

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



Delaware State Sports photo

DECISION DAYS IN MEAC, SWAC

JC SMITH, ALBANY STATE CROWNED; FIVE TEAMS IN NCAA DIV. II PLAYOFFS; FINALES IN MEAC, SWAC RACES

SURPRISE TEAM: No one had Delaware State as a potential MEAC champion when the season started but that is where DeSean Jackson and the Hornets are now.

2025 ALL-CIAA FOOTBALL SELECTIONS

FIRST TEAM - OFFENSE

QB: Kelvin Durham, JCSU; **RB:** Curtis Allen, VUU*, Bobby Smith, JCSU; **WR:** Brandon Willey, BLST, Brian Lane, JCSU, DeAndre Proctor, JCSU; **TE:** Kahlil Ashley-Diarrah, FSU; **OL:** Jamari Mason, JCSU*; Bruno Onwuazor, VSU; Benjamin Hicks, FSU; Toriono Combs, ECSU; Mathias Nielsen, VUU;

FIRST TEAM - DEFENSE

DL: Kenyon Garner, LIV; Shawn Robinson, FSU; Jamal Jones, BSU; Cadrucus Stanley, JCSU; **LB:** Chris Calhoun, ECSU; Vincent Hill, JCSU; Matthew Leach, FSU; **DB:** Keyshawn Monk, FSU; Elijah McKenzie, BSU; Samuel Graham, BSU; Daryl Taybron, JCSU

FIRST TEAM - SPECIAL TEAMS

PK: Brady Myers, VUU; **P:** Danny Dales, BLST; **KR:** Isaiah Perry, JCSU; **PR:** Zyaire Tart, VUU

SECOND TEAM - OFFENSE

QB: Rahsaan Matthews Jr., VSU; **RB:** Micah Robinson, BSU; RiJon Hammond, VSU; **WR:** Julian Crawley, BLST; Jaylen Pretlow, VSU; Malik Hunter, VSU; **TE:** Reginald Hairston, BLST; **OL:** Joseph Rounds, VUU; Tyleek McCoy, VSU; Adrian Crespin, VUU; Robert Early, JCSU; Jolen Thompson, FSU

SECOND TEAM - DEFENSE

DL: Kamari Frederick, VUU; SirSean Ingram, ECSU; C.J. Brown, WSUU; Jalen Alexander, JCSU; **LB:** Jamieson Alston, WSSU; Mehkhi Johnson, VSU; Damir McCrary, BSU **DB:** Evan Powell, WSSU; Kamaree Wells, BLST; Donovan Howard, VSU; Reginald Troutman, FSU;

SECOND TEAM - SPECIAL TEAMS

PK: Lukasz Smolen, JCSU; **P:** Joshua Mitchell, VUU; **KR:** Ty Lyles, BSU; **PR:** Joseph Towler, BSU

MEAC & SWAC (Standings and Weekly Honors)

MEAC

	CONF		ALL	
	W	L	W	L
Delaware State	4	0	8	3
SC State	4	0	8	3
North Carolina Central	2	2	7	4
Howard	1	3	4	7
Morgan State	1	3	4	7
Norfolk State	0	4	1	10

BCSP MEAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

OFFENSE
William Atkins IV, Gr., QB, SCSU - 124-38-1, 314 yards, 3 TDs (28, 51, 24) vs. NCCU.

DEFENSE

Wayne Favors III, R-Jr., DB, DSU - Recorded 91-yard interception return TD, 3 tackles, 2 solos, 1 break-up vs. Howard.

ROOKIE

Raymond Moore III, Fr., QB, MSU - 16 of 22 for 183 yards, 2 TDs, 1 rushing TD vs. Norfolk State.

SPECIALIST

Nico Cavanillas Altii, Sr., PK, SCSU - 50-yard and 28-yard FGs, 4-for-4 on PATs for 10 points vs. NCCU.

