



Virginia State Sports Photo

TOUGH SLEDDING AHEAD

SEVEN FBS GAMES ON TAP; BENEDICT LEGEND PASSES; NFL NUMBERS REACH 30

A TALL TASK: Prolific Virginia State QB Rahsaan Matthews Jr. faces stingy defense of BCSP FCS No. 1 SC State Saturday in Orangeburg, SC.

SCORES

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 Missouri 54, Arkansas-Pine Bluff 14 UCF 73, Bethune-Cookman 6	N. C. Central 27, Elizabeth City State 6 Old Dominion 31, Norfolk State 10 Richmond 28, Howard 21
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 Georgia State 59, North Carolina A&T 10	Roanoke 37, Virginia-Lynchburg 7 Robert Morris 29, West Virginia State 9 Sacramento State 52, Miss. Valley State 0
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 Arizona State 70, Morgan State 7 Alabama A&M 38, Miles 23 Alabama State 34, Lane 0 Benedict 24, Shorter 20 Clark Atlanta 31, Morehouse 21 Concord 26, Bluefield State 22 Fayetteville State 10, UNC-Pembroke 7 Florida Memorial 38, Allen 31 Georgia 63, Tennessee State 3 Grambling State 48, Central State 26 Jackson State 66, Edward Waters 14 Louisiana Christian 70, Langston 14 Mars Hill 17, Winston-Salem State 0 Maryland 62, Hampton 0	Shaw 23, Barton 13 Southern 34, Kentucky State 15 Southern Miss 49, Alcorn State 3 Tuskegee 24, Fort Valley State 23 UT-Martin 42, Chicago State 7 Virginia State 42, Bowie State 13 Virginia Union 49, Livingstone 20 West Chester 21, Lincoln (PA) 13 William & Mary 22, Delaware State 15
	SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 Johnson C. Smith 27, Albany State 7 Prairie View A&M 52, Texas Southern 14 S. C. State 31, Florida A&M 13

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS



HALL OF FAME ATHLETICS DIRECTOR, WILLIE WASHINGTON PASSES:

COLUMBIA, S.C. -- The **Benedict College** family and all of the HBCU family is heartbroken by the passing of **Willie Washington**, a legendary leader, coach, mentor, and devoted servant whose more than 50 years of service helped shape the history and legacy of Benedict and HBCU athletics. He passed last Monday, August 31.

Washington, 79, a graduate of **Tougaloo College** with a Masters from **Jackson State University**, joined Benedict in 1988 as head men's basketball coach after spending 12 years as head coach at **Allen University** just across the street in Columbia, S.C.

He later devoted himself fully to leading Benedict's athletics program as athletics director.

His extraordinary leadership helped usher in the return of Tiger football in 1995, the development of the Charlie W. Johnson Stadium in 2006, and an era of unprecedented athletic success, including 50 **SIAC** championships and 10 *SIAC Commissioner's Cup* trophies.

In recent times, he hired **Chennis Berry**, who led the Tigers to their first-ever and eventual back-to-back undefeated **SIAC** football championships in 2022 and 2023 before becoming head coach at **South Carolina State**. He also hired one of his former players, **Fred Watson**, as head basketball coach at Benedict, who won five **SIAC** men's basketball regular season and tournament championships during a 16-year tenure before becoming head basketball coach and athletics director at **Miles College**.

Washington's tenure spanned Benedict's transition from the NAIA back to NCAA Division II competition in the **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference** (SIAC). He also served on NCAA committees and was named the 1999 NAIA Southeast Region Athletic Director of the Year.

Washington also built a winning record on the basketball court. His Benedict teams never posted a losing season, won nine straight **Eastern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference** championships and reached the NAIA national tournament four times during the 1990s.

He surpassed 200 career wins during the 1997-98 season.

While his accomplishments on the field and court are remarkable, Coach Washington's greatest legacy is found in the generations of student-athletes, coaches, colleagues, and alumni he mentored and inspired. He believed deeply in the power of athletics and education to develop character, create opportunities, and prepare young people for lives of purpose.

