

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL?

▼ BCSP PRESEASON TOP TEN; CLASSIC, BOWL AND CHAMPIONSHIP GAME SCHEDULE

NIT, DSU logos
COMIN' AT YA: QB Kelcy Luke leads Alabama A&M in its quest for back-to-back SWAC titles. Bulldogs are second in BCSP Top Ten.

2007 BCSP PRESEASON FOOTBALL TOP TEN

1. **HAMPTON** - The Pirates lost 26 seniors, 13 of them starters, including several to the NFL. But the best teams from 2006 also lost great personnel. The difference is Hampton's **Joe Taylor** restocked his talent pool with perhaps his best recruiting class ever and has relinquished the athletic director duties allowing him to focus full time on winning the Pirates' fourth straight MEAC crown. The Pirates, long on talent though short on experience, are still king of the hill until proven otherwise.
KEY WEAPONS: A strong defensive front seven led by DE **Kendall Langford**, DE **Marcus Dixon** and NT **Vernon Bryant** up front that will have to carry them until the speed and talent on offense in QB **T.J. Mitchell**, RB **Kevin Beverly** (752 rushing yards, 12 TDs), WR **Jeremy Gilchrist** and WR/KR **Kevin Teel** gets going.
KEY CHALLENGES: Continuing their MEAC reign and extricating their postseason demons.
LAST YEAR: 10-2 overall, 7-1 in MEAC; Heartbreaking 41-38 first round I-AA playoff home loss to New Hampshire their third straight playoff loss. Tied for first with N.C. Central in final BCSP ranking.



BEVERLY

LAST YEAR: 9-3 overall, 8-1 in CIAA; Lost 17-14 to NC Central in CIAA title game; Fell 17-10 to Delta State in first round D2 playoff game. Fifth in final BCSP ranking..

6. **DELAWARE STATE** - Strong program built by head coach Al Lavan stays strong and in the hunt for MEAC title.
KEY WEAPONS: QB **Vashon Winton**, Preseason Player of the Year WR **Shaheer McBride** (55 rec., 11 TDs) on offense; DL **Kelly Rouse** and LB **Russell Reeves** on defense with the addition of former Howard head coach **Ray Petty** as defensive coordinator.
KEY CHALLENGES: Playing on the road vs. conference favorites Hampton and SC State.
LAST YEAR: 8-3 overall, 6-2 tied for second in MEAC; Seventh in final BCSP ranking.



WINTON

7. **NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL** - Two-time defending CIAA champs and NCAA Div. II playoff participant leaves the CIAA to move up to NCAA Championship Subdivision without head coach **Rod Broadway**. Interesting mix of D2 and Championship Subdivision opponents should make for smooth transition.
KEY WEAPONS: Dynamite QB **Stadford Brown** and sound defense led by DB **Craig Amos**, LB **Derrick Ray** and DL **Courtney Coard**.
KEY CHALLENGES: New coach **Mose Rison** has to shoulder the move up. Developing new offensive weapons. Leftover games against D2s Elizabeth City and Albany State, new opponents in Western Kentucky, Presbyterian.
LAST YEAR: 11-1 overall, 7-0 in CIAA; Won CIAA title game 17-14 over Elizabeth City State; Lost in first round D2 playoffs to Delta State, 24-17. Tied for first with Hampton in final BCSP rankings.



BROWN

8. **JACKSON STATE** - Righted their ship under new coach **Rick Comegy** and now are serious SWAC contenders.
KEY WEAPONS: QB **Jimmy Oliver**, RB **Erik Haw**, WR **Jaymar Johnson**, DL **Corey Clark** and LB **Daniel Brooks**.
KEY CHALLENGES: Finishing games. Tigers were 3-3 in six games that came down to the wire last season.
LAST YEAR: Started fast winning five of first six, finished slow losing four of last five; 6-5 overall, 5-4 in SWAC East, tied for second. Out of Top Ten in final BCSP ranking.



