



HBCU Legacy Bowl logo

HBCU SHOWCASE! The top draft-eligible black college football players are in New Orleans this week showcasing their talents to NFL scouts before Saturday's HBCU Legacy Bowl.

FINAL RITES

NC A&T ALUM JESSE JACKSON PASSES; LAST LOOK AT CIAA, SIAC WOMEN'S RACES; WSSU MAKES COACHING CHANGE

MEN'S 2025-26 BLACK COLLEGE BASKETBALL (Standings & Players of the Week)

CIAA					MEAC					SIAC					SWAC					INDEPENDENTS																						
CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION					MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE					SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE					SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE																											
NORTH DIVISION		CONF ALL			W L W L		CONF ALL			W L W L		CONF ALL			W L W L		CONF ALL			W L W L																						
Virginia Union	7	1	12	2	23	3	Howard	6	3	16	10	Morehouse	15	5	15	9	Bethune-Cookman	10	3	13	13	SAC	16	4	21	5																
Virginia State	7	1	10	4	17	9	Morgan State	6	3	10	14	Clark Atlanta	15	6	18	7	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	8	4	11	14	Langston (2nd)																				
Bluefield State	6	2	10	4	12	13	N. C. Central	6	3	10	14	Savannah State	13	8	13	10	Southern	8	5	12	14	GLVC																				
Lincoln (PA)	2	6	4	10	9	17	Norfolk State	6	4	13	14	Edward Waters	12	10	14	12	Jackson State	8	5	9	17	Lincoln (Mo.) (12th)	5	12	11	14																
Bowie State	1	7	4	10	6	20	S. C. State	4	4	6	18	Fort Valley State	11	10	12	10	Alabama A&M	7	5	14	11	SUN																				
Elizabeth City State	1	7	2	12	3	18	Md. E-Shore	4	4	6	19	Benedict	10	12	10	12	Florida A&M	7	6	10	14	Florida Memorial (4th)	10	5	18	9																
SOUTH DIVISION							PLAYERS OF THE WEEK							PLAYERS OF THE WEEK							PLAYERS OF THE WEEK																					
Fayetteville State	8	0	12	2	18	6	Winston-Salem State	0	7	2	11	7	Cedric Taylor III , 6-7, Jr., G, HOW - In 2.0 week Morehouse transfer averaged 19.5 points, 4.5 rebounds with 22 points, 4 rebounds, 1 steal and 6 assists vs. UMES, 17 points, 5 rebounds, 2 steals vs. DSU.	Anthony McComb III , 6-3, Sr., G, NSU - In two wins, averaged 18.0 points, 4.0 rebounds, 2.0 steals with 19 points, 5 rebounds, 2 steals vs. DSU, 17 points, 3 rebounds, 2 steals vs. UMES.	Daeshun Ruffin , 5-10, Sr, G, JSU - In two home wins averaged 26.5 ppg., 7.5 rpg. and 6.0 apg. with team-highs of 25 points, 6 assists, 9 rebounds vs. FAMU, 28 points, 3 rebounds, 6 assists, 4 steals Monday in win over SWAC leader B-CU.	Trey Clarke , 6-6, Jr., G/F, LANG - Averaged 16.5 points, 6.5 boards in two wins with 9 points, 8 rebounds vs. John Brown, 24 points, 5 boards vs. Ozarks.																										
Clafflin	6	2	13	3	16	9	Shaw	5	3	7	16	7	Joseph Lawson , 6-7, So., F, MHS - In 78-74 win over East leader CAU Saturday, Lawson led Tigers with 27 points on 9 of 12 shooting, 5 of 7 from distance and 4 of 4 FTs.	Najashi Tolefree , 6-6, Sr., G/F, MILES - 27 points, 15 rebounds, 2 assists vs. Spring Hill Monday, 15 points, 6 rebounds, 3 blocks in win at West leader Tuskegee Saturday.	Shania Nunn , 6-0, sr., F, GSU - In two wins, averaged 16.5 ppg., 10.0 rpb., with 17 pts., 7 rbs., vs. TSU, 16 pts., 13 rbs., vs. PVA&M.	Coreiah Beck , 5-11, Gr., G, ALA&M - 18 pts., 11 rbs., 6 assists, 3 stls. vs. MVSU, 11 pts., 3 rbs., vs. UAPB.																										
Johnson C. Smith	4	4	6	8	9	13	Livingstone	1	7	4	10	9	Central State	9	14	11	15	Kentucky State	6	16	6	19	Spring Hill	4	17	4	21	West Virginia State (T9th)	3	13	7	17	Tennessee State (T2nd)	11	5	17	9	CAA				
Winston-Salem State	0	7	2	11	7	15																																				