His contributions were recognized through his induction into the Benedict, Allen, Laurinburg Institute and SIAC Halls of Fame, among numerous other honors. The SIAC's establishment of the *Willie Washington Athletic Director of the Year Award* stands as a lasting testament to his impact on collegiate athletics.

The BCSP extends its deepest condolences and prayers to Coach Washington's wife, children, grandchildren, family, loved ones and all those that he provided opportunities for advancement.

Black college sports has lost another legendary leader, but his legacy will never be lost.

2026 BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL (Standings and Weekly Honors)

CIAA

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

BCSP CIAA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

QB - Rahsaan Matthews, R-So., **VSU** - 25-36-1, 383 yards, 5 TDs (18, 56, 5, 20, 15) vs. BSU.
QB - Fabian Duncan, R-Jr., **JCSU** - 21 carries, 141 yds., 3 TDs (4, 2, 40) in win over Albany State.
WR - Jaylen Pretlow, So., **VSU** - 6 receptions., 129 yds., 21.5 ypr., 2 TDs (18, 20) vs. BSU.
DL - Osirus Rhodes, FSU - 3 tackles, 2 solos, 1 sack (-4) vs. UNC-P.
DB - Amir Mateo, So., S, **VSU** - 4 tackles, 3 solos, 2 picks, 16 yards in returns vs. BSU.
LB - Christian Aiken, R-Sr., **VUU** - 8 tackles, 6 solos, 2 sacks (-10), 1 FF, 1 blocked kick vs. LC.
SPECIAL - Alex Rosario-Beltran, Fr, PK, **JCSU** - 43-and-28-yard FGs, 3of3 PATs vs. Albany State.
ROOKIE - Charles Carstarphen, Fr., DE, **LINCP** - 4 solos, 3.0 sacks (-7) vs. West Chester

MEAC

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

BCSP MEAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

OFFENSE
Mason Pickett-Hicks, So., RB, **SCSU** - 17 carries, 210 yards (12.3 ypc.) 2 TDs (58, 32) vs. Florida A&M
DEFENSE
Jordan Dollard, Jr., DE, **SCSU** - 6 tackles, 3 solos, 4.5 TFL (-19), 1.5 sacks (-11), 1 FF and 1 BU vs. FAMU.
Carl Nesmith, Sr., DE, **DSU** - 7 tackles, 4 solos, 3.5 TFL (-11) 2.0 sacks (-9) vs. W&M.
NEWCOMER
Nelson Layne, Fr., QB, **NCCU** - 12-18-1, 160 yards, 2 TDs vs. ECSU.
SPECIALIST
Riley Daniels, Fr., PK, **NCCU** - 29- and 24-yard FGs, now 5-for-5 on FGs.

SIAC

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

BCSP SIAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

OFFENSE
T. J. Hatch, Jr., WR, **BEN** - Four catches for 124 yards (31.0 yards per catch) with a TD reception of 69 yards in win vs. Shorter.
DEFENSE
Jaylen Burrell, R-So., LB, **KSU** - Four tackles, 3 solos, 2 interceptions vs. Southern.
NEWCOMER
Jett Peddy, Sr., QB, **BEN** - Florida A&M transfer was 15 of 30 w/o pick, for 197 yards and a 69-yard TD pass vs. Shorter.

SWAC

	SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE			
	DIV	W	L	ALL
EAST DIVISION				
Alabama State	0	0	2	0
Jackson State	0	0	2	0
Florida A&M	0	0	1	1
Alabama A&M	0	0	1	1
Bethune-Cookman	0	0	0	1
Miss. Valley State	0	0	0	2
WEST DIVISION				
Prairie View A&M	1	0	1	1
Grambling State	0	0	2	0
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	0	0	1	1
Alcorn State	0	0	1	1
Southern	0	0	1	1
Texas Southern	0	1	1	1

BCSP SWAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

OFFENSE **Jared Lockhart**, So., QB, **JSU** - 17-25-0, 388 yards, 4 TDs (12, 4, 18, 25) vs. EWU.
DEFENSE **Malachi Williams**, Jr., DB, **PVA&M** - 6 tackles, 5 solos, 3.0 sacks (-15) vs. TSU.
SPECIALIST **Jahbari Kuykendall**, Jr., RB/KR, **PVA&M** - 90-yard KO return TD vs. TSU.
NEWCOMER **Troy Bruce**, Sr., RB, **ALA&M** - 11 carries, 145 yds. (13.2 ypc.), 2 TDs (2, 2) vs. MC.

