

# BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



SCSU Sports photo

**FINALLY!** SC State and coach Buddy Pough win first MEAC title in his seven years at the helm. In FCS playoffs in two weeks.

## EUREKA!

**MEAC, SWAC EAST TITLES SETTLED; LANGSTON IN NAIA PLAYOFFS; THREE TEAMS IN NCAA DIV. II V-BALL PLAYOFFS**

## 2008 BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL (Results, Standings and Weekly Honors)

### SCORES

**NOVEMBER 15**

Ark. Pine Bluff 34, Miss Valley Sta. 0  
Bethune-Cookman 14, Howard 12  
Ch'ston Southern 48, Edw. Waters 6  
Delaware State 34, Norfolk State 28  
Florida A&M 45, Hampton 24  
Jackson State 37, Alabama A&M 21  
Jacksonville State 26, Tenn. State 21  
Langston 28, Bacone 9  
NC Central 23, W-Salem State 16  
NW Okla. State 58, Texas College 27  
Prairie View A&M 37, Alcorn State 3  
SC State 32, Morgan State 0  
Savannah State 24, Webber Int'l 7  
Southern 15, Alabama State 0

**NCAA DIV. II FIRST ROUND**  
Tusculum 34, Albany State 22

### MEAC

	MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE			
	CONF	ALL	W	L
^ SC State	7	0	9	2
Bethune-Cookman	5	2	8	2
Morgan State	4	3	6	5
Hampton	4	3	5	5
Delaware State	4	3	4	6
Florida A&M	4	3	8	3
Norfolk State	3	5	4	7
NC A&T State	1	6	3	8
Howard	0	7	1	9
# W-Salem State	0	0	3	7

^ Clinched league title # Not eligible for title

**MEAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**  
OFFENSE  
**CURTIS PULLEY, Jr., QB, FAMU** - 6-of-14 for 159 yds., 1 TD, 12 carries, 132 yds., 3 TDs vs. Hampton.  
DEFENSE  
**MARKUS JAMES, So., LB, SCSU** - 5 tackles, 3 solo, 1 sack, 1 interception returned for TD vs. MSU.  
ROOKIE  
**ALVIS GRAHAM, Fr., LB, FAMU** - 7 tackles, 6 solos, 4 sacks vs. Hampton.  
SPECIAL TEAMS  
**PHILLIP ADAMS, Jr., DB, SCSU** - 61-yard punt return for TD vs. MSU.  
**COREY COUNCIL, KR, B-CU** - 55-yard punt return

### SIAC

	SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE			
	CONF	ALL	W	L
Tuskegee	9	0	10	0
Morehouse	6	3	6	4
Albany State	6	3	7	4
Fort Valley State	6	3	6	5
Clark Atlanta	5	4	6	5
Benedict	4	5	5	6
Lane	4	5	4	7
Stillman	2	7	3	8
Miles	2	7	2	8
Kentucky State	1	8	3	8

**SIAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**  
OFFENSE  
**BRIAN PORTER, Sr., RB, ASU** - 21 carries for 170 yards including a 61-yard TD run in playoff loss to Tusculum. Also had four receptions for 9 yards and 51 yards in two kickoff returns for 230 all-purpose yards.  
DEFENSE  
**ISAIAH GAY, DB, ASU** - 10 tackles, 7 solos and one forced fumble in playoff loss to Tusculum

### SWAC

	SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE			
	CONF	ALL	W	L
E. DIVISION				
^ Jackson State	5	1	6	4
Alabama A&M	3	3	4	7
Alabama State	2	5	2	8
Miss. Valley St.	1	5	3	7
W. DIVISION				
Alcorn State	1	5	2	9
Grambling State	5	0	8	2
Prairie View A&M	6	1	9	1
Southern	5	1	6	4
Texas Southern	1	4	4	6
Ark. Pine Bluff	1	5	2	9

**SWAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**  
OFFENSE  
**DONALD BABERS, Jr., RB, PVA&M** - 26 carries, 198 yards, 2 TDs in win over Alcorn State.  
DEFENSE  
**MARCUS BENARD, Sr., LB, JSU** - 14 tackles, 5 TFL, 3.5 sacks, 1 recovery for TD vs. AA&M.  
SPECIALIST  
**PEDRO VENTURA, So., P, PVA&M** - Averaged 42.8 yards on 4 punts.  
NEWCOMER  
**DARIUS BOLEA, Fr., RB, JSU** - 11 carries for 147 yards and 1 TD in division clinching win over Alabama A&M.