BROOKS

9. **FLORIDA A&M** - Looks to step into MEAC elite with Hampton, SC State and DelState, teams FAMU has failed to beat in first two years of head coach **Rubin Carter's** tenure.
KEY WEAPONS: First-team all-conference QB **Albert Chester II**, RB **Anthony Edwards**, WR **Willie Hayward**, LB **Vernon Wilder**, DE **Tyrone McGriff, Jr.**, DB **Jason Beach**
KEY CHALLENGES: Hurdling Hampton, SC State and DelState.
LAST YEAR: 7-4 overall, Fourth in MEAC at 5-3. Tied for tenth in final BCSP ranking.



CHESTER

10. **ALBANY STATE** - Four-time defending **SIAC** champ expected to ride stingy defense to again rule the conference.
KEY WEAPONS: QB **Kisan Flakes**, RB **Gary Neavins**, LB **Rod Cummings** and **Jason Marshall**.
KEY CHALLENGES: Scoring points as an anemic offense could only generate only 16 points per game last season.
LAST YEAR: 7-4 overall, 6-1 in SIAC, winning its fourth straight conference title. Lost in first round of NCAA Div. II playoffs to Newberry, 34-28. Sixth in final BCSP ranking.



FLAKES

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

LINCOLN (PA) GETS A COACH:

Lincoln University of Pennsylvania has named **Olabaniji**



Lincoln Sports Photo

ABANISHE: First head coach as Lincoln (Pa.) brings back football.

Abanishe (pronounced ah-bon-EE-shay) as its head football coach. Abanishe is Lincoln's first head football coach since **Robert Gardner** last led the Lion program in 1960. Lincoln, which is beginning its exploratory year as a Division II institution, is reviving football after a 47-year absence. Abanishe brings nine years of coaching experience to Lincoln, including the last four at his alma mater, **Langston University** in Oklahoma. Abanishe

was the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Langston, an NAIA school. Under Abanishe, Langston had an explosive offense as evidenced by the Lions, finishing in the top 10 nationally in scoring offense (38.5 points per game) and in the top 20 in total offense (388 yards) in 2006. Abanishe began his coaching career at Langston in 1998 as tight ends coach. In 1999, he coached the defensive line at Highland Junior College. From 2000-2002, Abanishe was the offensive coordinator and offensive line coach at **Lane College**. In 2003, he coached the offensive line at the University of St. Mary before returning to Langston. Under Abanishe's leadership, the 2005 offense featured three first team All-Conference players (Kendrick Dozier, Jimmy Scales, and Cermase Barry) Dozier was the conference player of the year as Langston won the CSFL in 2005. "Coach Abanishe is a proven football coach and will bring a very exciting and wide-open brand of football to Lincoln University's campus," Director of Athletics **Dr. Alfonso Scandrett, Jr.** said. According to school records, Lincoln, which began playing football in 1894, has compiled a 163-166-27 record. Lincoln won the **CIAA** Conference championship in 1918, 1919 and 1924. Lincoln's Board of Trustees approved a Student Enhancement Initiative last year and as part of the Initiative will provide athletics-based aid to its student-athletes. Lincoln offers 17 sports (9 women, 8 men).

RASHID TAKES MEAC POST:

Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Commissioner



Onnidan/BCSP Photo

RASHID: Named MEAC Assistant Director of Media Relations.

Dr. Dennis Thomas has announced the addition of **Sahar Abdur-Rashid** as Assistant Director of Media Relations. Ms. Abdur-Rashid joins the staff after serving two years as an intern in the Media Relations office. She will serve as the primary contact for cross country, volleyball, indoor and outdoor track and field, women's basketball, bowling and baseball. Her prior experiences also include: public

relations and special events internships with the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA); parks and recreation; and non-profit organization work. A 2002 graduate of Temple University (Philadelphia, PA), Abdur-Rashid earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Tourism and Hospitality Management with a specialization in Sport and Recreation Management. She also obtained a minor in journalism, public, relations and advertising. Ms. Abdur-Rashid is single and resides in Norfolk, Virginia.

