

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



Albany State Sports Photo

TITLE QUESTS IN FULL EFFECT

QUINN GRAY: Brings his pre-season favorite Albany State Golden Rams into Columbia, SC to face undefeated Benedict in an SIAC showdown.

MEAC PLAY GETS UNDERWAY; SHOWDOWN IN THE SIAC; SOUTHERN PIVOTS TO FRED McNAIR

CIAA	CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION			
	CONF	ALL	W	L
Virginia Union	4	0	6	1
Fayetteville State	4	0	4	3
Johnson C. Smith	3	1	6	1
Virginia State	2	2	4	3
Bluefield State	2	2	3	4
Winston-Salem State	2	3	4	4
Livingstone	2	3	3	4
Shaw	2	3	2	5
Bowie State	1	3	2	5
Elizabeth City State	1	3	1	6
Lincoln (PA)	0	4	0	7

BCSP CIAA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK
QB - Brice Koontz, R-So., BLST - 20-43-2, 357 yards, 4 TDs (69, 17, 32, 8) in loss to Bowie State.
Kelvin Durham, R-Sr., JCSU - 15-28-0, 281 yards, 3 TDs (26, 49, 35) in win at Shaw. **R. J. Rosales, Jr., VUU** - 14-20-1, 247 yds., 3 TDs (24, 15, 43), 2 rushing TDs (7, 1) vs Lincoln (Pa.).
OB - Micah Robinson, R-So., BSU - 31 carries, 193 yds. (6.2 ypc), 4 TDs (8, 27, 10, 3) in win over BLST. **Curtis Allen, Sr., VUU** - 24 carries, 208 yds. (8.7 ypc.), 3 TDs (1, 3, 48) vs Lincoln (Pa.).
WR - Deandre Proctor, Sr., JCSU - 5 receptions, 106 yards (21.5 ypc.), 2 TDs (25, 35) in win at Shaw.
DB - Jymere Melendez, So., VUU - 2 interceptions returned 72 yards vs. Lincoln (Pa.).
DL - Kevin Haynes Jr., So., JCSU - 5 solos, 4.0 TFL (-37), 2.0 sacks (-31), 1 FF, 1 FR TD vs. Shaw.
LB - Damarion Jackson, Fr., JCSU - 2 solos, both sacks, for -3 yards vs. Shaw.

MEAC	MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE			
	CONF	ALL	W	L
North Carolina Central	0	0	5	2
Delaware State	0	0	4	3
SC State	0	0	4	3
Howard	0	0	3	4
Morgan State	0	0	3	4
Norfolk State	0	0	1	6

BCSP MEAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK
OFFENSE
NA
DEFENSE
NA
SPECIALIST
NA
NEWCOMER
NA
ROOKIE
NA

SIAC	SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE			
	CONF	ALL	W	L
Benedict	6	0	7	0
Albany State	5	0	6	1
Kentucky State	5	1	6	2
Edward Waters	3	2	4	3
Morehouse	3	2	3	4
Savannah State	2	3	3	4
Allen	2	3	2	5
Fort Valley State	2	3	2	5
Miles	2	3	2	6
Central State	2	4	2	6
Clark Atlanta	1	4	2	5
Tuskegee	1	4	2	5
Lane	0	5	0	7

BCSP SIAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK
OFFENSE **Darius Ocean, Sr., QB, BEN** - 17-33-0, 268 yards, 2 TDs 16-yard game winner vs. EWU. **Miles Scott, Jr., QB, MHS** - 21-32-0 passing for 313 yards, 3 TDs (15, 20, 43) vs. Lane. **Johntarrious Thomas, Jr., RB, EWU** - 21 carries, 226 yards (10.8 ypc.), 1 TD (58) in loss to Benedict.
DEFENSE **Darnell Stephens, Gr., CB, FVSU** - Two tackles, 1 solo, 3 interceptions in win over Sav. St. **Mataye Youman, So., LB, KSU** - 13 tackles, 8 solos, 1 strip sack (-3) with fumble recovery vs. FP.
NEWCOMER **Queanu Campbell-Caldwell, Jr., QB, CSU** - 14-27-1, 304 yds., 2 TDs (44, 75) vs. KCU.