### INDEPENDENTS

	W	L
Langston	9	2
Tennessee State	8	3
W. Va. State	7	3
Savannah State	5	6
Concordia	4	6
Edward Waters	3	8
Central State	2	7
N. C. Central	3	7
Texas College	1	9
Lincoln (Mo.)	1	9
Cheyney	0	11

**PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**  
OFFENSE  
**PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**  
OFFENSE  
**JAJUAN SPILLMAN, Jr., WR, TENN. ST.** - Six receptions for 104 yards and 1 TD (63 yards), five carries for 53 yards and 53 yards in kickoff returns, 210 all-purpose yards.  
DEFENSE  
**HICO COUNCIL, DB, TENN. STATE** - 12 tackles, 6 solos vs. Jacksonville State.

## UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

### MITCHELL TO BE HONORED:

Former coach **Lucias Mitchell**, the all-time winningest basketball coach in **Kentucky State** history who led the Thorobreds to three straight NAIA national titles, had the floor in the Exum Physical Education Building named in his honor at a special ceremony in Frankfort on October 4 and will have a formal ceremony during the Saturday, Nov. 22 men's basketball game vs. Mid Continent.

Mitchell, now 73, led three teams to NAIA National Basketball Championships in 1970-71-72 as the Thorobreds compiled records of 29-3, 31-2 and 28-5 becoming only the second team ever to win three straight NAIA titles; the other coach to do so is former KSU mentor **John McLendon**, who accomplished the feat at **Tennessee State**. All divisions included, only Mitchell, McLendon and UCLA's John Wooden have ever won three national titles in a row.

After the three-year run by Mitchell's teams, his 1972-73 team finished 28-6 but was upset in the first round of the NAIA National Tournament. The 1973-74 team went 28-5 and had a 21-game winning streak broken in the semifinals of the NAIA Tournament before winning the third place game the next night. All totaled, the Thorobreds finished 144-21 in that five-year span, an .873 winning percentage.

Under Mitchell, KSU became the first NCAA Division II team ever to have back-to-back first-round NBA draft choices. **Elmore Smith**, who was drafted in the first round by the Buffalo Braves, signed what was at the time the highest contract ever by an NBA player in 1971. The following year, 1972, **Travis Grant** was a first-round pick in both the NBA and the old ABA, where he played for the San Diego Conquistadores.

Mitchell won National Coach of the Year Awards in both 1970 and 1971. He had five KSU players drafted into the NBA and was the first-ever black coach to be elected as an officer of the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC). He went 192-47 at K-State from 1967 to '75, and his overall record was 325-103 including coaching stints at **Alabama State** (1963-67) and **Norfolk State** (1978-81). He was also one of just four coaches selected to head up the first-ever Olympic Development Camp at Colorado Springs, Colorado, in 1971. He coached three seasons at Norfolk but stayed on another 27 years, retiring as a professor of health.

### D2 VOLLEYBALL PLAYOFFS:

CIAA champion **Elizabeth City State**, WVIAC runners-up **West Virginia State** and SIAC champion **Albany State** begin play Thursday in the NCAA Div. II Women's Volleyball Championship.

ECSU (31-9), seeded eighth in the Atlantic Region, will face top seed and host California, Pennsylvania (37-1) on its home floor. WVSU (25-4) is ranked seventh in the region and will face second-seed Wheeling Jesuit (28-9), the same team that upset the Yellow Jackets in the finals of the WVIAC tournament.

SIAC champion **Albany State** (27-3) received the #8 seed and will play at host and top-seed Tampa (25-4) in an opening round match Thursday in the South Region.

Regional competition will be single-elimination, best three-of-five game matches. The regional finals are scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 22. The winners of each of the eight regionals will advance to the finals, December 4-6, on the campus of a participating institution.

# SC State, Jackson State wrap up titles

SCSU, Pough get MEAC crown, playoff berth; JSU back in SWAC title game

**LUT WILLIAMS**  
BCSP Editor

The football championship race is over in the **Mid Eastern Athletic Conference** and in the **Southwestern Athletic Conference's** East Division. There's still work to be done however in the SWAC West and the Ohio Valley Conference.

**South Carolina State** clinched its first MEAC title since 1994 and first NCAA Football Championship Subdivision (formerly I-AA) playoff berth since 1982 with Saturday's 32-0 win over **Morgan State**. The win keeps the 9-2 Bulldogs undefeated in league play (7-0) headed into its regular season finale Saturday (1:30 p.m.) in Greensboro (N.C.) vs. **North Carolina A&T** (3-8, 1-6).

The MEAC title and playoff berth comes in head coach **Oliver "Buddy" Pough's** seventh season after his Bulldogs finished second four times and tied for first once but never received a playoff berth in his previous six seasons.