SWAC

	DIV		ALL	
	W	L	W	L
EAST DIVISION				
Jackson State	6	1	8	2
Alabama State	6	1	8	2
Florida A&M	4	2	5	5
Bethune-Cookman	4	3	5	6
Alabama A&M	1	6	4	7
Miss. Valley State	0	6	1	9
WEST DIVISION				
Prairie View A&M	6	1	8	3
Grambling State	4	3	7	4
Texas Southern	4	3	5	5
Alcorn State	4	3	5	6
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	2	5	4	7
Southern	0	7	1	10

BCSP SWAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

OFFENSE **K. J. Cooper**, Sr., QB, TXSOU - 17-20-0, 210 passing yards, 3 TDs vs. UAPB. R. J. Johnson III, 299 passing yards, 3 TDs vs. SOU. **DEFENSE** **B. J. Washington, Jr.**, LB, JSU - 3t, 1 BU, 1 int. ret. 82 yards for TD vs. B-CU. **Charles George**, TXSOU - 8 tackles, 1 FF, 1 BU, 1 FR vs. SU. **NEWCOMER** **TeSean Smoot**, Fr., QB, ALST - 14 of 22, 190 passing yards, 1 TD, rushed for 30 yards vs. MVSU.

SCORES

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14	
S. C. State 34, N. C. Central 27	Monmouth 63, North Carolina A&T 19
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15	
Alabama State 41, Miss. Valley State 0	Morgan State 35, Norfolk State 28
Alcorn State 27, Grambling State 16	Prairie View A&M 56, Ark.-Pine Bluff 9
Charleston 38, West Virginia State 21	St. Thomas 44, Florida Memorial 37
Delaware State 26, Howard 13	Texas Southern 35, Southern 30
Florida A&M 26, Alabama A&M 23	William & Mary 55, Hampton 14
Gardner-Webb 30, Tennessee State 14	William Jewell 49, Lincoln (MO) 13
Jackson State 28, Bethune-Cookman 13	CIAA CHAMPIONSHIP GAME I
Langston 17, Oklahoma Panhandle 10	Johnson C. Smith 45, Virginia Union 21
	SIAC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME
	Albany State 22, Benedict 16

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME RECAPS

SIAC

Albany State 22, Benedict 16

ALBANY, GA – Albany State scored on the game's first possession on a 1-yard **Tiant Wyche** run and never surrendered the lead in downing **Benedict** 22-16 in a hard-fought SIAC Championship Game before a packed house on its home field in Albany, Ga. The game was much closer than a dominant 31-3 win for ASU over the Tigers earlier in the regular season.

Benedict blocked an ASU punt and got a return by **Issiah Brown** to tie the game at 7 midway thru the first period. ASU (10-1) added a 5-yard scoring run by **QB Isaiah Knowles** and a 34-yard **Kyle Wright** field goal in the second quarter to lead 17-7 at the break.

Benedict scored first in the third period on a 7-yard pass from **QB Darius Ocean** to **Troy Hillman**. ASU blocked the ensuing PAT and **Tyrell Gainey** returned it 90 yards to keep the Golden Rams ahead 19-13. Both teams added fourth-quarter field goals for the final margin.

With the win, Albany State takes its first SIAC title since 2021 and the automatic bid into the 32-team NCAA Div. II championship field that was announced Sunday. The Golden Rams (10-1) are the top seed in Super Region II and will host Gulf South champion and eighth-seed Valdosta State (6-4) Saturday in the first round of the playoffs.

Benedict (9-2) is seeded fifth in the region and will play at 4th-seed Wingate (9-2) out of the South Atlantic Conference (SAC) Saturday. **Kentucky State** (9-2), who tied for second in the SIAC with Benedict in the regular season, also received a bid. The Thoroughbreds are seeded sixth and will play at third-seed SAC champion Newberry (9-1) in Saturday's first round.

CIAA

Johnson C. Smith 45, Virginia Union 21

DURHAM, NC – Senior **Johnson C. Smith** QB **Kelvin Durham** threw for five touchdowns to lead the Golden Bulls to a 45-21 upset of two-time defending champion **Virginia Union** for their first league title since 1969 in the **CIAA** Championship Game here Saturday, a far cry from the 28-10 loss JCSU suffered to VUU in the regular season.

Durham (16-29-1, 285 yards) threw two TDs each to wideouts **Deandre Proctor** (7 catches, 146 yards) and **Reggie Brigman** (3 rec., 61 yards) allowing JCSU to pull away to a 28-14 lead. Durham added a 3-yard late third-quarter run that pushed the lead to 35-14. Durham connected with **Reginal Daniel** for a 33-yard score and a 14-7 lead in the first quarter.