SWAC	SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE			
	EAST DIVISION		WEST DIVISION	
Jackson State	3	0	5	1
Alabama State	2	1	4	2
Bethune-Cookman	2	1	3	4
Florida A&M	1	1	2	4
Alabama A&M	1	2	4	3
Miss. Valley State	0	2	1	5
Prairie View A&M	4	0	5	2
Texas Southern	3	1	4	3
Grambling State	1	2	4	3
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	1	2	3	4
Southern	0	3	1	6
Alcorn State	0	3	1	6

BCSP SWAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK
OFFENSE **R. J. Johnson, Jr., QB, FAMU** - 26 of 38, 323 yards, 1 TD (17), 50 rushing yards, 1 TD (26) vs. Alcorn State. **Tre Bradford, Gr., RB, GSU** - 25 carries, 123 yards (4.9 ypc.), 2 TDs (12, 3) vs. UAPB. **Kerian Charlo, Sr., WR, TSU** - 4 rec., 102 yards (25.5 ypc.), 2 TDs (12, 69) in win vs. VUL.
DEFENSE **Markel Linzer, So., DB, GSU** - 6 tackles, 4 solo, 1 TFL, 2 picks vs. UAPB.
SPECIALIST **Daniel Porto, Fr., PK, FAMU** - Hit on FGs of 36, 28, 51 and 38 yards, 1 PAT for 13 pts. vs. Alcorn.
NEWCOMER **Trey Holly, R-So., RB, SOU** - 21 carries, 99 yards (4.7 ypc.) vs. FAMU.

INDEPENDENTS	W L W L			
	CONF	ALL	W	L
Virginia-Lynchburg	0	0	3	4
SUN				
Florida Memorial	2	1	3	3
CAA				
NC A&T State	1	2	1	6
Hampton	0	3	2	6
OHIO VALLEY				
Tennessee State	0	3	2	5
MAIA				
Lincoln (Mo.)	0	4	2	5
MOUNTAIN EAST				
W. Va. State	3	2	4	3
SAC (Sooner Athletic Conference)				
Langston	2	3	2	5
Texas College	0	5	0	6

BCSP INDY PLAYERS OF THE WEEK
OFFENSE
Devin Cox, Fr., RB, WVU - 14 carries, 91 yards (6.5 ypc.) and four receptions for 93 yards and 1 TD (67) in loss vs. Wheeling.
DEFENSE
NA

SCORES

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17	
Kentucky State 17, Franklin Pierce 14	Ky. Christian 35, Central State 27
	Miles (HC) 27, Clark Atlanta 20
	Miss. Valley State (HC) 49, Lincoln (CA) 0
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18	
Albany State (HC) 7, Tuskegee 3	Morehouse (HC) 31, Lane vs. 7
Benedict 31, Edward Waters 27	Prairie View A&M 24, Southern (HC) 3
Bowie State 42, Bluefield State 37	Tennessee State (HC) 24, Howard 7
Florida A&M (HC) 33, Alcorn State 28	Texas Southern (HC) 61, VUL 10
Florida Memorial (HC) 49, Warner 21	Villanova 56, Hampton 14
Fort Valley State 7, Savannah State 0	Virginia State 24, Eliz. City State 20
Grambling State 20, Ark.-Pine Bluff 16	Virginia Union (HC) 66, Lincoln (PA) 21
Indianapolis 62, Lincoln (MO) 7	Wayland Baptist 42, Langston 28
Johnson C. Smith 52, Shaw (HC) 0	Wheeling 24, West Virginia State 20
	W-Salem State (HC) 42, Livingstone 10

Countdowns to titles begin in earnest

LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor
 The last week of October begins a key stretch of the 2025 black college football season.

CIAA and SIAC teams start the final three weeks of regular season play determining who will play in their Nov. 15 championship games.

After seven weeks of non-conference games, the six-member **MEAC** begins its five-week march to determine who will win the 2025 title and represent the league in the season-ending *Cricket Celebration Bowl* in Atlanta's Mercedes-Benz Stadium on Dec. 13.

And, the **SWAC** enters the final five stages of its East and West Division races to determine who the winners will be and where they will play in the Dec. 6 league title game with the winner earning a spot opposite the MEAC champion in Atlanta.

The CIAA race
 Two-time defending champion **Virginia Union** (6-1) and **Fayetteville State** (4-3) are atop the standings at 4-0 in league play. **Johnson C. Smith** (6-1) is third at 3-1 with **Virginia State** (4-3) and surprising **Bluefield State** (3-4) fourth at 2-2.

VUU hosts **Bowie State** (2-5, 1-3) this week (1 p.m., *CIAA Sports Network*) and closes at Bluefield State on Nov. 1 and at home vs. **VSU** on Nov. 8.

After losing its first three games and rolling to four straight wins, **Fayetteville State**, coming off a bye week, is on the road in Durham, N.C. Saturday (1 p.m.) to face **Shaw** (2-5, 2-3). The Broncos finish the season with home dates vs. **JCSU** (Nov. 1) and **Winston-Salem State** (Nov. 8).

