

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



Grambling State Sports Photo

TALL TASKS AWAIT

FORMIDABLE FBS OPPONENTS ON DECK; NFL KICKS OFF WITH 33 BLACK COLLEGE PLAYERS

TALLEST TASK: Mickey Joseph's Grambling Tigers are in Columbus, Ohio to face defending BCS national champion Ohio State.

Tall tasks await black college FCS teams

LUT WILLIAMS
BCSP Editor

Six of the 12 teams in the SWAC and half the six teams in the MEAC are on the road this Saturday facing formidable FBS opponents.

Perhaps no one of the six SWAC teams has a bigger task than **Grambling State** (1-0) that goes to Columbus, Ohio to face FBS No. 1 Ohio State (1-0) coming off a big 14-7 home win Saturday over former No. 1 Texas. Grambling ran past NAIA member **Langston** 55-7 Saturday.

The 3:30 p.m. contest will be carried live on the *Big Ten Network*.

Bethune-Cookman (0-1) plays at pre-season No. 10 and now No. 7 Miami (1-0) who knocked off No. 6 Notre Dame 27-24 Sunday. B-CU lost Friday at former **Florida A&M** head coach **Willie Simmons'** debut at Florida International, 42-9. The *ACC Network* will carry the 7 p.m. game.

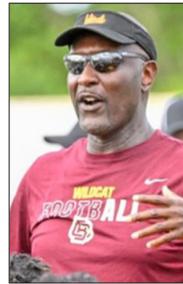
Texas Southern (0-1), coming off a last-second 22-21 loss to rival **Prairie View A&M** Saturday, travels out West to face California (1-0) who knocked off Oregon State 34-15 Saturday. *ESPN+* will carry the 3 p.m. game.

Defending SWAC champion **Jackson State** (1-0) got a 28-14 home win over **Hampton** Saturday and stays in state to face Southern Miss (0-1) Saturday (4 p.m., *ESPN+*). Southern Miss fell to Mississippi State, 34-17.

Florida A&M (0-1), who lost 10-9 to **Howard** at Miami's *Orange Blossom Classic* Saturday, and Florida Atlantic (0-1), that lost 39-7 at Maryland, face off in Boca Raton, Fla. (6 p.m., *ESPN+*).

Mississippi Valley State (0-1), coming off a tough 34-29 loss at home vs. **Southern**, plays at 2-0 Tarleton State (6 p.m., *ESPN+*). Tarleton State has posted wins over Portland State (42-0) and Army (30-27 in 2OT).

The other non-conference games for SWAC teams are FCS affairs with **Prairie View A&M**



FORMIDABLE FOES:

Bethune-Cookman head coach Raymond Woodie's Wildcats are on the road at No. 7 Miami Saturday, one of seven SWAC teams and three from the MEAC facing off against tough FBS opponents.

(1-0) hosting Texas Grand Valley State (1-0) at 6 p.m. on *SWAC TV* and **Arkansas-Pine Bluff** (0-1), after its 67-7 loss at Texas Tech Saturday, playing at Central Arkansas (0-1), who lost 61-6 to Missouri.

SWAC conference play has **Alabama State** (0-1) facing 1-1 **Southern** at 6 p.m. on *ESPN+* and **Alcorn State** (0-1) playing at 0-1 **Alabama A&M** at 6 p.m. on *HBCUGo.tv*.

The MEAC teams facing FBS opponents are **Howard** (1-0) traveling to Philadelphia (2 p.m., *ESPN+*) to face 1-0 Temple, **N. C. Central** (1-1) in Norfolk, Va. (6 p.m., *ESPN+*) to take on Old Dominion (0-1) and **S. C. State** (1-0) on the road at 1-0 South Carolina in Columbia, S.C. (7 p.m., *SEC Network* and *ESPN+*).

Morgan State (0-1) hosts Towson (1-0) in a Baltimore FCS Battle at 7 p.m. (*ESPN+*).

Tennessee State (1-0) got a close 24-21 win over **North Carolina A&T** Saturday in head coach **Reggie Barlow's** debut. TSU is hosting 10-time FCS national champion, defending FCS national champion and preseason FCS No. 1 North Dakota State Saturday (1:30 p.m., *ESPN+*). NC A&T (0-1) travels to Orlando to take on Central Florida (7 p.m., *ESPN+*).

