

FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 15 - 21, 2026

BLACK COLLEGE
SPORTS
PAGE

TM



CLIMB
EVERY
MOUNTAIN

FIRST TAKE COMING TO VIRGINIA STATE, TUSKEGEE;
MIKE TOMLIN KEYNOTE SPEAKER FOR NCCU TIP-OFF

DOMINANT: SC State's FCS-
leading defense, led by 6-5,
290-pound all-MEAC lineman
Ka'Von Chisolm, faces No. 24
Furman Saturday.

SC State Sports Photo

SCORES

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10	Indiana 55, Howard 0
Miami 77, Florida A&M 7	J. C. Smith 31, Winston-Salem State 6
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11	Kentucky State 30, Clark Atlanta 3
Virginia 59, Norfolk State 3	Langston 19, Lincoln (MO) 14
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12	Livingstone 44, Bluefield State 30
Alabama A&M 30, Tennessee State 3	Mississippi Valley State 31, Lincoln (PA) 20
Albany State 49, Savannah State 17	Morgan State 55, Virginia-Lynchburg 0
Alcorn State 53, Arkansas-Pine Bluff 51, 2OT	N. C. Central 30, N. C. A&T 22
Allen 43, Lane 7	Shaw 34, Ferrum 28, OT
Baylor 44, Prairie View A&M 3	South Carolina State 66, Virginia State 0
Bethune-Cookman 43, Stetson 18	TCU 63, Grambling State 7
Bryant 31, Hampton 3	Troy 34, Alabama State 17
Central State 49, Morehouse 21	UTEP 51, Texas Southern 10
Delaware State 21, Bowie State 6	Valdosta State 38, Fayetteville State 9
Edward Waters 38, Miles 20	Virginia Union 34, Chowan 19
Houston 77, Southern 6	

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

FIRST TAKE TO MAKE HBCU STOPS:

ESPN's signature morning debate show *First Take* with featured commentator and executive producer, **Winston-Salem State** grad **Stephen A. Smith** and host Shae Cornette announced last week its annual Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) tour this fall.

The stops include trips to **Virginia State University** on Oct. 9 in Petersburg, Va. and **Tuskegee University** in Tuskegee, Ala. on Nov. 6. HBCUs and dates are subject to change.

ESPN's *First Take* HBCU Tour is an initiative the company has supported since 2019. Last year, Smith and team visited **Norfolk State University**, the *Amazon Magic City Classic* presented by Coca-Cola, **Delaware State University** and **Bethune-Cookman University**.

The show has traveled to **Winston-Salem State University** (2023) and to **Florida A&M** with comedian Kevin Hart and movie producer Will Packer (2021). The show also celebrated *HBCU Week* at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in 2022 and at 76ers Fieldhouse in Wilmington, Del. in 2019.

ESPN's First Take airs weekdays from 10 a.m. – Noon ET on ESPN.

TOMLIN TO KEYNOTE NC CENTRAL TIP-OFF:

Super Bowl-winning coach **Mike Tomlin** will serve as the keynote speaker at the **North Carolina Central** men's basketball 2026 Tip-Off Banquet on Wednesday, Sept. 30, at the Sheraton Imperial at Research Triangle Park in Durham.

Tomlin was the head coach of the Pittsburgh Steelers from 2007-2025, finishing his tenure without a losing season. He recently joined NBC Sports' broadcast team for *Football Night in America* ahead of the 2026 NFL season.

The event begins at 7 p.m., with proceeds benefiting the men's basketball program. Tickets are \$125 per person.

FCS TOP FIVE

1) SOUTH CAROLINA STATE (3-0) - Stomped Virginia State, 66-0. NEXT: At Furman.

2) JACKSON STATE (2-0) - Idle. NEXT: Hosting Tuskegee.

3) ALABAMA STATE (2-1) - Fell at Troy, 34-17. NEXT: Bye week.

4) PRAIRIE VIEW A&M (1-2) - Lost at Baylor, 44-3. NEXT: Hosting Stephen F. Austin.

5) GRAMBLING STATE (2-1) - Lost at TCU, 63-7. NEXT: Bye week.

NCAA DIV. II / NAIA TOP FIVE

1) BENEDICT (2-0) - Idle NEXT: At Fort Valley State.

2) EDWARD WATERS (2-1) - Defeated Miles, 38-20. NEXT: Hosting Savannah State.

