a 1999 game in the first round of the I-AA playoffs when the Tigers were the top ranked team in the nation. TSU entered that 24-10 loss with its top three quarterbacks injured. The Tigers lone win came in their last meeting in 2010 (37-7) at the *Circle City Classic* in Indianapolis.

Other games to watch Saturday include **MEAC** member **Howard** travelling to Tallahassee, Florida to face **Florida A&M** of the SWAC (4 p.m., ESPN+) in a rematch of an exciting 2023 *Celebration Bowl VIII* in Atlanta when both teams were champions of their respective conferences. FAMU prevailed in that game 30-26 and has won five of eight games in the series.

An interesting MEAC vs. CAA game is also Saturday (6 p.m., ESPN+) as **North Carolina Central** (1-0) hosts New Hampshire. In their only meeting in 2022, **Trei Oliver's** Eagles knocked off New Hampshire, then ranked 25th in the FCS, 45-27 on the road.

2024 MEAC champion **South Carolina State** opens the second year of head coach **Chennis Berry's** era hosting Wofford of the Southern Conference in Orangeburg, S.C. at 6 p.m. (ESPN+). Wofford holds a 5-2 edge in the series. SC State won their last meeting 28-13 in 2019 in O-burg.

Another interesting match takes place way up in Cambridge, Mass. Saturday (3:30 p.m.) as **Johnson C. Smith** and **Morehouse** make the long trek to do battle in the first *Essence HBCU Football Classic*. The game will be played at Harvard Stadium and will bring black college culture and vibrancy to the New England area. Another game up North will pit **Central State** and **Kentucky State** at the *Detroit (MI) Football Classic* (1 p.m.).

Also Saturday, **SIAC** contender **Clark Atlanta** is at NCAA Div. II finalist **Valdosta State** in Birmingham, AL (1 p.m.) in a game billed as the *Week Zero Labor Day Classic*.

SWAC TV OPENERS

SWAC intra-conference games have **Southern** travelling to **Mississippi Valley**

GAMES THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28

Alcorn State vs. Northwestern St. in Natchitoches, LA - ESPN+ 7p
Livingstone vs. Charleston (WV) in Charleston, WV 7p
Delaware State vs. Delaware in Newark, DE - ESPN+ 7p
Towson vs. Norfolk State in Norfolk, VA - ESPN+ 7p
Virginia State vs. Barton in Wilson, NC - CCDigitalNetwork 7p
Alabama State vs. UAB in Birmingham, AL - ESPN+ 7:30p

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29

Bethune-Cookman vs. Florida Int'l in Miami, FL - ESPN+ 6p

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30

Florida Memorial vs. Reinhardt in Waleska, GA 12p
W. Va. State vs. Carson-Newman in Jeff. City, TN - FloFootball 12p
Albany State vs. Shaw in Durham, NC - CIAA Sports Network 1p
Central State vs. Kentucky State in Detroit, MI 1p
Clark Atlanta vs. Valdosta State in Birmingham, AL 1p
Lincoln (PA) vs. Grand Valley St. in Allendale, MI - FloFootball 1p
Hampton vs. Jackson State in Jackson, MS - HBCUGo 2p
Alabama A&M vs. Arkansas in Fayetteville, AR - SEC Network 3:15p
Johnson C. Smith vs. Morehouse in Cambridge, MA 3:30p
N. C. A&T vs. Tennessee State in Nashville, TN - ESPN+ 3:30p
Howard vs. Florida A&M in Miami Gardens, FL - ESPN+ 4p
Southern vs. Miss. Valley State in Itta Bena, MS - SWAC TV 4p
Fayetteville State vs. Benedict in Columbia, SC - TheGrio 5p
Ft. Valley State vs. W. Alabama in B'ham, AL - FloFootball 5:15p
Allen vs. Morehead State in Morehead, KY - ESPN+ 6p
Edward Waters vs. Savannah State in Savannah, GA - ESPN+ 6p
Elizabeth City State vs. Chowan in Murfreesboro, NC 6p
New Hampshire vs. N. C. Central in Durham, NC - ESPN+ 6p
Wofford vs. S. Carolina State in Orangeburg, SC - ESPN+ 6p
Arkansas-Pine Bluff vs. Texas Tech in Lubbock, TX - ESPN+ 6:30p
Lincoln (CA) vs. Lincoln (MO) in Jefferson City, MO 6:30p
Langston vs. Grambling State in Shreveport, LA - SWAC TV 7p
Morgan State vs. South Alabama in Mobile, AL - ESPN+ 7p
Prairie View A&M vs. Texas Southern in Houston, TX - SWAC TV 7p
Tusculum vs. Bluefield State in Bluefield, WV 7p