Norfolk State had new head coach **Michael Vick's** debut ruined last week in a 27-7 loss to Towson. The Spartans will try to get

GAMES THIS WEEK

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Barton vs. West Virginia State in Institute, WV	12p
Lincoln (PA) vs. Duquesne in Pittsburgh, PA	12p
Valdosta State vs. Johnson C. Smith in Charlotte, NC	12p
Albany vs. Delaware State in Dover, DE - <i>ESPN+</i>	1p
Bowie State vs. Shipp'burg in Shippensburg, PA - <i>PSACSDN</i>	1p
Concord at Bluefield State in Bluefield, WV - <i>BigBlueSN</i>	1p
Albany State vs. Kentucky State in Frankfort, KY - <i>SIACN</i>	2p
Howard vs. Temple in Philadelphia, PA - <i>ESPN+</i>	2p
Florida Memorial vs. Clark Atlanta in Atlanta, GA	3p
Lincoln (MO) vs. Lane in Jackson, TN	3p
Texas Southern vs. California in Berkeley, CA - <i>ESPN+</i>	3p
Grambling State vs. Ohio State in Columbus, OH - <i>BTN</i>	3:30p
N. Dakota St. vs. Tennessee State in Nashville, TN - <i>ESPN+</i>	3:30p
Jackson State vs. Southern Miss. in Hatburg, MS - <i>ESPN+</i>	4p
Miles vs. Edward Waters in Jacksonville, FL - <i>ESPN+</i>	4p
Alabama State vs. Southern in Baton Rouge, LA - <i>ESPN+</i>	6p
Alcorn State vs. Alabama A&M in Huntsville, AL - <i>HBCUGo</i>	6p
Ark.-Pine Bluff vs. Central Arkansas in Conway, AR	6p
Eliz. City State vs. Hampton in Hampton, VA - <i>FloFootball</i>	6p
Fayv. State vs. UNC Pembroke in Pembroke, NC - <i>CCDN</i>	6p
Florida A&M vs. Florida Atlantic in Boca Raton, FL - <i>ESPN+</i>	6p
Livingstone vs. Allen in Columbia, SC - <i>CIAANetwork</i>	6p
Louisiana Christian vs. Langston in Langston, OK	6p
Miss. Valley State vs. Tarleton State in Stephenville, TX - <i>ESPN+</i>	6p
N. C. Central vs. Old Dominion in Norfolk, VA - <i>ESPN+</i>	6p
Shorter vs. Savannah State in Savannah, GA - <i>SavSISN</i>	6p
Texas College vs. Arkansas Baptist in Little Rock, AR	6p
UT Gr. Valley St. vs. Prairie View A&M in Pr. View, TX - <i>SWACTV</i>	6p
Virginia State vs. Norfolk State in Norfolk, VA - <i>ESPN+</i>	6p
W-Salem State vs. Mars Hill in Mars Hill, NC - <i>FloCollege</i>	6:30p
Bethune-Cookman vs. Miami in Miami, FL - <i>ACCNetwork</i>	7p
Central State vs. Tuskegee in Tuskegee, AL - <i>TheGrio</i>	7p
N. C. A&T vs. Central Florida in Orlando, FL - <i>ESPN+</i>	7p
Towson vs. Morgan State in Baltimore, MD - <i>ESPN+</i>	7p
S. C. State vs. S. Carolina in Columbia, SC - <i>SECN/ESPN+</i>	7p

Vick's first win when they face CIAA rival **Virginia State** (1-0) at 6 p.m. (*ESPN+*).

CIAA contender **J. C. Smith** (1-0) hosts Div. II No. 12 and 2024 D2 national runners-up Valdosta State (1-0) at 12 noon in Charlotte.