3) KENTUCKY STATE (2-1) - Beat Clark Atlanta, 30-3. NEXT: Hosting Saginaw Valley State.

4) FAYETTEVILLE STATE (2-1) - Lost to No. 16 Valdosta State, 38-9. NEXT: At Johnson C. Smith.

5) VIRGINIA STATE (2-0) - Humbled by BCSP FCS No. 1 SC State, 66-0. NEXT: At Elizabeth City State.

THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

ATTENDANCE MATTERS	
For Games September 10-12, 2026	
Mississippi Valley State vs. Lincoln (PA) in <i>Chicago Classic</i>	34,300
Alcorn State vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff in <i>Southern Heritage Classic</i>	21,881
Tennessee State @ Alabama A&M in <i>Legacy Series</i>	13,749
NC A&T @ NC Central in <i>Aggie/Eagle Classic</i>	11,632
Virginia State @ South Carolina State	11,500

2026 BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL (Standings and Weekly Honors)														
CIAA				MEAC				SIAC						
CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION				MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE				SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE						
CONF				CONF				CONF						
W L W L				W L W L				CONF ALL						
Fayetteville State	1	0	2	1	SC State	0	0	2	1	Kentucky State	2	0	2	1
Johnson C. Smith	1	0	2	1	Morgan State	0	0	3	0	Edward Waters	1	0	2	1
Virginia Union	1	0	2	1	Delaware State	0	0	2	1	Allen	1	0	2	1
Livingstone	1	1	1	2	North Carolina Central	0	0	2	1	Tuskegee	1	0	1	1
Virginia State	0	0	2	1	Howard	0	0	2	1	Albany State	1	0	1	2
Shaw	0	1	2	1	Norfolk State	0	0	1	2	Clark Atlanta	1	1	1	2
Bowie State	0	0	0	2					Central State	1	1	1	2	
Elizabeth City State	0	0	0	2	BCSP MEAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK				Benedict	0	0	2	0	
Lincoln (PA)	0	0	0	2	OFFENSE				Fort Valley State	0	1	1	1	
Winston-Salem State	0	1	0	3	QB - Alexander Marsh, R-So. SHAW - 18-29-0, 287 yards, 3 TDs (5, 34, 22) in OT win vs. Ferrum.				Savannah State	0	1	0	2	
Bluefield State	0	1	0	3	178 yds., 9.4 ypc., 1 TD (58) in win over Ferrum.				Lane	0	1	0	3	
					OB - Fabian Diggs, R-Jr. SHAW - 19 carries, 157 yds., 30.6 ypr., 1 TD (36) in win over Chowan.				Miles	0	2	0	3	
					DL - Joshua Jackson, So. DE, LIV - 9 tackles, 6 solos, 2.5 TFL, 2.0 sacks (-12), one FF vs. BLST.				Morehouse	0	1	0	3	
					ROOKIE				BCSP SIAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK					
					DB - Velson Seide, Sr., LIV - 97-yard interception return TD in win over Bluefield State.				OFFENSE					
					LB - Ryan Debow, So., FSU - 16 tackles, 4 solos, 2 TFL, 1 break-up vs. Valdosta State.				Tavion Faulk, Sr., QB, EWU - 18-30-1, 250 yards, 4 TDs (14, 15, 40, 45) in win over Miles.					
					SPECIAL - Ca'Lique Cunningham, Sr., WR/KR, LIV - Scored on a 65-yard punt return and a 64-yard TD reception. Had 4 receptions for 113 yards.				DEFENSE					
					Ka'Von Chisolm, Jr., DL, SCSU - Two sacks (-13) and a fumble recovery vs. VSU.				Trevon French, Jr., LB, EWU - 13 tackles, 7 solos, 2 TFL, .5 sack, blocked PAT vs. Miles.					
					NEWCOMER				SPECIAL TEAMS					
					Cameron Edge, Sr., QB, MSU - 17-19-0, 282 yards, 4 TDs (13, 15, 10, 10) vs. VUL.				Jaysen Quarley, KR, CSU - 3 KO returns 152 yards, 94-yard KO return TD vs. Morehouse.					
					SPECIALIST				NEWCOMER					
					Jeff Jackson, PK, SCSU - Kicked thru 52-yard field goal and was 6 of 6 on PATs vs. VSU.				Izaiah Jean-Baptiste, Sr., WR, EWU - 9 rec., 155 yards, 3 TDs (15, 40, 45) vs. Miles..					
									BCSP SWAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK					
									OFFENSE					
									Jaylon Tolbert, Sr., QB, ALC - 32-45-2, 485 yards, 5 TDs (28, 23, 68, 9, 3) vs. UAPB.					
									DEFENSE					
									John Robinson, Jr., DB, ALA&M - 14 tackles, 1 solo, 1 TFL and 1 BU vs. Tenn. State.					
									SPECIALIST					
									David Faulk, So., PK, ALA&M - 35-, 28- and 22-yard field goals and 3 of 3 on PATs vs. Tenn. State.					
									NEWCOMER					
									Jarel Williams, R-Jr., WR, ALA&M - 8 receptions, 175 yards, (21.8 ypc.), 1 TD (51) vs. UAPB.					
									BCSP PLAYERS OF THE WEEK					
									OFFENSE					
									Elijah Kennedy, R-Sr., WR/ KR, NC A&T - 7 receptions, 112 yards, 2 TDs (51, 1), 4 punt returns for 48 yards with a long return of 39 yards, 1 KO return for 22 yards vs. NC Central					
									DEFENSE					
									Steven Davis II, R-Sr., S, NC A&T - 8 tackles, 4 solos, 1 pass break-up vs. NC Central..					