VUU senior RB **Curtis Allen**, the CIAA and NCAA Div. II rushing leader, carried 25 times for 183 yards (7.3 yards per carry) with two 5-yard scoring runs for VUU.

JCSU (10-1) and VUU (9-2) were seeded second and third respectively behind top seed undefeated PSAC champion Kutztown (11-0) in NCAA Div. II's Super Region I when the 32-team playoff field was announced Sunday. JCSU received the CIAA's automatic bid and will host seventh-seed Mountain East Conference (MEC) champion Frostburg State (9-2) Saturday in Charlotte, N. C. VUU will host PSAC member California (PA) (8-3).

BLACK COLLEGE FCS TOP FIVE

- 1) **SOUTH CAROLINA STATE** (8-3) - Got by N.C. Central, 34-27 Friday. NEXT: At Delaware State Saturday for MEAC title, Bowl berth.
- 2) **ALABAMA STATE** (8-2) - Dominated MVSU, 41-3. NEXT: Hosting Arkansas-Pine Bluff looking for SWAC East title.
- 3) **DELAWARE STATE** (8-3) - Beat Howard, 26-13. NEXT: Hosting SC State with winner taking MEAC title, Celebration Bowl berth.
- 4) **JACKSON STATE** (8-2) - Held off Bethune-Cookman, 28-13. NEXT: Hosting Alcorn State for SWAC East title, championship game berth.
- 5) **N. C. CENTRAL** (7-4) - Fell at home to SC State, 34-27 Friday. NEXT: Closing regular season at Morgan State..
- 6) **PRAIRIE VIEW A&M** (6-3) - Clinched SWAC West crown with 56-9 win vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff. NEXT: Hosting Miss. Valley State.

BLACK COLLEGE NCAA DIV. II / NAIA TOP FIVE

- 1) **VIRGINIA UNION** (9-2) - Lost in CIAA title game to JC Smith, 45-21. NEXT: First round D2 playoff match up at home vs. California (PA).
- 2) **JOHNSON C. SMITH** (10-1) - Beat Virginia Union for CIAA title. NEXT: Region I top seed at home vs. Frostburg State..
- 3) **ALBANY STATE** (10-1) - Took SIAC title 22-16 over Benedict. NEXT: Hosting Valdosta State in Div. 2 playoff first round.
- 4) **BENEDICT** (9-2) - Lost to Albany state 22-16 in SIAC championship game. NEXT: At Wingate in D2 first round playoffs.
- 5) **KENTUCKY STATE** (8-2) Idle. NEXT: First round D2 playoff game at Newberry..

THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

(Highest Attended Black College Games of November 14 - 15, 2025)

Bethune-Cookman @ Jackson State	23, 348
Florida A&M @ Alabama A&M	14,677
SIAC Championship Game - Benedict @ Albany State	8,173
Grambling State @ Alcorn State	7,845
Morgan State @ Norfolk State	7,294
SC State @ NC Central	7,291
Arkansas-Pine Bluff @ Prairie View A&M	7,069
CIAA Championship Game - J.C. Smith vs. Va. Union	5,304

Two champs crowned, others in waiting

LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

Albany State is in as SIAC champion and **Johnson C. Smith** is in as CIAA champ (See CHAMPIONSHIP GAME RECAPS) after play this past week. They are on with three other teams to the NCAA Div. II playoffs this weekend.

The MEAC champion will be decided this week in Dover, Delaware when **South Carolina State** travels to meet upstart **Delaware State**.

Prairie View A&M is in as one participant in the Dec. 6 SWAC Championship Game. **Jackson State** can clinch the other spot with a win this week.

NCAA Div. II playoffs

Five black college teams are in the 32-team championship field for the NCAA Div. II playoffs that begin Saturday. All four participants in the SIAC and CIAA championship games received bids along with SIAC member **Kentucky State**.

Albany State, J. C. Smith and **Virginia Union** are hosting first round games Saturday. **Benedict** and **Kentucky State** are playing on the road.

Albany State (10-1), the No. 1 seed in Super Region II, plays host to Gulf South champion Valdosta State (6-4) Saturday at 1 p.m. (ESPN+). The teams have one common opponent, SIAC member **Clark Atlanta**. The Blazers defeated CAU 31-28 to open the season while Albany State easily handled the Panthers 32-7 at home on Oct. 11.