SCORES

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28	Jackson State 28, Hampton 14
Charleston (WV) 39, Livingstone 10	Johnson C. Smith 45, Morehouse 9
Delaware 35, Delaware State 17	Kentucky State 34, Central State 24
Northwestern St. 20, Alcorn State 10	Lincoln (MO) 55, Lincoln (CA) 6
Towson 27, Norfolk State 7	Morehead State 38, Allen 31
UAB 52, Alabama State 42	New Hampshire 27, N. C. Central 10
Virginia State 35, Barton 7	Prairie View A&M 22, Texas Southern 21
FRIDAY, AUGUST 29	Reinhardt 49, Florida Memorial 35
Florida Int'l 42, Bethune-Cookman 9	South Alabama 38, Morgan State 21
SATURDAY, AUGUST 30	South Carolina State 16, Wofford 15
Albany State 51, Shaw 7	Southern 34, Miss. Valley State 29
Arkansas 52, Alabama A&M 7	Tennessee State 24, N. C. A&T 21
Benedict 10, Fayetteville State 0	Texas Tech 67, Arkansas-Pine Bluff 7
Carson-Newman 41, W. Va. State 10	Tusculum 49, Bluefield State 23
Chowan 28, Elizabeth City State 14	Valdosta State 31, Clark Atlanta 28
Edward Waters 41, Savannah State 14	West Alabama 27, Fort Valley State 17
Grambling State 55, Langston 7	SUNDAY, AUGUST 31
Grand Valley State 45, Lincoln (PA) 9	Tuskegee 20, Winston-Salem State 17
Howard 10, Florida A&M 9	Virginia Union 45, Miles 3

TOP PERFORMANCES

FROM GAMES OF AUGUST 28 - 31, 2025

PASSING

COMP-ATT-INT	Yds	Tds (Yds)
Rahsaan Matthews, VSU	17-21-0	343 (2 (6, 58))
Andrew Body, ALST	18-24-0	312 (4 (14, 31, 5, 69))
Jamir Dismukes, ALL	26-38-0	309 (2 (7, 11))
Cameron Peters, PVA&M	22-38-1	295 (1 (15))
Kelvin Durham, JCSU	15-19-1	270 (3 (11, 72, 33))
Miles Scott, MHS	14-27-3	262 (1 (71))
Zy McDonald, CLATL	14-30-0	254 (2 (21, 22))
Kaleb Jackson, WVVSU	16-25-1	241 (0)
Otto Kuhns, NSU	19-27-0	219 (0)
David Buggs, FLAMEM	16-34-1	212 (2 (3, 15))
Isaiah Tate, LINC�	10-19-1	210 (3 (27, 4, 20))
Wesley Thompson, BLST	9-20-2	205 (2 (86, 71))
Czavia Teasett, GSU	20-25-0	203 (3 (55, 3, 3))
Torrance Bardell, KSU	6-8-0	195 (2 (77, 85))
Jaylon Tolbert, ALC	19-44-2	182 (0)

RUSHING

CAR	Yds	AVG	Tds (Yds)
Curtis Allen, VUU	17	185	10.8 (2 (53, 12))
Kendric Rhymes, TNST	21	174	8.3 (2 (60, 51))
Ahmad Miller, JSU	10	172	17.2 (2 (2, 76))
Tiant Wyche, ALBST	14	137	9.8 (2 (3, 27))
Marquis Gillis, DSU	17	123	7.4 (0)
Andrew Body, ALST	16	119	7.4 (1 (60))
Dai'Vontay Young, CSU	9	110	12.2 (1 (73))
Chris Mosley, NCCU	19	106	5.6 (0)
Nygel Osborne, FLMEM	10	103	10.3 (2 (58, 25))
Traquan Johnson, ECSU	19	98	5.2 (1 (3))
Jason Gabriel, SOU	19	97	5.1 (1 (25))
Isaiah Freeman, HAMP	13	94	7.3 (0)
Joshua Brown, MVVSU	12	84	7.0 (0)
Timothy Ruff, WSSU	9	81	9.0 (0)
Marqui Johnson, B-CU	9	76	8.4 (0)
Wesley Graves, NCA&T	14	69	4.9 (1 (40))

RECEIVING

REC	Yds	AVG	Tds/Yds
Jalen Jones, ALST	6	174	29.0 (1 (69))
Brandon Wiley, BLST	4	167	41.8 (2 (86, 71))
Brian Lane, JCSU	6	163	27.2 (1 (72))
Kevin Gayles, VSU	6	131	21.8 (1 (58))
DreSean Kendrick, NSU	11	125	11.4 (0)
Cyprian Darius, KSU	6	122	20.3 (1 (77))
Javon Ross, B-CU	6	109	18.2 (0)
Kam'Ryn Thomas, NSU	7	105	15.0 (0)
Nanders Lawrence, ALL	9	104	11.5 (1 (11))
Dylan Wroblecki, LANG	9	104	11.5 (1 (21))
DeVaughn Slaughter, TNST	4	102	25.5 (1 (82))
Justin Glenn, LIV	4	101	25.3 (0)
Kyrie Tyson, LINC�	4	93	23.2 (0)
Jalen Johnson, SCSU	6	93	12.2 (0)
Ajenavi Byrd, VSU	6	92	15.3 (0)
Amonte Jones, NCA&T	4	91	22.6 (1 (66))
Kamrin Brunson, MHS	3	90	30.0 (1 (71))
Armani Murray, LINC�	3	88	29.3 (1 (20))
Chad Elzy, KSU	1	85	85.0 (1 (85))
Amare Ary, WVVSU	5	76	15.2 (0)