SC State's first challenge at Furman

LUT WILLIAMS

Three weeks into the 2026 black college football season and there are only three teams left with unblemished records – **South Carolina State**, **Jackson State** and **Benedict**. South Carolina State (3-0) sits atop the BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE FCS Top Five with Jackson State (2-0) just behind at No. 2. Benedict (2-0) is the top team in the BCSP Div. II Top Five (see below). Each of the three has a different kind of test this week.

Chennis Berry's AFCA FCS 16th-ranked South Carolina State Bulldogs, who have outscored their three opponents by a combined score of 184-13 (61.6 ppg. to 4.3 ppg.), should have their first real challenge Saturday when they travel to Greenville, S. C. to face 2-1 Furman.

The Paladins, led by 10th-year head coach Clay Hendrix, are coming off a stunning, down-to-the wire 20-13 win on the road in Macon, Ga. over FCS No. 14 and defending Southern Conference champion Mercer (2-1). Furman entered the AFCA FCS poll Tuesday at No. 24. Furman is led by fifth-year senior quarterback Jake Garcia (41-73-3, 377 yards, 1 TD). Fifth-year running back Ben Croasdale (19 car., 148 yds. 3 TDs), who scored the winning touchdown vs. Mercer, leads a trio of backs who all average over 6 yards per carry. Joshua Stoneking, who led the nation in sacks last season with 14.5, leads the defense.

SCSU currently has the stingiest defense in the FCS giving up just 130.7 yards, 43.0 rushing yards, 87.7 passing yards and 4.33 points per game, all tops in the division. Those numbers have come while playing against two Div. II teams (**Savannah State** and **Virginia State**) in its three wins.

Offensively, Berry has employed two

Watson

Robinson

Pickett-Hicks

quarterbacks, dropback passer **Keely Watson** (34-50-2, 456 yards, 6 TDs) and dual-threat **Ronnie Robinson** (15-21-0, 182 yds. 2 TDs), while featuring the running of **Mason Pickett-Hicks** (37 carries, 425 yards, 11.2 ypc., 3 TDs).

The MEAC continues the non-conference portion of its schedule Saturday with **Norfolk State** hosting **Hampton** in its annual *Battle of the Bay Classic* (4 p.m., *ESPN+*), **Morgan State** playing at **Towson, N. C. Central** at **Gardner-Webb** and **Delaware State** at South Florida. **Howard** is off this week.

Jackson State is hosting **Tuskegee** (1-1, 1-0 SIAC) Saturday (6 p.m., *SWAC TV*) in a SWAC vs. SIAC affair. There is one other SWAC vs. SIAC game Saturday (4 p.m., *SWAC TV*) with **Central State** (1-2) at **Arkansas-Pine Bluff** (1-2). All SWAC games this week are non-conference match-ups.

Benedict has its first SIAC match up as the Tigers hit the road Saturday (1 p.m., *ESPN+*) to play at **Fort Valley State** (1-1, 0-1 SIAC). There are four other SIAC conference games Saturday with **Albany State** at **Allen** (2 p.m., *SIAC Network*), **Morehouse** at **Lane** (4 p.m.), **Savannah State** at BCSP D2 No. 2 **Edward Waters** (6 p.m., *SIACN*) and **Miles** at **Clark Atlanta** (6 p.m., *SIACN*).