INDEPENDENTS

	CONF	W	L	ALL
Florida Memorial	0	0	1	1
Va.-Lynchburg	0	0	0	1
Chicago State	0	0	0	2
CAA				
Hampton	0	0	1	1
NC A&T State	0	0	0	2
MIAA				
Lincoln (Mo.)	0	0	1	0
MOUNTAIN EAST				
W. Va. State	0	0	1	1
OHIO VALLEY				
Tennessee State	0	0	0	2
SAC (Sooner Athletic Conference)				
Langston	0	1	0	1
Texas College	0	1	0	1

BCSP PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

OFFENSE **David Buggs**, Sr., QB, **FMU** - 21-35-0, 420 yards, 5 TDs (40, 41, 11, 37, 6) vs. Allen.

Jalen Holly, WR, **FMU** - 8 receptions, 196 yards, 24.5 yards per catch, 2 TDs (40, 41) vs. Allen.

DEFENSE **Khari Fields**, Gr., DB, **FMU** - 1 solo tackle and 2 interceptions vs. Allen.

GAMES THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 Florida A&M vs. Miami (FL) in Miami Gardens, FL - <i>ACCN</i>	8p
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 Norfolk State vs. UVA in Charlottesville, VA - <i>ACCN</i>	7p
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 Howard vs. Indiana in Bloomington, IN - <i>BigTenN</i>	12p
Central State vs. Morehouse in Atlanta, GA - <i>SIACN</i>	1p
Virginia Union vs. Chowan in Murfreesboro, NC - <i>ChowanDN</i>	1p
Alabama State vs. Troy in Troy, AL - <i>ESPN+</i>	2p
Edward Waters vs. Miles in Fairfield, AL	2p
Ferrum vs. Shaw in Durham, NC - <i>CIAAN</i>	2p
Lincoln (PA) vs. Miss. Valley State in Chicago, IL - <i>SWAC TV</i>	3p
Bowie State vs. Delaware State in Dover, DE - <i>MEACN</i>	3p
Allen vs. Lane in Jackson, TN	4p
Stetson vs. Bethune-Cookman in Daytona Beach, FL - <i>SWACTV</i>	4p
Alcorn State vs. Ark.-Pine Bluff in Memphis, TN - <i>HBCUGO</i>	6p
Tennessee State vs. Alabama A&M in H'sville, AL - <i>SWAC TV</i>	6p
Southern vs. Houston in Houston, TX - <i>ESPN+</i>	6p
Langston vs. Lincoln (MO) in Jefferson City, MO - <i>GLVCSN</i>	6p
Va.-Lynchburg vs. Morgan State in B'more, MD - <i>MEAN</i>	6p
N. C. A&T vs. N. C. Central in Durham, NC - <i>ESPN+</i>	6p
Virginia State vs. S. C. State in Orangeburg, SC	6p
Valdosta State vs. Fayetteville State in F'ville, NC - <i>BroncosN</i>	6p
Livingstone vs. Bluefield State in Bluefield, WV - <i>Team1Sports</i>	6p
Albany State vs. Savannah State in Savannah, GA - <i>SIACN</i>	6p
Kentucky State vs. Clark Atlanta in Atlanta, GA - <i>ESPN+</i>	6p
Bryant vs. Hampton in Hampton, VA - <i>FloCollege</i>	6p
Grambling State vs. TCU in Fort Worth, TX - <i>ESPN+</i>	7p
Prairie View A&M vs. Baylor in Waco, TX - <i>ESPN+</i>	7p
Texas Southern vs. UTEP in El Paso, TX - <i>UTEPstream</i>	8p
J. C. Smith vs. Winston-Salem State in Winston-Salem, NC	8p

BCSP Div. II No. 4 **Kentucky State** (1-1) is at 1-1 **Clark Atlanta** Saturday (6 p.m., *ESPN+*). Nearby, **Morehouse** (0-2) is hosting **Central State** (1 p.m., *SIAC Network*).

