



THE BEST IN BLACK COLLEGE BASKETBALL

2026 HBCU All-Star Game logo

HOOPS SEASON FINALES

ROUSING FINALE: 24 of the best black college men's hoopsters to be showcased Sunday during this weekend's Final Four in Indianapolis.

ALABAMA STATE, JACKSON STATE LOSE HEAD COACHES; MORE HBCU NFL PLAYERS MOVING

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

HBCU ALL-STAR GAME ON TAP SUNDAY:

The fifth annual Men's Basketball **HBCU All-Star Game** is set to be played this Sunday, April 5, at 1 p.m. (CST) at the Corteva Coliseum on the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis, Indiana the city hosting this year's Men's NCAA Div. I Final Four. The game will air live on the Wish Television Network and streamed on BET Fast Channel.

The game will feature 24 of the nation's top HBCU men's graduating senior hoopsters from the four HBCU conferences - the **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA)**, the **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC)**, the **Mid Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC)** and the **Southwest Athletic Conference (SWAC)** and players from HBCUs not in HBCU conferences - **Hampton, Tennessee State and North Carolina A&T**.

Team Bob Dandridge will be made up of players who competed in the MEAC and SIAC, and HBCUs **Tennessee State, Hampton, and North Carolina A&T** that compete in non-HBCU conferences.

Team Sam Jones is comprised of players who competed in the SWAC and CIAA and also HBCUs that compete in non-HBCU conferences.

Along with the announcement of the players for the game, HBCU All-Stars also announced the postseason individual award winners who will be honored at the game. They are:

HBCU All-Stars John McLendon National Division I Coaches of the Year **Nolan Smith, Tennessee State** and **Kenneth Blakeney, Howard**
HBCU All-Stars Clarence "Big House" Gaines Division II Coaches of the Year **Larry Dixon, Morehouse** and **Devin Hoehn, Fayetteville State**

HBCU All-Stars Bobby Phills Division I Players of the Year **Aaron Nkrumah, Tennessee State** and **Bryce Harris, Howard**
HBCU All-Stars Cleo Hill Division II Players of the Year **Jermontae Hill, Morehouse** and **Larry Howell, Fayetteville State**

Dixon and Nolan Smith will coach Team Bob Dandridge. Hoehn and **Byron Smith** of SWAC Tournament champion **Prairie View A&M** will coach Team Sam Jones.

The rosters are:

TEAM BOB DANDRIDGE - Aaron Nkrumah, Tennessee State; Anthony McComb III, Norfolk State, Bryce Harris, Howard; Cameron Clark, South Carolina State; Dionte Johnson, North Carolina Central; Jermontae Hill, Morehouse; Kusamae Draper, Tuskegee; Najashi Tolefree, Miles; Rob Lawson, Morgan State; Travis Harper II, Tennessee State; Xzavier Long, Hampton; Zion Obanla, Maryland-Eastern Shore

TEAM SAM JONES - Daniel Rouzan, Bethune-Cookman; Dontae Horne, Prairie View A&M; Jacob Cooper, Virginia State; Jakobi Heady, Bethune-Cookman; Josh Ogundele, Hampton; Kintavious Dozier, Alabama A&M; Larry Howell, Fayetteville State; Malek Abdelgawad, Southern; Nick Woodard, Alcorn State; Quion Williams, Arkansas-Pine Bluff; Roderick Coffee III, Grambling State; Tyler Shirley, Florida A&M

2026 POSTSEASON TOURNAMENT RECAPS

NAIA MEN - Championship Game

Freed-Hardeman 76, **Langston 71**

Freed-Hardeman (33-1) broke from a 55-all second-half tie to slowly pull away from **Langston** and score a 76-71 win Tuesday for its second NAIA national championship title game win over the Lions and third-year head coach **Chris Wright** in three years.

Trailing 33-30 at the half, Langston (29-8) built a slight second-half lead before the teams were tied at 55 at the 9-minute mark. From there, Langston stayed close but could never pull even.

Orlando Thomas had 20 points, 14 in the second half, and 8 rebounds to lead the Lions. **Antoine Lewis** had 10 points while the Lions got contributions from eight other players.

Langston beat Bethel (73-65), Eastern Oregon (86-59), Oklahoma Wesleyan (56-55), Rocky Mountain (60-55) and Ave Maria (72-69, OT) to reach the title game.

Langston, in Wright's first season, loss to F-HU in the 2024 NAIA title game, 71-67.