BCSP D2 No. 3 **Kentucky State** (2-1, 2-0 SIAC) has an out-of-conference 2 p.m. date hosting Saginaw Valley State (2-1).

The big **CIAA** game this Saturday has defending champion **J. C. Smith** (2-1, 1-0) hosting BCSP D2 No. 4 **Fayetteville State**

TOP PERFORMANCES

For Games of September 10-12, 2026				
PASSING	COMP-ATT-INT	YDs	TDs (YDs)	
Jaylon Tolbert, ALC	32-45-2	485	5 (28, 23, 68, 9, 3)	
Cornelius Brown IV, ALA&M	24-38-1	326	3 (61, 30, 11)	
Savan Briggs, BLST	19-25-1	290	2 (76, 34)	
Alexander Marsh, SHAW	18-29-0	287	3 (5, 34, 22)	
Cameron Edge, MSU	17-19-0	282	4 (13, 15, 10, 10)	
Kevin White, NCA&T	21-44-2	259	3 (51, 2, 6)	
R. J. Rosales, VUU	13-22-1	254	2 (36, 12)	
Tavion Faulk, EWU	18-30-1	250	4 (14, 15, 40, 45)	
Jackson Wasik, CSU	13-16-1	247	3 (24, 30, 20)	
Jeffery Davis, ALB	18-21-0	230	2 (15, 17)	

RUSHING	CAR	YDs	AVG	TDs (YDs)
Plez Robinson, NCCU	22	210	9.5	3 (14, 73, 1)
Fabian Diggs, SHAW	19	178	9.4	1 (58)
Fabian Duncan, JCSU	22	164	7.5	1 (14)
Ernest Temple, ALC	28	144	5.1	2 (1, 2)
John Christian II, LANE	14	133	9.3	0
Lorenzo Robinson, LINCP	19	118	6.2	1 (9)
Mason Pickett-Hicks, SCSU	10	112	11.2	0
Isaiah Thompson, CSU	16	112	7.0	1 (49)
Javis Floyd, ALL	24	109	4.5	3 (5, 16, 1)
Ramon Brown, VUU	16	105	6.6	1 (3)

RECEIVING	REC	YDs	AVG	TDs/YDs
Jarel Williams, ALA&M	8	175	21.8	1 (61)
Montrell Wright, VUU	5	157	30.6	1 (36)
Tyree Kelly, ALC	6	151	25.2	2 (28, 68)
Izaiah Jean-Baptiste, EWU	9	144	16.0	3 (15, 40, 45)
Dyvian Bluff, MVSU	4	143	35.7	1 (79)
Dariusus Cyprian, KSU	9	140	15.5	2 (25, 48)
Justin Perry, MSU	6	122	20.3	2 (13, 10)
Julian Crawley, BLST	6	117	19.5	1 (76)
Ca'Lique Cunningham, LIV	4	113	28.3	1 (64)
Elijah Kennedy, NCA&T	7	112	16.0	2 (51, 2)

TACKLES

16	Ryan Debow, FSU;
14	John Robinson, ALA&M;
13	Timothy Jasper, ALC; Cam Sturdfen, HAMP; Trevon French, EWU;
12	Jeremiah Hudson-Davis, ALA&M; Danarius Hilliard, ARKPB;
	Najahti Clark, VUL;
11	D. J. Barber, ALA&M; Ashton Mayeux, BSU;
	Brandon Robinson, LINCP;

SACKS

2.0	Adonis Brazil, SAVST; Joshua Jackson, LIV; Dayone Fitch, LINCP;
	Donovan Moyer, MSU; Ka'Von Chisolm, SCSU;
1.5	Noel Brown, B-CU; D'Andre Martin, JCSU;

INTERCEPTIONS

1	31
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Jaguars.com Photo

Commanders.com Photo

DYNAMIC DUO: Jacksonville's **Bhayshul Tuten** (NC A&T / Va. Tech) (l.) and Washington's **Jacory Croskey-Merritt** (**Alabama State** / New Mexico) (r.) both led their teams in rushing in opening week NFL games. Tuten had 66 rushing yards and a 22-yard reception in the Jaguars' win. JCM had 63 rushing yards and a rushing TD in the Commanders' loss.