TACKLES

15 Quinten Johnson, DSU;
14 Darry Felix, SHAW;
12 Malachi Adkins, LIV; Jayden Walker, FVSU;
11 Timothy Jasper, ALC; Tajon Roach, FSU;
Tyreshon Freeman, ALL;
10 Kenyon Garner, LIV; Stemarion Edwards, ALC; Domonique Davis, CSU; Tomondrey Braxton, NCCU; Joshua Iseah, NCA&T; Erick Hunter, MSU; Kylan Moseley, KyVeon Perkins, LANG; Isaiah Bogerty, TSU;

SACKS

3.5 Ckelby Givens, SOU;
2.5 David Ojebge, NSU;
2.0 Wyatt Wright, ALA&M; Quincy Ivory, JSU; Michael Lunz, SCSU; Jacob McGhee, LINC�; Masiah Wells, TUSK;
1.5 Thomas Johnson, NCCU;

INTERCEPTIONS

2 Elijah Wilson, JCSU;
1 20

LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

Thirty-three (33) players with black college roots made 2025 NFL opening-day 53-man active rosters or 17-man practice squads when the final cutdowns and assignments were announced last week.

BLACK COLLEGE PLAYERS ON 2025 OPENING DAY NFL ROSTERS

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE (AFC, 15)				
NO.	NAME	POS	EXP	COLLEGE
BALTIMORE RAVENS (1)				
71	Carson Vinson	OT	R	Alabama A&M
BUFFALO BILLS (1)				
29	Brandon Coddington	CB	2	North Carolina Central
CLEVELAND BROWNS (1)				
12	Shedeur Sanders	QB	R	Jackson State/Colorado
HOUSTON TEXANS (1)				
71	Tytus Howard	OT/OG	7	Alabama State
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS (1)				
90	Grover Stewart	DT	9	Albany State
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS (4)				
12	Travis Hunter	WR/CB	R	Jackson State/Colorado
66	Ricky Lee (PS)	OL	2	North Carolina A&T
32	Cam'Ron Silmon-Craig (PS)	S	R	Jackson State/Colorado
33	Bhayshul Tuten	RB	R	NC A&T/Virginia Tech
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS (2)				
6	Bryan Cook	S	4	Howard/Cincinnati
2	Joshua Williams	CB	4	Fayetteville State
MIAMI DOLPHINS (2)				
56	Quinton Bell (PS)	OLB	4	Prairie View A&M
71	Kion Smith	OL	3	Fayetteville State
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS (1)				
26	Terrell Jennings (PS)	RB	1	Florida A&M
NEW YORK JETS (1)				
48	Aaron Boog Smith (PS)	LB	R	South Carolina State
NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE (NFC, 18)				
NO.	NAME	POS	EXP	COLLEGE
ATLANTA FALCONS (3)				
19	Chris Blair (PS)	WR	2	Alcorn State
4	Khadarel Hodge	WR	6	Prairie View A&M
75	Brandon Parker (PS)	OT	8	North Carolina A&T
ARIZONA CARDINALS (1)				
60	Nick Leverett (PS)	OG/OC	5	NC Central/Rice
CAROLINA PANTHERS (1)				
53	Claudin Chereelus	ILB	3	Alcorn State
DALLAS COWBOYS (2)				
14	Markquese Bell	S	4	Florida A&M
53	James Houston	DE	4	Jackson State
GREEN BAY PACKERS (1)				
31	Emanuel Wilson	RB	3	Fort Valley State
LOS ANGELES RAMS (2)				
14	Cobie Durant	CB	4	South Carolina State
19	Xavier Smith	WR	2	Florida A&M
MINNESOTA VIKINGS (2)				
98	Javon Hargrave	DE	10	South Carolina State
99	Elijah Williams	DE	R	Morgan State
NEW ORLEANS SAINTS (1)				
68	Toricelli Simpkins III	G/OC	R	NC Central/South Carolina
NEW YORK GIANTS (1)				
12	Jamie Gillan	PT	7	Arkansas-Pine Bluff
WASHINGTON COMMANDERS (4)				
47	Robert McDaniel (PS)	CB	R	Jackson State
73	Trent Scott	OT	8	Grambling State
32	Jacory Croskey-Merritt	RB	R	Alabama State/Arizona
34	Antonio Hamilton (PS)	CB	10	South Carolina State