WNIT WOMEN

Youngstown State 61, **Maryland-Eastern Shore 42**

YOUNGSTOWN, OH - After a big first-round WNIT win at ACC member Wake Forest, **Maryland Eastern Shore** could not win at Youngstown State Tuesday, falling 61-42 in the second round to finish a promising season under second-year head coach **Malikah Willis**.

YSU outscored UMES (20-15) 23-12 in the third quarter to pull away from a 24-17 halftime lead. **Brianna Barnes** led the Hawks with 14 points while **Dakeiran Turner** had 10 points and a game-high 12 rebounds.

2026 "Baad Team" pacesetters, record-setters

LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

The 2026 edition of the **BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE "Baad Team"** of men's black college all-stars guided their teams to unprecedented heights

The NCAA Div. I squad features one player who swept the awards in his conference.

Howard's 6-5 do-everything small forward/shooting guard **Bryce Harris** led the Bison to regular season and tournament titles as well as a First Four win in the NCAA Tournament, the Bison's first in history.

In the regular season, Harris topped the **MEAC** in scoring at 17.2 points per game (tied with Baad Team second teamer and teammate **Cedric Taylor III**) and in rebounds (6.9 pg., just above Taylor's 6.7 per game).

For those efforts, he earns the "Baad Team" player of the year award for the 2025-26 season.

Joining him on the first team are: Ohio Valley Conference Player of the Year, 6-6 senior guard **Aaron Nkrumah** of league champion **Tennessee State** who led the OVC in scoring (17.7 ppg.) and steals (2.79 pg.) and led the Tigers to their first conference title and NCAA berth in 21 years; **Jackson State's** 5-10 **SWAC** Player of the Year, guard **Daeshun Ruffin**, who led the SWAC and all Div. I black college scorers at 23.3 points per game; 6-4 senior guard **Alfred Worrell** of **Morgan State** who led the Bears to a second-place MEAC regular season finish averaging 17.1 ppg. and **Prairie View A&M** scintillating 6-4 senior guard **Dontae Horne** who propelled the Panthers from an 8th-seed to the SWAC Tournament title and their first-ever NCAA win in the First Four.



Harris



Nkrumah



Ruffin



Worrell



Horne



Draper



Gardner



Howell



Moore



Shider

Div. I - FIRST TEAM

Bryce Harris, 6-5, Gr., F/G, Howard; Aaron Nkrumah, 6-6, G, Sr., Tennessee State; Daeshun Ruffin, 5-10, Sr., G, Jackson State; Alfred Worrell Jr., 6-4, Sr., G, Morgan State; Dontae Horne, 6-4, Sr., G, Prairie View A&M

Div. I - SECOND TEAM

Cedric Taylor III, 6-7, Jr., F, Howard; Jakobi Heady, 6-6, Sr./G, F, Bethune-Cookman; Anthony McComb, 6-3, Sr., G, Norfolk State; Travis Harper II, 6-6, R-Sr., G, Tennessee State; Lewis Walker, 6-6, R-Fr., F, NC A&T

The "Baad Team" from the NCAA Div. II/NAIA ranks is led by a cluster of champions.

SIAC Player of the Year, 6-7 forward **Kusamae Draper** of **Tuskegee** led the Tigers to the league's East Division title, the tournament

and an NCAA berth. **Larry Howell** led **Fayetteville State** to the CIAA Tourney title and NCAA berth. Virginia Union's **Bobby Gardner** led the Panthers to the CIAA N. Div. title and a first round win in the NCAA playoffs. Junior **Sincere Clark** was a glue piece for **Morehouse's** run to the SIAC crown.

Div. II / NAIA

FIRST TEAM:

Kusamae Draper, 6-7, Sr., F, Tuskegee; Bobby Gardner, 6-1, So., G, Virginia Union; Larry Howell, 6-6, Sr., G/F, Fayetteville State; Sincere Moore, 6-5, Jr., G, Morehouse; Jady Shider, 6-8, Sr., F, Clark Atlanta

SECOND TEAM:

Josiah Lawson, 6-7, So., G, Morehouse; Jacob Cooper, 5-8, Sr., G, Virginia State; Shakur Poteat, 5-10, Gr., G, Albany State; Jermontae Hill, 6-6, Sr., G/F, Morehouse; Myles Pierre, 6-1, Sr., G, Bluefield State

BCSP Notes

Tony Madlock out at Alabama State, heads back to Memphis

MONTGOMERY, Ala. | After four years as head coach of **Alabama State** men's basketball, **Tony Madlock** announced Sunday he is stepping down from his position. He will be rejoining Penny Hardaway's University of Memphis basketball staff as associate head coach, where he previously worked from 2018 to 2021.