SIAC runners-up **Benedict** (9-2) is seeded fifth in Super Region II and will travel to face fourth-seed Wingate (9-2) out of the South Atlantic Conference (SAC) at 2 p.m.

Kentucky State (9-2) is the sixth seed in the region and is on the road at third-seeded SAC champion Newberry (9-1) at 1 p.m.

CIAA champion J. C. Smith and runners-up Virginia Union are seeded second and third respectively in Super Region I.

JCSU is hosting Mountain East Conference champion Frostburg State (9-2) Saturday in Charlotte, N. C. at 1 p.m. (ESPN+). VUU is playing at home in Richmond, Va. at 1 p.m. vs. seventh-seed California (PA) (8-3) out of the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC).

PSAC champion Kutztown (11-0) is the region's top seed and hosts Bentley (7-3).



DIVINE INTERVENTION!!

Los Angeles Rams defensive back **COBIE DURANT** (#14, **SOUTH CAROLINA STATE**) celebrates after stepping in front and picking off a pass by Seattle QB Sam Darnold in the Rams' 21-19 win Sunday. Durant started at cornerback and also had three solo tackles in the win. larams.com photo



BCSP NFL PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

For NFL games of November 13 - 17, 2025

DEFENSE

- **#14 COBIE DURANT**, CB, LA Rams (3rd season, **SOUTH CAROLINA STATE**) - In the Rams 21-19 win over Seattle Sunday, Durant started at cornerback and finished with three solo tackles, one interception and two passes defended. He was in for 57 defensive snaps (68%) and six on special teams (23%).

- **#14 MARKQUESE BELL**, S, Dallas (3rd season, **FLORIDA A&M**) - In the Cowboys' 33-16 win over Las Vegas Monday night, Bell had an interception returned 24 yards and defended two passes while playing 27 defensive snaps (45%) and 20 on special teams (80%).

- **#53 JAMES HOUSTON**, LB, Dallas (4th season, **JACKSON STATE**) - In the Cowboys' 33-16 win over Las Vegas Monday night, Houston had two tackles, one solo, a sack for -6 yards. He was in for 28 defensive snaps (37%) and 13 on special teams (52%).

OFFENSE

- **#33 BHAYSHUL TUTEN**, RB, Jacksonville (Rookie, **NORTH CAROLINA A&T/Virginia Tech**) - In the Jaguars' 35-6 win over the Los Angeles Chargers Sunday, Tuten carried 15 times for a season-high 74 yards (4.9 yards per carry) including a long run of 15 yards and a 4-yard first-quarter TD run. He was in for 23 snaps on offense (32%) and one on special teams (5%).

- **#23 EMANUEL WILSON**, RB, Green Bay (3rd season, **FORT VALLEY STATE**) - In the Packers' 27-20 win over the New York

Nobody predicted this!!

The matchup of defending champion **South Carolina State** and **Delaware State** at DSU's home field Saturday (1 p.m., ESPN+) was not billed as the MEAC title game but that's exactly what is has become. The winner will represent the MEAC in the Dec. 13 *Cricketer Celebration Bowl* in Atlanta.

The SCSU Bulldogs and DSU Hornets, both 8-3 overall, come into the regular-season finale tied at the top of the conference with 4-0 records. While **Chennis Berry's** Bulldogs were expected to be in this position, the same can't be said of first-year head coach **DeSean Jackson's** Hornets. The Bulldogs were picked to finish first and the Hornets sixth (and last) in preseason voting of conference head coaches and sports information directors.

The turnaround under Jackson, the former NFL all-pro receiver, has been remarkable. After going 2-22 over the past two seasons, he has DSU playing with passion and grit. One indication of the Hornets' rise should have been the way they battled to a 4-3 non-conference schedule before entering conference play.

In MEAC stats, the Hornets are second in scoring offense (33.6 points per game), first in scoring defense (24.5 ppg.), first in total offense (442.9 ypg.) and first in rushing offense at 276.5 yards per game, more than 100 yards per game ahead of the next team. They are also second in rushing defense (122.5 ypg.). It is a recipe for success.

SC State counters with senior QB **William Atkins IV** who has thrown for over 2,000 yards with 15 TDs and just four interceptions. In four MEAC games, he has particularly been prolific passing for over 1,300 yards and ten TDs.

The game likely comes down to whether SC State can control the Hornets' ground game and get its prolific passing attack going.