Former **CIAA** and **MEAC** rivals **N. C. Central** (1-1) and **N. C. A&T** (0-2) renew their bitter showdown Saturday (6 p.m., *ESPN+*) in Durham, N. C.

Preseason BCSP Div. II No. 1 **J. C. Smith** (1-1) travels to winless **Winston-Salem State** (0-2) Saturday (8 p.m.). WSSU has been shut out in its first two games under new head coach **Tory Woodbury**.

BCSP Notes

Aeneas Williams Award Watch List

The Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame (OSHOF) has released the 5th Annual *Aeneas Williams Award* Preseason Watch List.

This list includes sixteen of the nation's best defensive backs in Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Division I college football. The preseason watch list is selected by a screening committee in partnership with DraftHBCUPlayers and the Paycom Jim Thorpe Award.

Delivering one of the nation's most dominant defensive performances last season, **South Carolina State** defensive back **Jarod Washington** was named the 2025 Aeneas Williams Award winner. The Fredericksburg, Virginia, native became the only FCS player with six passes defended in a game in 2025, a feat he accomplished twice.

This list is not final, and players who have outstanding seasons may be added to the semifinalists and finalists lists as the season progresses.

026 AENEAS WILLIAMS AWARD PRESEASON WATCH LIST

Nasir Bashir (Norfolk State, CB, Gr.)	Herman Brister III (Southern, S, Jr.)
KJ Chisholm Jr. (Jackson State, CB, Jr.)	Wayne Favors III (Delaware State, CB, Sr.)
Kedrick Green (Howard, S, Gr.)	Stephon Hall (Norfolk State, S, Gr.)
Keon Handley Jr. (Alabama A&M, S, Gr.)	Tayvion Haney (Alcorn State, CB, Sr.)
Kwantre' Harry (South Carolina State, CB, Sr.)	Aki Harvey (Morgan State, CB, Sr.)
Naim Lassiter (Bethune-Cookman, CB, Jr.)	Jakarri Martin II (N. Carolina Central, CB, Jr.)
Sharmari Reed (South Carolina State, CB, Gr.)	Kam Sallis (Jackson State, S, Sr.)
Ta'Shaun Sims (Alabama State, S, Jr.)	Eric Zachery (Prairie View A&M, CB, Jr.)

NFL numbers reach 30 with Hunter's addition

Add the name of former **Morgan State** linebacker **Erick Hunter** to the list of former black college players on NFL opening day rosters when the league begins play Wednesday.

Hunter, the former **MEAC** defensive standout for the Bears, was an undrafted free agent in the Detroit Lions camp who was released last Sunday. A day later the New England Patriots picked him up and added him to their 53-man active roster.

His addition brings the number of black college players on NFL rosters to 30. Prior to his addition, the number was at 29, the lowest number in the 33 years of the BCSP's publication and the first time those numbers had dipped below 30.

Hunter will get a chance to see action right away as the Patriots and Seattle Seahawks open the season Wednesday at 8:20 p.m. on NBC in a rematch of last year's Super Bowl LX in Santa Clara, Ca. Seattle prevailed in that match up, 29-13.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

FOR GAMES OF SEPT. 3 - 6, 2026

SC State vs. Florida A&M in Orange Blossom Classic	23,188
Lane @ Alabama State	18,678
Edward Waters @ Jackson State	16,726
Miles @ Alabama A&M	13,674
Texas Southern @ Prairie View A&M	12,546
Clark Atlanta @ Morehouse	9,736
Central State @ Grambling State	8,675
Tuskegee vs. Fort Valley State in Mobile, AL	6,061
Livingstone @ Virginia Union	5,002



NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS #49

ERICK HUNTER
6-2
225
ROOKIE LB

MORGAN STATE