Madlock, a Memphis native who also played with Hardaway at Memphis during the 1991-92 season, was initially hired by Hardaway in March 2018.

He left after the 2021 season to become head coach at **South Carolina State** where he compiled a 15-16 record in his lone season before taking the reins at Alabama State. At ASU, he replaced **Mo Williams** who left the Hornets to become the head coach at **Jackson State**.

In his four seasons at ASU, Madlock compiled a 51-80 overall record, 33-39 in **SWAC** play. This season's team finished 10-22 overall, 7-11 in SWAC regular season play before bowing to **Alcorn State** in the first round of the SWAC Tournament.

His highlight leading the Hornets came during the 2024-25 season when his squad won 10 of its final 12 games including three consecutive victories at the SWAC Tournament to win the program's fifth SWAC Tournament title and advance to the program's fifth NCAA Tournament appearance.

The team then earned ASU's second First Four appearance and won the program's first NCAA Tournament victory with a dramatic buzzer-beater to defeat Saint Francis 70-68. The remarkable season earned Madlock the HBCU Sports Coach of the Year accolades, while **Amar Knox** and his son, **TJ Madlock**, were named first and second team All-SWAC, respectively.

The team finished the season 20-16 overall and 12-6 in the SWAC.

"I would like to thank Dr. Ross and Dr. Cable for their leadership and support during my time as the head men's basketball coach" Madlock said. "My family and I would like to thank Hornet Nation for their love and support. During that magical 2024-2025 season, history was truly made. To all my former players, student managers, trainers, administrators, and assistant coaches, you have been so influential in my growth as a coach. Alabama State University and the city of Montgomery will always have a special place in my heart."

Mo Williams leaves

Jackson State for Kentucky

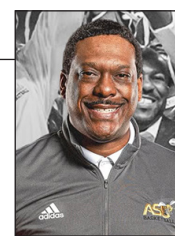
JACKSON, Miss. | **Mo Williams** announced last week that he is stepping down as the head men's basketball coach at **Jackson State** to accept a role on the Kentucky coaching staff.

The former NBA star, who played 13 seasons in the league, has been a head coach for six seasons at **Alabama State** and Jackson State.

Williams went 69-109 the last six years as a head coach, including a 12-21 record during the 2025-26 campaign. JSU lost to **Florida A&M** in the quarterfinals of the SWAC Tournament. At Alabama State, he was 13-35 in two seasons including 12-24 in the SWAC.

Williams's joining Mark Pope's staff at Kentucky comes just days after his son, Mason Williams, committed to the Wildcats.

The younger Williams is the No. 109-ranked player in the 2026 recruiting cycle by 247Sports. Williams, a four-star prospect, marked



Madlock



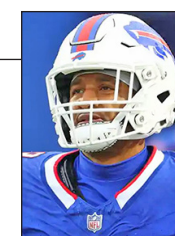
Williams



Hargrave



Howard



Codrington

Kentucky's first high school commitment in this year's recruiting cycle. Williams had offers from Ole Miss, Jackson State, Texas Tech and Washington, among others. He previously committed to Jackson State to play for his father before reopening his recruitment.

"I want to thank **Ashley Robinson** for giving me the opportunity to come back home and lead the Jackson State men's basketball program," Williams said. "To be able to come back to Jackson and lead the hometown team is something I did not take lightly, and I want to thank AD Robinson and the university for believing in me. My family and I will always call Jackson home, and I want to thank the fans and alumni for the love and support they showed us over the last four years, and showing why we love Jackson."

Williams led Jackson State to the SWAC championship game in 2025, with a runner-up finish in the regular season with a 14-4 conference record. He followed the up with a quarterfinal finish this past season, while leading the Tigers to a 10-8 record in conference play. During Williams' tenure, the Tigers played one of the nation's toughest schedules each year and he led the team to a 47-25 record in conference play during that same span. This past season,

he coached the SWAC Player of the Year and HBCUGO National Player of the Year, **Daeshun Ruffin** who finished fourth in the country in scoring.

Former JSU hoops star and associate head coach to Williams, **Trey Johnson**, has been named the interim head coach.