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

Virginia Union vs. Miles in Canton, OH - NFL Network 4p
Tuskegee vs. Winston-Salem State in Montgomery, AL - ESPN+ 7p

State (4 p.m.) and **Prairie View A&M** and **Texas Southern** renewing their Houston area rivalry in their *Labor Day Classic* (7 p.m.). Both games will be live on *SWAC TV* and will feature coaching debuts for **Terrell Buckley** at MVSU and **Tremaine Jackson** at Prairie View.

Grambling State also opens on *SWAC TV* Saturday in the *Shreveport Kickoff Classic* facing **Langston** in Shreveport, La. at 7 p.m.

Alabama A&M and new head coach **Sam Shade** have the tall task of opening at Arkansas of the SEC Saturday (3:15 p.m., SEC Network). Other black college FCS teams facing FBS opponents Saturday include **Arkansas-Pine Bluff** at Texas Tech (6:30 p.m., ESPN+) and **Morgan State** at South Florida (7 p.m. ESPN+).

SUNDAY CLASSICS

On Sunday, the closest thing to a *CIAA/ SIAC Challenge* takes place when reigning back-to-back CIAA champ **Virginia Union** meets reigning SIAC champ **Miles** at the *Black College Football Hall of Fame Classic* in Canton, Ohio (4 p.m., NFL Network). It is the first meeting between the schools and will feature the debut of new Miles head coach **Chris Goode**.

A similar CIAA vs. SIAC theme is in play Sunday when **Winston-Salem State** and **Tuskegee** close out the week's schedule at the *Red Tail Classic* in Montgomery, Alabama (7 p.m., ESPN+).

SCORES

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

North Carolina Central 31, Southern 14

(L. to r.) Terrell Buckley at Miss. Valley State, Tremaine Jackson at Prairie View A&M, Chris Goode at Miles and Sam Shade at Alabama A&M are other new coaches opening this week.

FOUR MORE DEBUTS



UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

MEAC RELEASES 2025 TV FOOTBALL SCHEDULE:

NORFOLK, VA – The **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** (MEAC) announced its 2025 football TV schedule Friday broadcasting across ESPN platforms, including coverage on ABC, ESPN2, ESPNU and ESPN+.

The 2025 schedule is highlighted by a pair of marquee matchups on ABC in Atlanta, Ga. The season opened with the *Cricket MEAC/SWAC Challenge* on Saturday, Aug. 23, and will conclude with the postseason *Cricket Celebration Bowl* on Saturday, Dec. 13.

Fans will be able to watch 53 of the conference's 57 regular-season games this year, airing on either linear television or a streaming platform. Of those, 46 games, representing 80.7 percent of the schedule, will appear on ESPN platforms, including three nationally televised contests highlighting the 2025 slate.

The MEAC takes center stage on Thursday, August 28, as **Norfolk State** hosts Towson at William "Dick" Price Stadium in Norfolk, VA. The game kicks off at 7:00 PM broadcasting live on ESPNU.

A showdown between two first-year head coaches and NFL alumni, Coach **Michael Vick** of Norfolk State and Coach **DeSean Jackson** of Delaware State, will take place on Thursday, October 30. The former Philadelphia Eagles teammates return to Lincoln Financial Stadium with their teams for a 7:00 PM conference clash broadcasting on ESPNU.