SHAW GETS NEW LOGO:

School officials at **Shaw University** unveiled a new athletics logo at a press conference Thursday morning. "Our new logo is a symbol of progress, strength, fortitude, and excellent achievement. This is a proud day for Shaw University," said university president **Dr. Clarence G. Newsome**. The logo was developed by a local marketing firm, vitalink, and will be featured on everything from stadium banners to uniforms to t-shirts.



2. **ALABAMA A&M** - First-time SWAC champs took a big hit on offense, losing both RBs and top four receivers, but maintain a stellar defense.
KEY WEAPONS: Swarming, attacking defense led by LB **Avery Molland**, DE **Chris Traylor** (9.5 sacks) and DB **Frank Moore** (6 ints.). Experience of senior QB **Kelcy Luke** and explosiveness of RB/KR **Ulysses Banks** on offense.
KEY CHALLENGES: Developing offensive options.
LAST YEAR: 9-3 overall, 7-3 in SWAC. Won SWAC title 22-13 over Arkansas-Pine Bluff. Third in final BCSP ranking.



TRAYLOR

3. **SOUTH CAROLINA STATE** - Proved last year they could beat Hampton but now must not stumble over anyone else in MEAC. Picked by league coaches to unseat Hampton.
KEY WEAPONS: Senior QB **Cleveland McCoy**, dangerous RB **William Ford**, a defense that returns all but one of its top players.
KEY CHALLENGES: Surviving big out-of-conference dates against Div. 1A Air Force (9/1) and South Carolina (9/15) healthy enough to contend for MEAC title.
LAST YEAR: 7-4 overall, Tied for second at 6-2 in MEAC; Eighth in final BCSP ranking.



MCCOY

4. **ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF** - Surprise SWAC West Division champs after being picked fourth in the division in the preseason, return talented skill position players on offense
KEY WEAPONS: Reining SWAC Offensive Player of the year QB **Chris Wallace** and all-SWAC first teamers, 1,000-yard rusher RB **Martell Mallett** and WR **Jason Jones**.
KEY CHALLENGES: Replacing four starters lost from O-line and shoring up a defense that gave up 25 points per game last season.
LAST SEASON: 8-4 overall, 7-3 in SWAC; Won SWAC West but lost in SWAC title game (22-13). Fourth in final BCSP ranking.



MALLETT

5. **ELIZABETH CITY STATE** - Defending CIAA East Division champs and NCAA Div. II playoff participant is cream of the CIAA crop with eight players on 23-man preseason all-CIAA team.
KEY WEAPONS: Talent in QB **Curtis Rich, Jr.**, RB **Brandon Fields** and WR/KR **Billy Wiggins** on offense, DL **Greg Moore**, DBs **Justin Dickerson** and **Justin Hamilton** on defense.
KEY CHALLENGES: Playing in the limelight as CIAA favorites.



RICH

2007 CLASSIC, BOWL AND CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

<i>Palmetto Capital City Classic</i>		
Benedict vs. Livingstone in Columbia, SC	3:30pm	
<i>Atlanta Labor Day Football Classic</i>		
Clark Atlanta vs. West Georgia in Atlanta, GA	6:00pm	
<i>Labor Day Classic</i>		
Norfolk State vs. Virginia State in Norfolk, Va.	6:00pm	
<i>John Merritt Classic</i>		
Tennessee State vs. Alabama A&M in Nashville, TN	6:00pm	
<i>Labor Day Classic</i>		
Texas Southern vs. Prairie View A&M in Houston, TX	7:00pm	

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

<i>Labor Day Classic</i>		
NC Central vs. Fayetteville State in Durham, NC	4:00pm	
<i>Dayton Classic III</i>		
Central State vs. Cheyney in Dayton, OH	5:00pm	
<i>Labor Day Golden Classic</i>		
Miles vs. Tuskegee in Birmingham, AL	6:00pm	

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

<i>Heart of Georgia Labor Day Classic</i>		
Edward Waters vs. Stillman in Valdosta, GA	3:00pm	