JCSU and **WSSU** tangle Saturday (1 p.m.,

CIAASN) in Charlotte, NC. **Bluefield State** is at **Virginia State's** homecoming Saturday (2 p.m., *CIAASN*).

The SIAC race
Benedict (7-0) brings its 6-0 league mark into a showdown Saturday at home (2 p.m., *ESPN+*) vs. **Quinn Gray's** conference co-leader and league favorite **Albany State** (6-1, 5-0). **Benedict** has only one other league game on Nov. 8 at **Savannah State**. **Albany State** hosts **Savannah State** next week and closes with **Fort Valley State** in Columbus, Ga. on Nov. 8. **Kentucky State** (6-2) is third at 5-1 with its only league loss to **Albany State**. The **Thorobreds** are off this week. **Edward Waters** (4-3) and **Morehouse** (3-4) are both fourth at 3-2.

Edward Waters is at homecoming for **Clark Atlanta** (2-5, 1-4) Saturday (1 p.m., *SIAC Network & TheGrio*). **Morehouse** plays at homecoming (3 p.m.) at **Savannah State** (3-4, 2-3).

The MEAC race
 The MEAC race begins with three homecoming contests. Defending champion **South Carolina State** (4-3) is at homecoming (2 p.m., *ESPN+*) at **Norfolk State** (1-6), **Delaware State** (4-3) is at 5-2 **North Carolina Central's** homecoming (1 p.m., *ESPN+*) and **Morgan State** (3-4) is at 3-4 **Howard's** homecoming (3:30 p.m., *ESPN+*).

The SWAC race
Jackson State (5-1, 3-0 SWAC E) is the East Division leader as it faces rival **Grambling State** (4-3, 1-2) in the *Las Vegas HBCU Classic* at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas (5 p.m., *HBCUGo.tv*). West Division leader **Prairie View A&M** (5-2, 4-0) has non-conference opponent **Lincoln** (Ca.) in for homecoming (2

GAMES THIS WEEK

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25	
Bowie State vs. Virginia Union in Richmond, VA - <i>CIAASN</i>	1p
Campbell vs. North Carolina A&T in Greensboro, NC	1p
Delaware State vs. N. C. Central (HC) in Durham, NC - <i>ESPN+</i>	1p
Elizabeth City State vs. Lincoln (PA) (HC) in Lincoln, PA - <i>LincolnStream</i>	1p
Edward Waters vs. Clark Atlanta (HC) in Atlanta, GA - <i>SIACNetwork - TheGrio</i>	1p
Fayetteville State vs. Shaw in Durham, NC	1p
Florida Memorial vs. Thomas in Thomasville, GA	1p
Lincoln (MO) vs. McKendree in Lebanon, IL	1p
Miles vs. Central State in Wilberforce, OH	1p
Winston-Salem State vs. J. C. Smith in Charlotte, NC - <i>CIAASN</i>	1p
W. Illinois vs. Tennessee State in Nashville, TN	1:30p
Albany State vs. Benedict in Columbia, SC - <i>ESPN+</i>	2p
Ark.-Pine Bluff vs. Bethune-Cookman (HC) in Dayt. Beach, FL - <i>SWACTV</i>	2p
Bluefield State vs. Virginia State (HC) in Petersburg, VA - <i>CIAASN</i>	2p
Langston vs. Texas Wesleyan in Fort Worth, TX	2p
Lincoln (CA) vs. Prairie View A&M (HC) in Pr. View, TX - <i>SWACTV</i>	2p
Miss. Valley State vs. Alcorn State in Lorman, MS - <i>SWACTV</i>	2p
Monmouth vs. Hampton (HC) in Hampton, VA	2p
South Carolina State vs. Norfolk State (HC) in Norfolk, VA - <i>ESPN+</i>	2p
Virginia Lynchburg vs. Livingstone in Salisbury, NC	2p
Alabama State vs. Alabama A&M in Birmingham - <i>ESPN+</i>	2:30p
Allen vs. Tuskegee in Tuskegee, AL - <i>ESPN+</i>	3p
Fort Valley State vs. Lane in Jackson, TN	3p
Morehouse vs. Savannah State (HC) in Savannah, GA	3p
West Virginia State vs. West Florida in Pensacola, FL	3p
Morgan State vs. Howard (HC) in Washington, DC - <i>ESPN+</i>	3:30p
Florida A&M vs. Southern in Baton Rouge, LA - <i>SWACTV</i>	4p
Grambling State vs. Jackson State in Las Vegas, NV - <i>HBCUGo.tv</i>	5p

p.m., *SWACTV*).
Alabama State (4-2), tied with **Bethune-Cookman** (3-4) at second in the East at 2-1, has its annual *Magic City Classic* showdown (2:30 p.m., *ESPN+*) with rival **Alabama A&M** (4-3, 1-2) in Birmingham. B-CU has its homecoming (2 p.m., *SWACTV*) vs. **Arkansas-Pine Bluff** (3-4, 1-2).
Texas Southern (4-3, 2-1), second behind PV in the West, is off this week.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