The third linear game is slated for Friday, November 14 between **South Carolina State** at **North Carolina Central** in Durham, N.C. Kickoff is set for 5:30 PM on ESPN2 in a match up with major conference title implications

2025 MEAC TELEVIEWED SCHEDULE BELOW

Date	Game	Time	Network
Aug. 23	N.C. Central vs. Southern	7:30 PM	ABC
Aug. 28	Delaware State at Delaware	7:00 PM	ESPN+
	Towson at Norfolk State	7:00 PM	ESPNU
Aug. 30	Howard vs. Florida A&M	4:00 PM	ESPNU
	New Hampshire at N.C. Central	6:00 PM	ESPN+
	Wofford at S.C. State	6:00 PM	ESPN+
	Morgan State at South Alabama	7:00 PM	ESPN+
Sept. 6	Albany at Delaware State	1:00 PM	ESPN+
	Howard at Temple	2:00 PM	ESPN+
	N.C. Central at Old Dominion	6:00 PM	ESPN+
	Virginia State at Norfolk State	6:00 PM	ESPN+
	Towson at Morgan State	7:00 PM	ESPN+
	S.C. State at South Carolina	7:00 PM	SECNetwork+/ESPN+
Sept. 13	Howard at Morehouse	1:00 PM	HBCUGo
	Bowie State at Delaware State	3:00 PM	ESPN+
	Morgan State at Toledo	3:30 PM	ESPN+
	Norfolk State at Rutgers	3:30 PM	Big 10 Network
	Fayetteville State at N.C. Central	6:00 PM	ESPN+
	Bethune-Cookman at S.C. State	6:00 PM	ESPN+
Sept. 20	S.C. State at South Florida	12:00 PM	ESPN+
	Central State at Morgan State	12:00 PM	ESPN+
	Delaware State at St. Francis	1:00 PM	TBD
	Hampton at Howard	4:00 PM	TBD
	Sacred Heart at Norfolk State	4:00 PM	ESPN+
	N.C. Central at N.C. A&T State	4:00 PM	FloSports
Sept. 27	Delaware State at Sacred Heart	12:00 PM	ESPN+
	Norfolk State at Wagner	12:00 PM	NEC Front Row
	Howard at Richmond	2:00 PM	ESPN+
	Morgan State vs. Miles College	2:00 PM	TBD
	S.C. State at Charleston Southern	6:00 PM	ESPN+
	N.C. Central at East Texas A&M	7:00 PM	ESPN+
Oct. 4	Delaware State at Monmouth	1:00 PM	FloSports
	Morgan State at Georgetown	1:00 PM	ESPN+
	Savannah State at S.C. State	1:30 PM	ESPN+
	Norfolk State at Hampton	4:00 PM	TBD
Oct. 11	So. Conn. State at Delaware State	1:00 PM	ESPN+
	Howard at Sacred Heart	1:00 PM	ESPN+
	Va. Lynchburg at Morgan State	1:00 PM	ESPN+
	S.C. State at N.C. A&T State	1:00 PM	FloSports
	Norfolk State at Wofford	1:30 PM	ESPN+
	N.C. Central at Florida A&M	3:00 PM	HBCUGo
Oct. 18	Howard at Tennessee State	4:30 PM	ESPN+
Oct. 25	Delaware State at N.C. Central*	1:00 PM	ESPN+
	S.C. State at Norfolk State*	2:00 PM	ESPN+
	Morgan State at Howard*	3:30 PM	ESPN+
Oct. 30	Norfolk State vs. Delaware State*	7:00 PM	ESPNU
Nov. 1	Morgan State at S.C. State*	2:00 PM	ESPN+
	N.C. Central at Howard*	3:30 PM	ESPN+
Nov. 8	Howard at S.C. State*	1:30 PM	ESPN+
	Norfolk State at N.C. Central*	2:00 PM	ESPN+
	Delaware State at Morgan State*	3:30 PM	ESPN+
Nov. 14,	S.C. State at N.C. Central*	5:30 PM	ESPN2
Nov. 15,	Morgan State at Norfolk State*	12:00 PM	ESPN+
	Howard at Delaware State*	1:00 PM	ESPN+
Nov. 22	N.C. Central at Morgan State*	12:00 PM	ESPN Platform
	S.C. State at Delaware State*	1:00 PM	ESPN Platform
	Norfolk State at Howard*	3:30 PM	ESPN Platform
Dec. 13	Celebration Bowl	12:00 PM	ABC