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

HBCU LEGACY BOWL SATURDAY IN NEW ORLEANS:

NEW ORLEANS, LA — Virginia Union running back Curtis Allen, the first black college recipient of the Harlan Hill Trophy given to the best offensive player in NCAA Div. II football, headlines a star-studded list of some 76 prolific draft-eligible players from

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) that descended on New Orleans this week for Saturday's fifth annual Allstate HBCU Legacy Bowl presented by the Black College Football Hall of Fame.

The all-stars (see roster in STAT CORNER) arrived in New Orleans Monday and went thru a series of meetings, practices, workouts and interviews with pro scouts Tuesday thru Friday before Saturday's 3 p.m. CT kickoff of the game at Tulane's Yulman Stadium. The NFL Network will carry the game live. It is the last postseason all-star game of the 2025 season. One hundred players were invited but injuries, late transfer and players returning to school reduced the numbers.

With great support from the NFL office, the HBCU Legacy Bowl boasts a board of trustees that includes BCHOF founders James "Shack" Harris and Doug Williams, and NFL Hall of Famers Mel Blount, Willie Lanier and Art Shell. BCSP Publisher/Editor Lut Williams is on the committee that selects the Legacy Bowl participants.

Green Bay Packers RB Emanuel Wilson out of Fort Valley State (2023), LA Rams WR/KR Xavier Smith out of Florida A&M (2023), Buffalo Bills DB/KR Brandon Codrington out of N. C. Central (2024), Washington Commanders DB Robert McDaniel out of Jackson State and New York Jets LB Aaron Smith out of S. C. State (2025) are among former Legacy Bowl participants that have gone on to NFL careers.

The NFL Network is also carrying a series of HBCU football content leading up to Saturday's 4 p.m. ET kickoff:

- Thurs., Feb. 19 at 8 p.m. ET - **NFL Top Ten** highlighting the 10 most legendary players from HBCUs;
- Thurs., Feb. 19 at 9 p.m. ET - **A Football Life** highlighting the life and career of "Greatest Of All Time" wide receiver, Jerry Rice out of Mississippi Valley State;
- Fri., Feb. 20 at 10 p.m. ET - **NFL Presents Legacy: A Celebration of HBCU Football** - A celebration of HBCU culture and the impact these Black institutions are having on pro football;
- Sat., Feb. 21 at 2 p.m. ET - **A Football Life** chronicling the life of Jackson State superstar Walter Payton using on and off-the-field sights, sounds and stories.
- Sat., Feb. 21 at 3 p.m. ET - **A Football Life** telling the story of former Grambling quarterback Doug Williams' journey from rural Louisiana to Super Bowl MVP.

BCSP Notes

CIAA, SIAC women's races all but decided as regular season play ends this week

Women's teams in the CIAA and SIAC will get in their final blows this week as regular season play comes to a halt on Saturday.

The CIAA men's and women's tournaments are set to tip off February 24-28 at the CFG Arena in downtown Baltimore, Maryland.

The SIAC Tournaments begin on Saturday, Feb. 28 at the homes of the highest seeds and then shifts to the Clayton County Civic Center in Morrow, Ga. from March 4-7 for the quarterfinal to championship rounds. Here's a look at those women's standings headed into the final week.

CIAA Women

Five teams, three in the North Division and two in the South Division have winning records in divisional play that will land them top seeds for the tourney in Baltimore.

Headed into games this week, Virginia State and Bowie State are tied for the N. Div. lead at 7-1 with Virginia Union (5-3) two games behind.

A N. Div. showdown Wednesday (Feb. 18) had VSU travelling to BSU with the winner likely to grab the tournament's N. Div. top seed. VSU handed BSU its only division loss at home on Jan. 21, 74-55. VSU's only division loss was 91-87 at home to high-scoring (league-best 79.0 ppg.) Bluefield State on Jan. 31.