TOTAL 33 (-2) BY POSITION

NFC	18 (-2)	DB (+1)	9
AFC	15 (NC)	OL (-3)	8
BY HBCU CONFERENCE			
SWAC	17 (NC)	RB (NC)	4
MEAC	9 (-1)	LB (NC)	3
INDYs	3 (-1)	Punter (NC)	1
SIAC	2 (NC)	QB (NC)	1
CIAA	2 (NC)		

2025 BCSP NFL REPORT

NFL season opens with HBCU numbers at 33

That total number is down two from 2024.

Of the 33 black college players, 23 are listed on active rosters – the same as a year ago – which means they will begin the season eligible and able to play in this week's games.

The 2025 active list includes two who will play for the Dallas Cowboys when they kick off the 2025-26 season Thursday at the Super Bowl champion Philadelphia Eagles. The Cowboys have fourth-year veteran safety **Markquese Bell** out of **Florida A&M** and a new Cowboy in former **Jackson State** standout and fourth-year vet, edge rusher **James Houston**. Houston had earlier stints with Detroit and Cleveland.

Perhaps the most notable on active rosters are two rookie undrafted free agents. Defensive end **Elijah Williams** out of **Morgan State**, the 2024 **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** defensive player of the year, showed his pass-rushing prowess and defensive stoutness in the preseason to make the Minnesota Vikings active roster. The other undrafted rookie to make an opening day roster was former **North Carolina Central** offensive lineman **Toricelli Simpkins III** who finished his career at South Carolina. Simpkins earned a spot on the New Orleans Saints' 53-man roster.

To no one's surprise, the five with black college experience drafted this season made their active rosters. They include former **Jackson State** defensive back/wide receiver and Heisman Trophy winner (at Colorado) **Travis Hunter** with Jacksonville, former **North Carolina A&T** running back **Bhayshul Tuten**, also with Jacksonville, former **Alabama A&M** offensive lineman **Carson Vinson** with Baltimore, former Jackson State quarterback **Shedeur Sanders** with Cleveland and former **Alabama State** running back **Jacory Croskey-Merritt** with Washington.

With the retirement of 12th-year **Arkansas-Pine Bluff** veteran offensive lineman **Terron Armstead** from Miami, **South Carolina State** defensive lineman **Javon Hargrave** becomes the most tenured black college player entering his tenth season in the league. Hargrave, after stints with Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and San Francisco, signed with Minnesota and will play alongside Williams this season.

Fellow ten-year veteran from SC State, defensive back **Antonio Hamilton**, was picked up late in the preseason by Washington and was named to the Commanders' practice squad. Indianapolis defensive tackle **Grover Stewart** out of **Albany State** is entering his ninth season, while offensive linemen **Brandon Parker** (N. C. A&T / Atlanta) and **Trent Scott** (**Grambling State** / Washington) are beginning their eighth seasons.

Jackson State leads all HBCUs with five players in the league. South Carolina State has four with **Florida A&M**, N. C. Central and N. C. A&T with three.

The **Southwestern Athletic Conference** (SWAC) again leads the way with 17 players in the league, nearly twice the nine from the **Mid Eastern Athletic Conference** (MEAC). The **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference** (SIAC) and **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association** (CIAA) each has two players on NFL rosters. Former CIAA and MEAC member **North Carolina A&T**, now in the Coastal Athletic Association (CAA), has the three players on rosters representing non-HBCU conferences or independents.

Jacksonville and Washington lead all NFL teams with four black college products on their rosters. Atlanta has three with five other teams have two.

The position most occupied by black college products is defensive back (safeties and cornerbacks) with nine. DBs

moved past offensive lineman (eight) to lead in that category. There are four defensive linemen, running backs and receivers and three linebackers on the rosters.

Sanders is the only quarterback.

BLACK COLLEGE PLAYERS IN THE NFL BY SCHOOL

COLLEGE / NAME	NFL
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