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SWAC, CIAA FOOTBALL EVENTS NEXT WEEK; PLETHORA OF FOOTBALL PLAYERS LEAVING BLACK COLLEGE RANKS



Arizona State Sports Photo

RUSHING AWAY: Former DelState running back Marquis Gillis one of 46 black college FCS players that have bolted to the FBS

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

BLACK COLLEGE FCS TO FBS DEFECTIONS:

The **BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE** takes a look this week at the players you ***will not*** see on the **SWAC**, **MEAC**, **Tennessee State**, **Hampton** and **North Carolina A&T** rostrums as the 2026 college preseason football Media Days kick off next week.



ROCKWELL: SWAC top wideout lleaves for Western Kentucky.

That's because the black college players listed below in our **STAT CORNER** have moved on to the FBS ranks.

For the last few years, Sam Herder of *Hero Sports* has compiled a comprehensive list of the FCS to FBS transfers. This year, his list (<https://herosports.com/2026-fcs-to-fbs-transfers-bzbz/>) includes over 435 2025 FCS players who have made the jump to FBS programs for 2026.

Herder's list from 2025 included 73 players leaving the black college FCS ranks to move to the FBS out of a total of more than 500.

Our list below, taken from Herder's 2026 compilation, includes 46 who left the black college FCS ranks to move up to the more competitive and lucrative FBS. Fifteen (15) who were all-conference performers.

The list includes all-SWAC first teamers in wide receivers **Jyziah Rockwell** of **Prairie View A&M** who transferred to Western Kentucky and **Jalen Jones** of **Alabama State** who has taken up residence at Texas Tech, running back **Ahmad Miller** of **Jackson State** who has taken his talents to Syracuse and offensive lineman **Brian Williams Jr.** of Jackson State who will play this year at UTEP.

Rockwell (74 receptions, 1,161 yards, 9 TDs, 82.9 ypg.) and Jones (51 rec., 1,167 yards, 8 TDs, 97.3 ypg.) were the top two receivers, and the only pass catchers to top 1,000 receiving yards in 2025 SWAC football. Miller was the only running back to top 1,000 yards with 1,064

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BCSP Notes

Two new coaches enter the fray as the 2026 CIAA Football Media Day kicks off on July 15

The **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association** (CIAA®) will unveil two new head football coaches and a group of top players when the league holds the 2026 preseason *CIAA Football Media Day* next week on Wednesday, July 15, 2026 (9:00 a.m.) at the Hilton Durham on Hillsboro Road in Durham, North Carolina.

The new coaches are veteran head man **Dawson Odums** at **Bowie State** after previous head coaching stops at **Norfolk State** and **Southern** and former quarterback **Tory Woodbury** who returns to his alma mater, **Winston-Salem State**, in his first head coaching assignment. Both BSU and WSSU were 2-5 in league play in 2025 along with **Shaw** and **Bluefield State**. **Lincoln (Pa.)** was 0-7 in the CIAA.

The new coaches are coming into a hotly contested league.

Johnson C. Smith (10-1, 6-1 CIAA), with then fourth-year head coach **Maurice Flowers**, won its first CIAA title since 1969 last year, halting a three-peat championship attempt by **Virginia Union** (9-1, 7-0) and head coach **Dr. Alvin Parker**. The Golden Bulls lost to VUU 28-10 in the regular season but got revenge with a dominating 45-21 win in the CIAA title game.

Richard Hayes's Broncos of **Fayetteville State** (6-1), **Dr. Henry Frazer's** Trojans of **Virginia State** (4-3) and first-year head man **Adrian Jones** at **Elizabeth City State** (4-3), all had winning records in conference play. **Sean Gilbert's** Blue Bears of **Livingstone** were 3-4.

All 11 coaches will be on hand with two players each from their team.

Representatives scheduled to attend include:

Bluefield State

Head Coach: Davon Morgan
Student Athletes: WR Brandon Wiley and DB Kamaree Wells

Elizabeth City State

Head Coach: Adrian Jones
Student Athletes: OL Toriono Combs and DB Jaevon Branch

Johnson C. Smith

Head Coach: Maurice Flowers
Student Athletes: OL Jamari Mason and LB Vince Hill

Livingstone

Head Coach: Sean Gilbert
Student Athletes: S Brandon "Manny" Moss and WR Davyn Reid

Bowie State

Head Coach: Dawson Odums
Student Athletes: DL Deontae Roscoe and RB Maximus Jones

Fayetteville State

Head Coach: Richard Hayes
Student Athletes: DE Joseph Woodard and OL Malachi Jones

Lincoln University (Pa.)