Javon Hargrave, Tytus Howard among those with new NFL digs

Former **South Carolina State** and **MEAC** standout defensive tackle **Javon Hargrave** and former **Alabama State** first round draft choice **Tytus Howard** are among black college NFL vets with new homes after NFL trading and deal-making began earlier this month.

Hargrave, who was drafted in the third round of the 2016 NFL Draft by Pittsburgh, has gone on to play for Philadelphia, San Francisco and Minnesota in a 10-year NFL career.

He has signed a two-year \$23 million contract with Green Bay. Agent Drew Rosenhaus told ESPN's Adam Schefter that Hargrave's deal includes \$13 million in the first year.

Howard, taken by Houston in the first round (23rd overall) of the 2019 NFL Draft, was traded on March 11 to the Cleveland Browns in exchange for a fifth-round draft pick. He subsequently agreed to a three-year, \$63 million extension running through the 2029 season.

Hargrave and Howard join SC State's **Cobie Durant** (LA Rams to Dallas), **Fort Valley State's Emanuel Wilson** (Green Bay to Seattle), **Howard** and Cincinnati's **Bryan Cook** (Kansas City to Cincinnati) and **Fayetteville State's Joshua Williams** (Kansas City to Tennessee) as black college vets signed to play the 2026-27 NFL season at new locations. The others, including Howard, are on their second contracts after their initial entry into the NFL.

Hargrave will be entering his 11th NFL season. He played four seasons with Pittsburgh

(2016-19), three seasons with the Philadelphia Eagles (2020-22), two seasons with the San Francisco 49ers (2023-24) and one season with the Minnesota Vikings (2025). He has appeared in 146 games with 130 starts during his career and has registered 432 tackles (233 solo), 49 sacks, 59 tackles for a loss, 84 QB hits, five forced fumbles, five fumble recoveries and eight passes defended. He has also started all 11 postseason contests that he has played in, including two Super Bowls (LVII, LVIII), and has posted 32 tackles (15 solo), four sacks, six tackles for a loss, five QB hits, a fumble recovery and a pass defended.

Hargrave has been selected to two Pro Bowls during his career (2021 with the Eagles, 2023 with the 49ers). In 2022 with Philadelphia, he recorded career highs for sacks (11), tackles for a loss (10) and fumble recoveries (two). Among interior linemen (per TruMedia), Hargrave ranked tied for No. 2 in the NFL from 2021-23 in sacks (25½) and No. 1 in Next Gen Stat QB pressures (168). He was the only interior lineman and one of only seven players in the NFL to register 50-plus QB pressures each season from 2021 to 2023. Hargrave has played in 15-plus games in nine of his 10 seasons in the league, tied for the most in the NFL (Leonard Williams) among interior linemen (per TruMedia) since 2016. He will wear No. 98 for the Packers.

Howard, 29, has started 93 games over his seven-year career. He has served as a consistent starter with the Texans since being drafted. While he's dealt with various injuries, he hasn't missed a ton of time, starting at least 14 games in five of his seven seasons in the NFL. Howard didn't grade out particularly well in Pro Football Focus' metrics in 2025. The offensive lineman ranked 58th at his position but also did not allow a sack, per PFF's numbers.

Second-year veteran defensive back/kick returner **Brandon Codrington** out of **North Carolina Central**, has signed a 1-year, \$1.1 million reserve/futures contract with the Houston Texans. Codrington was released by Buffalo in late January.

Codrington, a member of the All-Rookie Team in 2024, has primarily been used as a kick/punt returner during two seasons at Buffalo. In 2024, Codrington ranked seventh in the NFL with 619 combined kickoff and punt return yards. He finished fourth in the league in punt return yardage (313) and yards per punt return (11.6). Last season, Codrington returned 14 kickoffs for 375 yards while appearing in only four games because of a hamstring injury.

Seven-year punter **Jaime Gillan** out of **Arkansas-Pine Bluff** was released earlier this month by the New York Giants.

Gillan spent his first three years in the league punting for Cleveland after the Browns signed him as a free agent. He then signed with the Giants in March 2023 on a two-year, \$4 million contract. He signed a three-year, \$10 million contract extension with the Giants in March 2025.

Eighth-year veteran **Khadarel Hodge**, who played at **Alcorn State** before finishing his collegiate career at **Prairie View A&M**, was released on March 9 by the Atlanta Falcons.

Hodge spent the past for seasons with the Falcons primarily as a back-up receiver and special teamer. He also spent the 2018 season with the LA Rams, 2019 and 2020 seasons with Cleveland and the 2021 season with Detroit.