"It was a load," said Pough Tuesday in the MEAC's weekly teleconference of the pressure relieved from taking his first title. "When you've gone thru what we've been thru, it's really a hard kind of experience. We're happy but that's tempered with the responsibility we feel to go into the playoffs and make some noise."

There's an outside shot that SCSU, who gets the playoff berth by virtue of the automatic bid that goes to the MEAC champion, will have some company from another MEAC team in the playoff field.

The season-ending **Florida Classic** Saturday (2 p.m.) in Orlando between 8-2 **Bethune-Cookman** and 8-3 **Florida A&M** could result in an at-large playoff berth for the winner.

**Jackson State's** 37-21 win Saturday over **Alabama A&M** gave **Rick Comegy's** Tigers (6-4, 5-1) their second straight SWAC East Division crown and SWAC Championship Game berth headed into their regular season finale Saturday (1 p.m.) vs. **Alcorn State** (2-9, 1-5). But the defending SWAC champ may have to wait a couple of weeks to see who their Western Division opponent will be in the Dec. 13 title game in Birmingham.

**Southern and Prairie View** took care of business Saturday to keep their hopes alive for the West title. Southern shut out **Alabama State** 15-0 and Prairie View ended its regular season with a 37-3 shellacking of **Alcorn State**. Prairie View finishes at 9-1 overall, 6-1 in SWAC play with its only loss to **Grambling**. Southern (6-4) is at 5-1 in SWAC play (a loss to Prairie View) with only its Nov. 29 date with Grambling left on the schedule.

Grambling (8-2, 5-0) is the only one of the three with a game this week. The G-Men travel to Houston Thursday for a 1 p.m. match-up vs. **Texas Southern** (4-6, 1-4). A Grambling win Thursday would set up a Nov. 29 **Bayou Classic** showdown at the New Orleans Super Dome to determine the West winner. Grambling can claim the title by winning its final two games. If Grambling beats TSU but loses to Southern it would result in a three-way tie with

Southern and Prairie View to be decided by a coin flip.

With a chance to clinch the Ohio Valley Conference title **Tennessee State** lost a 26-21 decision Saturday vs. Jacksonville State. The Blue Tigers (8-3, 5-2) fell into a second-place tie headed into their regular season finale Saturday (1 p.m.) at Murray State. TSU, ranked 25th in the latest FCS poll, has an outside shot at receiving an at-large FCS playoff berth with a win.

**Langston** (9-2, 4-0) winner of the Central States Conference and ranked ninth in the last regular season NAIA poll, makes its first postseason appearance in 14 years with a first round date at 4th-ranked Mid American Nazarene Saturday at 1 p.m. MNU finished 10-0 and is champion of the Heart of America Conference. MNU leads all of the NAIA putting up 475 yards per game.

### GAMES THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20	
<i>ESPN</i> - Live	
Texas Southern vs. Grambling State in Houston, TX	8
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22	
Murray State vs. Tennessee State in Murray, KY	1
Howard vs. Delaware State in Washington, DC	1
Miss Valley State vs. Alabama A&M in Itta Bena, MS	1
Morgan State vs. Hampton in Baltimore, MD	1
NC Central vs. Savannah State in Durham, N.C.	1
NC A&T vs. SC State in Greensboro, NC	1:30
W-Salem State vs. Norfolk State in W-Salem, NC	1:30
PLAYOFF GAME	
NAIA First Round	
Mid American Nazarene vs. Langton in Olathe, KS	1
CLASSIC / TV GAMES	
<i>Capital City Classic</i> - ESPN - Delayed-10:30p ET	
Alcorn State vs. Jackson State in Jackson, MS	1
<i>Florida Classic XXIX</i> - ESPN Classic - Live	
Bethune-Cookman vs. Florida A&M in Orlando, FL	2

### NCAA Div. II playoffs

## Albany State falls late to Tusculum, 34-22

SIAC runners-up **Albany State** battled rain, hail and bone-chilling weather to take and hold a lead deep into the fourth quarter but was outscored 20-0 in the final stanza to succumb to Tusculum 34-22 in a first round NCAA Div. II playoff game Saturday in Greenville, Tenn.

The Golden Rams (7-4), making their sixth straight playoff appearance under head coach **James "Mike" White**, turned two early turnovers into a 10-0 second quarter lead and did not surrender the lead until the 23rd-ranked **Pioneers** scored a touchdown with 3:31 left to go up 27-22. After stopping ASU's final drive at its own 41, TC added an insurance touchdown for the final margin.

But the final score does not indicate how hard-fought a battle TC emerged from.

Up 10-7 at the half, ASU scored first in the third quarter on a 61-yard dash from running back **Brian Porter** and then answered a Tusculum touchdown with an 11-yard TD run from QB **Kisan Flakes** to lead 22-14 entering the final period.