Head Coach: Frank Turner
Student Athletes: OL Seth Ulett and LB Charles Thompson

Shaw

Head Coach: Lamar Manigo
Student Athletes: QB Alexander Marsh and TE Keyshaun Powell

Virginia State

Head Coach: Dr. Henry Frazier, III
Student Athletes: OL Tyleek McCoy and LB KJ McNeil

Virginia Union

Head Coach: Alvin Parker
Student Athletes: Christian Myles Solomon and LB Ahmad Ross

Winston Salem State

Head Coach: Tory Woodbury
Student Athletes: Chancellor Smith and Jayden Grimes

All-CIAA first teamer, wide receiver **Brandon Wiley** of **Bluefield State** (41 receptions, 710 yards, 10 TDs, 75.0 ypg.), is one of four 2025 all-CIAA players that will be in attendance.

Notably absent this year will be the two 2025 CIAA players of the year that set the league and all of NCAA Div. II football on fire last year. **Virginia Union** running back **Curtis Allen** was the offensive player of the year after leading all of black college Div. II football with over 2,300 rushing yards and 30 rushing touchdowns. He became the first CIAA player or black college player to win the *Harlan Hill Trophy* as the best player in all of Div. II football.

Garner was the league's defensive player of the year after leading all of D2 football in sacks and tackles for loss. Garner has transferred to Florida Atlantic.

In addition to Football Media Day, the CIAA will host several events throughout the week designed to engage the Durham community and celebrate the conference's rich tradition of excellence.

On Tuesday, July 14, the CIAA will host a free Youth Football Clinic at Hillside High School from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The clinic is open to students entering grades 3 through 8 and will be led by CIAA football student athletes and head coaches. Designed to promote skill development, sportsmanship and community engagement, the clinic provides young athletes with a unique opportunity to learn from some of the conference's top players and coaches.

The week's activities will also include the CIAA® "Live the Legacy" Golf Tournament, taking place Monday, July 13, 2026, at Hillandale Golf Course in Durham. Held in conjunction with Football Media Day, the event will bring together conference leadership, coaches, student athletes, alumni and supporters for a day centered on fellowship and networking and celebration of the CIAA's rich history and tradition.

Teams and individuals are invited to participate in the tournament, which supports initiatives designed to enhance the student athlete experience throughout the conference. Registration is available for \$600 per four-person team or \$150 per individual participant. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

BCSP News

Southern baseball coaching legend Roger Cador passes

Southern University legendary head baseball coach **Roger Cador**, who led the Jaguars to 14 **Southwestern Athletic Conference** championships in 33 remarkable seasons, passed last Tuesday.

Cador was 74 years old.

Cador, who retired from coaching in 2017 leaves behind a legacy that extends far beyond the baseball diamond. He built one of the most respected black college baseball programs in the nation while serving as a leader and ambassador for the game.

"Coach Roger Cador was far more than a baseball coach — he was a visionary, a mentor, a leader and a true pillar of the Jaguar Nation," said **Roman Banks**, Southern's athletics director.

"His impact on Southern University and HBCU baseball is immeasurable. For more than three decades, he built a championship culture, developed generations of student-athletes, and inspired countless lives both on and off the field.

During his legendary career, Cador compiled a career record of 913-597-1,

becoming one of the winningest coaches in college baseball history. Under his leadership, Southern captured two HBCU National Championships (2003, 2005), 14 SWAC Championships, and made 11 NCAA Regional appearances.

Cador also earned 13 SWAC Coach of the Year honors, coached 10 All-Americans and helped 62 student-athletes reach the professional ranks through the MLB Draft.

A native of Louisiana and a proud Jaguar himself, Cador's connection to Southern began as a student-athlete. From 1970-73, he starred for the Jaguars, including leading Southern with a .393 batting average as a junior in 1972.

Following his collegiate career, Cador played professionally in the Atlanta Braves organization from 1973-77, advancing as high as Class AAA with the Richmond Braves.

He returned to Southern in 1978, serving as an assistant baseball coach and later as a basketball assistant coach before taking over the Jaguar baseball program in 1984.



CADOR: Southern's Hall of Fame baseball coach passes.

One of Cador's earliest milestones came in 1987, when he guided Southern to history as the first HBCU program to win a game in an NCAA Regional, defeating No. 2 Cal State Fullerton, 1-0, in New Orleans.

Perhaps his greatest coaching accomplishment was helping develop **Rickie Weeks** into one the nation's premier college player. Weeks became a two-time NCAA batting champion, earned the 2003 Golden Spikes

Award as the top collegiate baseball player in the country, and became the first player from a predominantly Black institution to win the honor. Weeks was selected second overall in the 2003 MLB Draft by the Milwaukee Brewers and went on to enjoy a successful 14-year Major League Baseball career.

Cador's contributions to baseball have been recognized throughout the country. His honors include induction into the SWAC Hall of Fame (2018), the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame (2019), the American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame (2021), and the National College Baseball Hall of Fame (2022).

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yards and six TDs at JSU.