Even with a win over Bowie State Wednesday, VSU is not guaranteed the division's top seed because it closes the regular season at VUU Saturday. VSU came from ten points down in the second half to narrowly defeat VUU 68-66 in their Jan. 17 meeting in Richmond, Va.

BSU hosts Lincoln (PA) to close out its regular season. In the South, Winston-Salem State and Fayetteville State are three-and-a-half games ahead of everyone else in the division, both at 7-1 with their lone losses against each other in their head-to-head battles. They will be the top seeds from the South.

FSU halted WSSU's 16-game win streak with a 72-57 win at home in Fayetteville on Jan. 27. WSSU evened the score with the Lady Broncos in a 50-36 home win on Feb. 7.

First-year head coach Tierra Terry has engineered a remarkable turnaround at WSSU, taking a team that finished 7-20 a year ago and turning it into a 19-2 juggernaut this season. The Lady Rams are the only black college team ranked in the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) NCAA Div. II national poll at 18th. Their only other loss this season was at North Carolina A&T 74-43 to open the season on Nov. 16.

WSSU closes out the regular season on the road at J. C. Smith Wednesday and at Livingstone Saturday. FSU is also on the road at Clafflin Wednesday and at Shaw Saturday.

SIAC Women

Edward Waters in the East and Miles in the West are both 19-3 in their respective divisions and on top of the standings. They have both wrapped up top seeds for the upcoming tournament.

The EWU Lady Tigers are riding a 12-game winning streak and currently boast a two-and-a-half game lead over Clark Atlanta (16-5) in the East. Second-year head coach Eric Jackson Jr. has been the engine

Jesse Jackson, civil rights champion, passes at 84

Jesse Jackson, one of North Carolina A&T's most famous alumni, who bravely took up the civil rights mantle after the tragic death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., passed on Tuesday at his home in Chicago. He was 84.

Jackson, a Greenville, South Carolina native, attended A&T in the early 1960s where he became a student leader, president of the student body and a quarterback on the 1964 CIAA championship football team.

He went on to study theology at Chicago Theological Seminary and later joined the Southern Christian Leadership Conference under Dr. King. He became a close aide to King and was present in Memphis in 1968 on the night of King's assassination — a moment that would shape Jackson's mission for the rest of his life.

In the decades that followed, Jackson founded Operation PUSH and the Rainbow Coalition, organizations dedicated to empowering black communities politically and economically and lent his services for diplomatic and humanitarian missions and issues around the world. His presidential campaigns in 1984 and 1988 broke barriers for African Americans in national politics, winning millions of votes and inspiring a new generation of leaders.



Jackson

behind the Tigers' rise.

In his first season, he led EWU to a 16-9 overall mark and 12-9 record in conference play, the first winning record as a member of the SIAC and NCAA Division II. His squad has particularly been efficient on defense where they surrender a league-best 49.0 points per game more than eight points less than any other team in the conference.

Six-one senior power forward Shaira Fowles anchors the defense, averaging 10.0 rebounds per game, tops in the league. Five-five junior point guard Imani Harris averages 11.3 points per game and dishes out 3.5 assists per game, tied for third in the league. Junior shooting guard Tan Brown is the team's scoring leader (14.0 ppg.) and is the SIAC's top 3-point shooter at 34.6% and 3-point maker at 2.5 per game.

Clark Atlanta features the league's top scorer (18.3 ppg.) and likely player of the year in 5-10 junior forward Atreonia Garner. Garner is also fourth in the SIAC at 7.8 rebounds per game and second in field goal percentage (.537).

EWU has two West Division showdowns remaining on their schedule. They face division leader Miles Thursday and then travel to third-place Tuskegee (11-11) Saturday to close out the season. Clark Atlanta also finishes on the road at W. Div. foes LeMoyne-Owen Thursday and Lane Saturday.

Miles has a three-game lead over second-place Lane (15-5) in the West. The Lady Golden Bears, hosting Edward Waters Thursday, then host Savannah State to close out the regular season. Lane hosts Fort Valley State before its meeting with CAU.



Jackson



Fowles

BCSP News

Winston-Salem State makes men's basketball coaching change

Winston-Salem State has decided to move on from Men's Basketball Head Coach Corey Thompson after less than two years on the job.

The surprising announcement came on Saturday (Feb. 14) before the Rams' final home game vs. Shaw and comes just ten days before the team is scheduled to compete in the Feb. 24-28 CIAA Basketball Tournament in Baltimore.