SWAC East goes down to the wire

Prairie View A&M's 56-9 win over **Arkansas-Pine Bluff** Saturday clinched the league's West Division title and lands first-year head coach **Tremaine Jackson** just where he said in the preseason his Panthers (8-3, 6-1 SWAC West) would be – in position to win the SWAC title and represent the league in the Celebration Bowl.

The Panthers lead the league in scoring defense (13.6 ppg.), total defense (281.2 ypg) and

GAMES THIS WEEK

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

N. C. Central vs. Morgan State in Baltimore, MD - ESPN+	12n
Ark.-Pine Bluff vs. Alabama State in Montgomery, AL - HBCUgo.tv	12n
Hampton vs. Rhode Island in Kingston, RI - FloCollege	1p
South Carolina State vs. Delaware State in Dover, DE - ESPN+	1p
Tennessee State vs. Charleston Southern in Ch'ston, SC - ESPN+	1p
Alabama A&M vs. Texas Southern in Houston, TX - HBCUgo.tv	2p
Miss. Valley State vs. Prairie View A&M in Pr. View, TX - SWACTV	2p
North Carolina A&T vs. Elon in Elon, NC - FloCollege	2p
Alcorn State vs. Jackson State in Jackson, MS - ESPN+	2:30p
Bethune-Cookman vs. Florida A&M in Orlando, FL - ESPN+	2:30p
Norfolk State vs. Howard in Washington D.C. - ESPN+	3:30p
NCAA DIV. II PLAYOFFS	
California (PA) vs. Virginia Union in Richmond, VA	1p
Frostburg State vs. Johnson C. Smith in Charlotte, NC - ESPN+	1p
Valdosta State vs. Albany State in Albany, GA - ESPN+	1p
Kentucky State vs. Newberry in Newberry, NC	1p
Benedict vs. Wingate in Wingate, NC - ESPN+	2p

passing defense (130.3 ypg.) and feature senior QB **Cameron Peters** (1,858, passing yards, 16 TDs, 5 ints.). PVA&M closes the regular season on the road at **Mississippi Valley State** Saturday (2 p.m., SWAC TV).

Defending champion **Jackson State** (8-2, 6-1 E) can clinch the spot opposite **Prairie View** in the SWAC title game with a win at home Saturday (2:30 p.m., ESPN+) vs. Mississippi rival **Alcorn State** (5-6, 4-3 W).

The Braves would like nothing more than to spoil JSU's celebration. That could happen if the Tigers lose and **Alabama State** (8-2, 6-1 E) prevails in its season finale at home (12 noon, HBCUgo.tv) vs. **Arkansas-Pine Bluff** (4-7, 2-5 W).

Heading into their finales, both JSU and 'Bama State are dealing with injuries to their starting quarterbacks are are playing freshmen.

JSU starter **Jacobian Morgan** has missed the last three games with a left foot injury but head coach **T. C. Taylor** was expecting him back into practice this week. **Jared Lockhart** has led JSU to three straight wins in Morgan's absence.

ASU has been without starter **Andrew Body** since he suffered a shoulder injury against **Prairie View** on Nov. 1. He is likely considered doubtful for Saturday against UAPB. Freshman **TeSean Smoot** has led the Hornets to victories over Mississippi Valley State and Texas Southern in the last two weeks.

TOP PERFORMANCES

FOR GAMES OF NOVEMBER 14 - 15, 2025

PASSING

	COMP-ATT-INT	Yds	TDs (Yds)
Tyquan Wiggins, FLAMEM	24-36-0	332	3 (8, 27, 13)
William Atkins IV, SCST	24-38-1	314	3 (28, 51, 24)
R. J. Johnson III, FLA&M	20-24-0	299	3 (27, 16, 27)
Aden Hooper, LANG	27-48-3	287	1 (34)
Kelvin Durham, JCSU	16-29-1	285	5 (19, 33, 25, 58, 32)

RUSHING

	CAR	Yds	AVG	TDs (Yds)
Kevon King, NSU	14	189	13.5	1 (79)
Curtis Allen, VUU	25	183	7.3	2 (5, 5)
Ryan Morrow, ALA&M	18	136	7.6	1 (80)
Chase Bingmon, PVA&M	15	135	9.0	2 (6, 74)
Barry Remo, SOU	24	120	5.0	0