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

<i>Angel City Classic</i>		
Prairie View A&M vs. NC A&T in Los Angeles, CA	2:30pm	
<i>Joe Turner Classic</i>		
Savannah State vs. Johnson C. Smith in Savannah, GA	4:00pm	
<i>Willie Gary Classic</i>		
Edward Waters vs. Shaw in Jacksonville, FL	5:00pm	
<i>Southern Heritage Classic</i>		
Jackson State vs. Tennessee State in Memphis, TN	6:00pm	

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

<i>37th New York Urban League Classic</i>		
NC Central vs. Elizabeth City State in East Rutherford, NJ	2:00pm	

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

<i>10th Annual Down East Classic</i>		
Elizabeth City State vs. Shaw in Rocky Mount, NC	2:00pm	
<i>8th Western Virginia Education Classic</i>		
Livingstone vs. Virginia State in Salem, VA	2:00pm	
<i>Fish Bowl Classic</i>		
Norfolk State vs. Bethune-Cookman in Norfolk, Va.	4:00pm	
<i>R.J. Bunche Classic</i>		
Edward Waters vs. North Greenville in Kingsland, GA	5:00pm	
<i>Toyota Heritage Classic</i>		
Kentucky State vs. Central State in Lexington, KY	TBA	

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

<i>34th Gulf Coast Classic</i>		
Alabama State vs. Southern in Mobile, AL	2:30pm	
<i>Bank of America Atlanta Football Classic</i>		
Florida A&M vs. Tennessee State in Atlanta, GA	3:00pm	
<i>16th Gateway Classic</i>		
Langston vs. Stillman in St. Louis, MO	3:00pm	

<i>State Fair Classic</i>		
Prairie View A&M vs. Grambling State in Dallas, TX	6:00pm	

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6

<i>72nd Annual Tuskegee-Morehouse Classic</i>		
Tuskegee vs. Morehouse in Columbus, GA	1:30pm	
<i>Southern States Classic</i>		
West Alabama vs. NC Central in Birmingham, AL	1:30pm	
<i>Coca-Cola Circle City Classic</i>		
Florida A&M vs. Winston-Salem State in Indianapolis, IN	4:00pm	

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13

<i>Community Youth Bowl</i>		
Virginia Union vs. Elizabeth City State in Richmond, VA	1:00pm	
<i>Battle of the Bay</i>		
Norfolk State vs. Hampton in Norfolk, Va.	2:00pm	
<i>15th CSRA Classic</i>		
Savannah State vs. Morehouse in Augusta, GA	2:00pm	
<i>Delta Classic 4 Literacy</i>		
Arkansas-Pine Bluff vs. Grambling State in Little Rock, AR	4:00pm	

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20

<i>Gold Bowl Classic</i>		
Virginia Union vs. Bowie State in Richmond, VA	1:30pm	

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27

<i>66th Magic City Classic</i>		
Alabama A&M vs. Alabama State in Birmingham, AL	2:30pm	
<i>Bikers' Classic</i>		
Tennessee State vs. Eastern Illinois in Nashville, TN	6:00pm	

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3

<i>18th Annual Fountain City Classic</i>		
Albany State vs. Fort Valley State in Columbus, GA	2:00pm	
<i>HBCU Classic</i>		
Edward Waters vs. Concordia in Greenville, SC	4:00pm	

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10

<i>CIAA Football Championship Game</i>		
East Div. Champ vs. West Div. Champ in Charlotte, NC	1:00pm	

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17

<i>Capital City Classic</i>		
Jackson State vs. Alcorn State in Jackson, MS	3:00pm	
<i>Walt Disney World Florida Classic XVIII</i>		
Florida A&M vs. Bethune-Cookman in Orlando, FL	3:30pm	

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22

<i>84th Turkey Day Classic</i>		
Alabama State vs. Tuskegee in Montgomery, AL	1:00pm	

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24

<i>Bayou Classic XXXIV</i>		
Grambling State vs. Southern in New Orleans, LA	TBA	

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

<i>Pioneer Bowl</i>		
SIAC Representative vs. CIAA Representative	TBA	
<i>SWAC Championship Game</i>		
East Div. Champ vs. West Div. Champ in Birmingham, AL	TBA	