Assistant Coach Tony Jones has been



Jones

named interim head coach. Jones previously served as an assistant at UNC Pembroke (2020-21) and Fayetteville State (2017-19), where he also stepped in as interim head coach during the 2019-20 season.

The university said it will immediately begin a comprehensive search for the next head coach and will share updates as they become available.

The Rams, under Jones, fell to Shaw 73-52 Saturday. They had two regular season games remaining this week at Johnson C. Smith Wednesday (Feb. 18) and the finale Saturday

(Feb. 21) at Livingstone.

Thompson, who played at WSSU from 1998-2002 under former head coach Rick Duckett, was hired in July 2024. This season, his team had compiled a 7-15 overall mark, 2-11 against CIAA competition and 0-7 vs. the league's South Division opponents. The Rams finished the 2024-25 season at 5-22 overall, 2-13 in conference play and 2-8 in S. Div. play. They fell 58-42 to Lincoln (PA) in the first round of last year's CIAA Tournament.

Thompson replaced Cleo Hill Jr. who won CIAA Tournament titles in 2020 and 2023 before stepping down in 2024 to become the men's head coach at Maryland-Eastern Shore.

WOMEN'S 2025-26 BLACK COLLEGE BASKETBALL (Standings and Players of the Week)

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NORTH DIVISION		CONF ALL			W L W L		CONF ALL			W L W L		CONF ALL			W L W L		CONF ALL			W L W L									
Virginia State	7	1	11	3	17	5	Howard	8	1	19	7	Edward Waters	19	3	21	4	Alabama A&M	12	1	16	9	SAC	17	3	23	3			
Bowie State	7	1	9	5	16	7	Norfolk State	8	2	13	12	Clark Atlanta	16	5	16	9	Alcorn State	11	2	14	10	Langston (1st)							
Virginia Union	5	3	8	6	14	8	Md. E-Shore	7	3	14	13	Benedict	15	8	15	8	Southern	9	4	13	11	GLVC							
Bluefield State	4	4	7	7	13	10	Coppin State	6	4	9	18	Allen	13	7	14	8	Alabama State	9	4	12	12	Lincoln (Mo.) (14th)	2	15	4	20			
Elizabeth City State	0	6	0	13	4	20	S. C. State	2	4	5	17	Albany State	13	9	14	9	Grambling State	6	6	9	16	SUN							
Lincoln (PA)	0	7	0	9	3	22	N. C. Central	3	6	7	16	Savannah State	6	15	7	14	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	6	7	9	14	Florida Memorial (6th)	9	6	14	8			
SOUTH DIVISION							PLAYERS OF THE WEEK							PLAYERS OF THE WEEK							PLAYERS OF THE WEEK								
Winston-Salem State	7	1	13	1	22	2	Winston-Salem State	7	1	13	22	Khila Morris , 5-11, Sr., G, CSU - In two wins, averaged 19.0 points, 4.0 assists and 5.5 rebounds with 16 points, 4 rebounds, 5 assists, a block and steal vs. NCCU, 22 points, 7 rebounds, 3 assists, 2 blocks and steals vs. SCSU.	Shania Nunn , 6-0, sr., F, GSU - In two wins, averaged 16.5 ppg., 10.0 rpb., with 17 pts., 7 rbs., vs. TSU, 16 pts., 13 rbs., vs. PVA&M.	Coreiah Beck , 5-11, Gr., G, ALA&M - 18 pts., 11 rbs., 6 assists, 3 stls. vs. MVSU, 11 pts., 3 rbs., vs. UAPB.															
Fayetteville State	7	1	12	2	18	3	Clafflin	3	4	8	5	13	7	Central State	5	20	6	21	West Virginia State (8th)	6	10	10	13	OVC					
Clafflin	3	4	8	5	13	7	Livingstone	3	4	5	8	16	Shaw	2	6	5	8	13	Johnson C. Smith	1	7	4	11	7	Tennessee State (T9th)	3	13	4	21
Shaw	2	6	5	8	13	7	Johnson C. Smith	1	7	4	11	7	PLAYERS OF THE WEEK		PLAYERS OF THE WEEK		PLAYERS OF THE WEEK		PLAYERS OF THE WEEK										
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