Also on the list of those moving on are a pair of prolific receivers from a year ago at **Bethune-Cookman** — **Maleek Huggins** (64 rec., 864 yds., 8 TDs, 72.0 ypg.) and **Javon Ross** (52 rec., 685 yds., 4 TDs., 57.1 ypg.). That means four of the SWAC's top five receivers are not returning this season. Ross, who was also first team all-SWAC as a kick returner, has moved on to Tulsa, while Huggins, an all-SWAC second teamer, is now at Miami (OH).

All-SWAC second team linebacker **Isaiah Bogerty** of **Texas Southern** is also now at UTEP.

Leading the **MEAC** defections were four first-team all-conference selections from **Delaware State** including the top two running backs in the conference, **Marquis Gillis** and **James Jones**.

Gillis ran for 1,195 yards and 8 TDs for head coach **DeSean Jackson's** Hornets last season while Jones piled up 958 yards and 9 TDs. Both Gillis and Jones are moving out West with Gillis playing at Arizona State and Jones at New Mexico State. First team offensive lineman **Isaiah Cook**, who helped clear the way for the two star running backs at DSU, has transferred to Rutgers. First-team linebacker **Brian Bates Jr.** is the fourth Hornet to leave, moving to Sam Houston State.

All-MEAC second team offensive linemen **JaQuan Sprinkle** and **Donquarius Parker** of N. C. **Central** and **Chevy Trask Jr.** of **South Carolina State** have moved. Sprinkle will play at LSU, Parker is at Arkansas State and Trask has joined Northern Illinois of the Mountain West. **Morgan State** defensive back **Hiroshi Carr** was also a all-MEAC second teamer and will play this season at Southern Miss.

HBCU DIV. II TO FBS DEFECTIONS:

There are 14 black college players who stood out at the NCAA Div. II level last season who will be playing at FBS programs in 2026.

College Football Everyday (<http://www.cfbeveryday.com/division-ii-and-iii-players-moving-to-fbs>) has compiled this list.

At the top is **Livingstone** defensive end **Kenyon Garner**, last season's **CIAA** Defensive Player of the Year. Garner (6-4, 230) led all of Division II in sacks (15.0, 1.5 per game) while also leading the nation in tackles for loss (28.0, 2.8 pg.). He will play this season at Florida Atlantic.

Bowie State defensive back **Elijah McKinney** led the CIAA and was second in the nation in passes defended (17, 1.7 pg.) in 2025. The all-

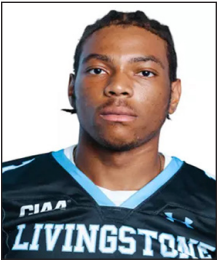
CIAA first teamer will play this season at Liberty.

Also heading to FBS programs are **Allen** edge rusher **Amarie Fleming** (14.5, 1.32 pg.) and **Savannah State's** edge **Xavier Esquillen** (11.5, 1.15 pg.), all-SIAC first teamers who were third and fourth in Div. II sacks a year ago. Fleming (6-2, 230) has moved to Texas Tech while Esquillen (6-2, 250) will play at Georgia State.

Another edge rusher with some gaudy stats is **Mathias Smith-Davis** of **Central State** who had 10 sacks, 48 tackles and 14.5 tackles for loss as a redshirt freshman. He is moving on to Northern Illinois.

Six-four, 270-pound **Morehouse** tight end **Mauric Veney** was an all-SIAC selection who hauled in 32 passes for 381 yards and 3 touchdowns a year ago. Veney has transferred to Vanderbilt.

Virginia Union offensive lineman **Joseph Rounds**, a second-team all-CIAA selection is now at Marshall.



KENYON GARNER: CIAA DPOY moves to Florida Atlantic.

HBCU DIV. II TO FBS TRANSFERS

NAME	POS	D2 TEAM	FBS TEAM
Amarie Fleming	Edge	Allen	Texas Tech
Andre Jocelyn	CB	Benedict	Georgia State
Triston Morgan	RB	Benedict	Kennesaw State
Elijah McKenzie	CB	Bowie State	Liberty
Mathis Smith-Davis	Edge	Central State	Northern Illinois
Martez Curry	OT	Lincoln (MO)	Old Dominion
Kh'len Gates	OL	Lincoln (MO)	Old Dominion
Jordan-Lebron Downey	DL	Livingstone	New Mexico State
Kenyon Garner	Edge	Livingstone	Florida Atlantic
Tyrese Stanley	S	Morehouse	Northern Illinois
Maurice Veney	TE	Morehouse	Vanderbilt
Xavier Esquillen	Edge	Savannah State	Georgia State
Keydel Painter	Edge	Virginia Union	Marshall
Joseph Rounds	OL	Virginia Union	Southern Miss

NEXT WEEK: The BCSP will preview the over 100 new faces entering the black college FCS ranks from the FBS and those coming from other locations.