But after the Golden Rams' defense stopped Tusculum on a three-and-out in its first fourth quarter possession, ASU was whistled for roughing the punter giving the ball back to the Pioneers at the Albany 36. Tusculum drove for a score and then put up two more touchdowns while holding the ASU offense to just two first downs for the rest of the quarter.

"It was a huge play," Rams coach **Mike White** said of the penalty on the punt. "We were in punt-safe mode. We weren't trying to block it and everybody was stunned. I couldn't believe what happened. It kind of swung the momentum back their way. We weren't rushing the punter or anything. It was a mistake. Just a mistake."

"In the playoffs, it's very crucial that you make plays at the end. I thought they made the plays and we didn't."

Harlon Hill Trophy candidate **Corey Russell** of Tusculum orchestrated the three fourth-quarter scoring drives, including a pair of touchdown passes and a 41-yard TD run with 1:39 remaining to ice the game. On the day, Russell accounted for 274 passing yards, 52 yards below his 326 yards per game average, and three TD tosses, while also rushing for 87 yards and two scores. His 361 total offensive yards is his 10th straight 300-yard game, establishing a new NCAA II single-season record.

The fourth-seeded **Pioneers** (9-3) advance to face top-seeded **Delta State** Saturday in a second round game.

ASU running back **Brian Porter** was brilliant rushing for 170 yards on 21 carries including his third quarter TD run. Porter also had nine yards on four receptions and returned two kickoffs for 51 yards to amass 230 all-purpose yards in the game. Flakes rushed for 72 yards on 20 carries including a second quarter scoring run of 12 yards. Flakes was able to hit on only 9 of 19 passes for 44 yards, one of those completions however went to **RB Demetrice Johnson** for an 11-yard score with :56 left in the third quarter to put the Rams up 22-14.

**Isaiah Gay** paced the Golden Rams with 10 tackles and a forced fumble, while **Quinton Nelson** accounted for seven tackles in the loss. Tusculum out-gained ASU by a 386-320 margin, but it was the Golden Rams who dominated the time of possession (36:23 to 23:37).

## BCSP Notes

### FAMU wins eighth straight volleyball title

**Florida A&M** won its eighth consecutive **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** volleyball championship, surviving **Maryland Eastern Shore** in a 3-2 (17-25, 25-15, 23-25, 31-29, 15-10) win in the championship match Sunday in Holland Hall, on the campus of **Hampton University**.

The Lady Hawks (25-9) appeared to have the match won, up two games to one and leading late in the fourth set 22-19. But the Lady Rattlers fought back, eventually taking the marathon set 31-29. In the fifth and deciding set tied at 10-all, a kill by FAMU and two attack errors by UMES put the Lady Rattlers up 13-10. After a service ace from FAMU's **Jovana Blazeski** and a timeout by UMES, **Samara Ferraz**, the 2008 MEAC Tournament Outstanding Performer, recorded a kill to end the set at 15-10 and seal the victory.

Blazeski led Florida A&M (14-11) with 30 kills, while Ferraz recorded 25. **Maria Gomez** was the third Lady Rattler to record double-digit kills, ending up with 13. **Susan Egoavil** had 69 of Florida A&M's 74 assists, while Blazeski added a team-high 16 digs for a double-double performance. **Cintha Corzo** added 14 digs on defense, while Gomez also had a double-double, recording 13 digs.

Head Coach **Tony Trifonov** was named the Outstanding Coach for the eighth straight year.

"It feels awesome to win the title with this team due to the adversity and injuries we have had this year," said Trifonov. "The girls played with a lot of heart and we pulled out two five-game sets this tournament so we are really lucky."

**Samantha Chukwura** and **Christine Edwards**, the MEAC Rookie



MEAC Photos



**ESPN AT FAMU:** Florida A&M fans (l.) gather behind the set of ESPN Gameday which hosted its popular pre-game show Saturday on the Tallahassee campus prior to the Florida A&M vs. Hampton game. At right, MEAC Commissioner Dr. Dennis Thomas (third from l.) joins (from l.) Gameday hosts Desmond Howard, Chris Fowler, Lee Corso, Kirk Herbstreit and Florida A&M President James Ammons on the set.

of the Year, each led the Lady Hawks with 15 kills, while Chukwura had a team-high .778 attack percentage. **Thonya Joseph** added 13 kills, while **Whitney Johnson** recorded 10. MEAC Player of the Year **Christina Estebane** recorded 54 of UMES's 59 assists, while also recording a team-high 20 digs. **Caylin Woodward** added 15 digs on defense.