GRAVES OUT, McNAIR IN AT SOUTHERN:

One year after leading the **Southern** to the **SWAC** West Division title and a spot in the league's championship game, **Southern** the university has fired head football coach **Terrence Graves**.

The move was announced Monday and comes after the Jags under Graves are off to a 1-6 overall record this season, an 0-3 start in SWAC play including an embarrassing 24-3 homecoming loss to **Prairie View A&M** Saturday.

In his first season, Graves led Southern to an 8-5 overall record and 7-1 SWAC West Division mark earning the Jaguars their ninth appearance in the SWAC Championship Game. The Jaguars lost to **Jackson State** 41-13 in the title game after losing to JSU 33-15 in the regular season.

The firing for now ends a longtime relationship between Southern and Graves who had three stints as an assistant coach, 1996-2002, 2004-2009 and 2022-23. He was named interim head coach late in the 2023 season and led Southern to a win over **Grambling State** in the *Bayou Classic*. He had the interim title removed after that win.

Former **Alcorn State** head coach **Fred McNair**, recently promoted to the Jaguars' play-caller and co-offensive coordinator, has been named the interim head coach. McNair was head coach at Alcorn from 2016-23, compiling a record of 47-33. He won four East Division titles and two SWAC championships getting the Braves into *Celebration Bowls I and IV*.



Graves



McNair

TOP PERFORMANCES

FOR GAMES OF OCTOBER 11, 2025

PASSING	COMP-ATT-INT	Yds	TDs (YDs)
Brice Koontz, BLST	20-43-2	357	4 (69, 17, 32, 8)
R. J. Johnson, FLAM	26-38-0	323	1 (17)
Miles Scott, MHS	21-32-0	313	3 (15, 20, 43)
Queanu Campbell-Caldwell, CSU	14-27-1	304	2 (44, 75)
Xavier Jackson, CLATL	27-39-0	288	2 (11, 26)
Kelvin Durham, JCSU	15-28-0	281	3 (26, 49, 35)
Darius Ocean, BEN	17-33-0	268	2 (15, 16)
Rahsaan Matthews, VSU	14-20-0	253	2 (11, 75)
R. J. Rosales, VUU	14-20-1	247	3 (24, 15, 43)
Aden Hooper, LANG	19-35-2	226	1 (39)

RUSHING	CAR	Yds	AVG	TDs (YDs)
Johntarrious Thomas, EWU	21	226	10.8	1 (58)
Curtis Allen, VUU	24	208	8.7	3 (1, 3, 48)
Jerodd Sims, FLAMEM	20	205	10.3	2 (1, 37)
Micah Robinson, BSU	31	193	6.2	4 (8, 27, 10, 3)
Jaquan Kelly, WSSU	18	139	7.7	2 (6, 12)
Timothy Ruff II, WSSU	11	135	12.3	1 (20)
Payton Nero, LANE	15	137	9.1	1 (16)
RiJon Hammond, VSU	21	131	6.2	1 (9)
Tre Bradford, GSU	25	123	4.9	2 (12, 3)
Earl Woods III, HAMP	7	102	14.5	1 (66)

RECEIVING	REC	Yds	AVG	TDs/YDs
Brian Lane, JCSU	4	146	36.5	1 (49)
Julian Crawley, BLST	6	129	21.5	2 (69, 32)
Arnone Harris, CLATL	11	123	11.2	0
Deandre Proctor, JCSU	5	106	21.2	2 (25, 35)
Jaylen Pretlow, VSU	4	105	25.5	1 (75)
Kerian Charlo, TXSOU	4	102	25.5	2 (12, 69)
Jordan Jackson, ARKPB	3	99	33.0	0
Regin Hairston, BLST	5	98	19.6	1 (17)
Jeremiah Francis, VUU	5	94	18.8	0
Devin Cox, WVU	4	93	23.2	1 (67)

TACKLES	13	12	11	10
2.				