BCSP NFL PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

For preseason games of August 21 - 23, 2025



OFFENSE

- **#19 CHRIS BLAIR**, WR, Atlanta (2nd season, **ALCORN STATE**) - Started at wide receiver in the Falcons' 31-13 loss to Dallas Friday and tied for the team high with six receptions in nine targets for 65 yards (10.8 yards per catch) with a long reception of 21 yards. He also had a run for -6 yards. Blair was in for 51 offensive snaps (77%) and six on special teams (23%).



DEFENSE

- **#41 JAMES HOUSTON**, LB, Dallas (4th season, **JACKSON STATE**) - In Friday's 31-13 win over Atlanta, Houston had three tackles, two solos, one sack for -7 yards, two tackles for loss. He played 43 snaps on defense (65%) and five on special teams (19%).

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SPECIAL TEAMS

- **#29 BRANDON CODRINGTON**, CB/KR, NY Jets (2nd season, **NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL**) - In 23-19 win over Tampa Bay Saturday, Codrington returned one punt for 3 yards and returned three kickoffs for 83 yards (27.7 yards per return) with long returns of 33 and 32 yards. Codrington was in for six plays on special teams (25%).



ROOKIES ON OFFENSE

- **#71 CARSON VINSON**, OT, Baltimore (Rookie, **ALABAMA A&M**) - In 30-3 win over Washington Saturday, Vinson started at left tackle as the Ravens rushed for 102 yards on 34 carries (3.0 yards per carry) and passed for 130 yards (22 of 28) with no sacks. He was in for all 65 plays on offense (100%) and six on special teams (27%).



ROOKIES ON DEFENSE

- **#61 DEVONTA DAVIS**, DT, Indianapolis (Rookie, **JACKSON STATE/Florida Atlantic**) - In the Colts' 41-14 win over Cincinnati Saturday, Davis had three solo tackles including a half-sack while playing 26 defensive snaps (43%).



- **#32 CAM'RON SILMON-CRAIG**, DB, Jacksonville (Rookie, **JACKSON STATE/Colorado**) - In the Jaguars 14-6 loss in overtime to Miami, Silmon-Craig started at defensive back and had five tackles, four solos on defense, and one solo tackle and one assisted tackle on special teams. He was in for all 58 defensive snaps (100%) and 15 on special teams (88%).

TOP PERFORMANCES

FROM SWAC / MEAC CHALLENGE
AUGUST 23, 2025



Player	COMP-ATT-INT	YDS	TDs	INT	LONG	SACK	
PASSING Walker Harris, NCCU	19-24	183	1	0	12	0	
Cam/Ron McCoy, SOU	9-14-0	71	0	0	12	0	
Player	CAR	YDS	LOSS	NET	TDs	LG	AVG
RUSHING Chris Mosley, NCCU	15	178	4	174	1	49	11.6
Trey Holly, SOU	10	116	0	116	1	80	11.6
Cam/Ron McCoy, SOU	9	108	10	98	1	69	10.9
Player	REC	YDS	TDs	LONG			
RECEIVING Chance Peterson, NCCU	4	42	0	13			
Chauncey Spikes, NCCU	3	36	0	14			
Player	TACKLES						
TACKLES 11 Horacio Johnson, SOU; 7 Thomas Johnson, NCCU;							
SACKS 1 Jamario Campbell, SOU;							
INTERCEPTIONS 0							



Photo by Doug Burt / NCCU

TO THE HOUSE!! Redshirt senior RB Chris Mosely crosses the goal line after his 49-yard second-quarter TD run at the SWAC/MEAC Challenge in Atlanta. His score gave the Eagles a 17-14 lead that they never relinquished in posting a 31-14 win. Mosley ran for 174 yards on 15 carries to lead the ground attack while QB Walker Harris was 18 of 23 for 183 yards and a TD. The win gives the MEAC a 12-7 edge in the series.