

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



GSU Sports Photo

BROADWAY: His G-MEN team need a win over Southern to clinch SWAC West crown, spot in league title game.

STILL PLAYING

SC STATE, LANGSTON IN PLAYOFFS; MUCH INTRIGUE AT 35th BAYOU CLASSIC

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

SCORES

NOVEMBER 20
Grambling St. 33, Texas Southern 7

NOVEMBER 22
Alabama A&M 58, Miss Vall. St. 23
Delaware State 10, Howard 6
Florida A&M 58, Bethune-Cookman 35
Jackson State 26, Alcorn State 21
Morgan State 17, Hampton 13
Murray State 24, Tennessee State 17
NC Central 10, Savannah State 7
Norfolk State 17, W-Salem State 14
SC State 55, NC A&T 0

NAIA 1st ROUND
Langston 20, Mid America Naz. 14

MEAC MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

	CONF			ALL		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
^ SC State	8	0	10	2		
Bethune-Cookman	5	3	8	3		
Hampton	5	3	6	5		
Delaware State	5	3	5	6		
Florida A&M	5	3	9	3		
Morgan State	4	4	6	6		
Norfolk State	3	5	5	7		
NC A&T State	1	7	3	9		
Howard	0	8	1	10		
# W-Salem State	0	0	3	8		

^ Clinched league title # Not eligible for title

MEAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

WILL FORD, Jr., RB, SCSU - Ran 23 times for 161 yards and 1 TD vs. NC A&T
CURTIS PULLEY, Jr., QB, FAMU - Ran for 171 yards in 13 carries with 2 TDs, hit on 11 of 20 passes for 125 yards and another pair of TDs vs. B-CU.
DEFENSE
RICARDO KEMP, DB, HAMPTON - 2 tackles, interception returned 73 yards for TD vs. MSU.
SPECIAL TEAMS
PHILLIP ADAMS, Jr., DB, SCSU - 81-yard punt return for TD vs. NC A&T that opened scoring.
LEROY YANN, KR, FAMU - 83-yard kickoff return

SIAC SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

	CONF			ALL		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
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
NA

SWAC SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

	CONF			ALL		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
E. DIVISION						
^ Jackson State	6	1	7	4		
Alabama A&M	4	3	5	7		
Alabama State	2	5	2	8		
Miss. Valley St.	1	6	3	8		
Alcorn State	1	6	2	10		
W. DIVISION						
Grambling State	6	0	9	2		
Prairie View A&M	6	1	9	1		
Southern	5	1	6	4		
Texas Southern	1	5	4	7		
Ark. Pine Bluff	1	5	2	9		

SWAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

OFFENSE
KEVIN ATKINS, So., QB, AA&M - 24 of 35 for 357 yards and 5 TDs vs. MVSU.
DEFENSE
LEE ROBINSON, Sr., LB, ALCORN ST. - 11 tackles, 6 solos, 1 int. returned 11 yards for TD, 1 sacks and 1 forced fumble

INDEPENDENTS

	W	L
Langston	10	2
Tennessee State	8	4
W. Va. State	7	3
Concordia	4	6
Savannah State	5	7
N. C. Central	4	7
Edward Waters	3	8
Central State	2	7
Texas College	1	9
Lincoln (Mo.)	1	9
Cheyney	0	11

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

OFFENSE
JAJUAN SPILLMAN, Jr., WR, TENN. ST. - 11 receptions for 86 yards and 1 TD (15 yards), in loss to Murray State.
DEFENSE
LARRY WILLIFORD, DE, TENN. STATE - 9 tackles, 7 solos, 4 for losses of 12 yards.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

2008 SIAC GRID HONORS:

Tuskegee quarterback **Jacary Atkinson** is again the headliner as the **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference** and the its Football Coaches Association announced its award winners for the 2008 season last week.

Atkinson was named Offensive Player of the Year and league Most Valuable Player and the first team signal-caller for the second straight year after leading Tuskegee to its second straight undefeated seasons. Atkinson led the conference in passing efficiency (163.2), passing average per game (244.4 ypg.), passing yards (2,444), passing touchdowns (23) and total offense (316.6 ypg.). He becomes the first player to win consecutive Offensive Player of the Year and MVP honors in the modern era of the SIAC.

Linebacker **Jeffrey Cargile** of **Morehouse** was named Defensive Player of the Year en route to leading the NCAA in tackles for loss (23) and sacks (12.5). He totalled 99 tackles on the season.

Coach **Willie Slater** of Tuskegee took home Coach of the Year after leading his team to an undefeated season, a third consecutive SIAC title and a 26-game winning streak. Freshman of the Year honors went to defensive back **Tyren Futch** of **Lane College**. Futch had 30 tackles and was named second team all-SIAC.

Tuskegee and **Clark Atlanta** led all schools with eight representatives on the All Conference teams followed by Morehouse with six.

FIRST TEAM - OFFENSE

QB - Jacary Atkinson, Sr., TU; RB - Winston Thompson, So., CAU; Michael Wright, Sr., KSU; WR - James Steadman, Sr., MHC; Juwan Jones, Jr., KSU; TE - Robert Smith, Jr., LC; OL - Stanley Wright, Sr., BC; Sam McNaulty, Sr., CAU; Eric Martiner, Jr., LC; Ramone Harewood, Jr., MHC; Michael Stevens, Jr., TU

DEFENSE

DL - Sammie Hill, Sr., SC; Joshua Ingram, So., ASU; David Williams, Sr., KSU; Danny Anderson, Jr., TU; LB - Jeffrey Cargile, Sr., MHC; Earl Thomas, Sr., MHC; James Graham, Jr., BC; DB - Dre-Mail Hardin, Sr., TU; Justin Hannah, Jr., TU; Devon Shorter, Sr., CAU; Derrick Shelton, Jr., LC

SPECIAL TEAMS

KR - Jamar Rodriguez, So., MHC; PR - Jackie Chambers, Sr., LC; PK - Alper Keskin, Jr., BC; P - Anthony Foster, So, BC

SECOND TEAM - OFFENSE

QB - Cedric Johnson, Sr., CAU; RB - Quinn Porter, Jr., SC; Tony Forney, Jr., TU; WR - Jackie Chambers, Sr., LC; Jason English, Sr., TU; TE - Larry Johnson, Jr., ASU; OL - Pedro Bennett, So., ASU; John Sekona, Sr., CAU; Zach Carr, Sr., KSU; Chris Hymel, Jr., SC; Ira Soares, Sr., TU

DEFENSE

DL - Richard Washington, Sr., CAU; Marcus Winston, Sr., CAU; Alex Dumeus, Sr., SC; Jarvis Devaughn, Sr., TU; LB - Jonathan Hall, Jr., TU; Cordell Key, Jr., KSU; Michael Thompson, Jr., BC; DB - Derrick Addai, So., KSU; Tyren Futch, Fr., LC; Derrick Scott, Sr., MHC; Dearion McCoy, Sr., SC

SPECIAL TEAMS

KR - Jamarion Robinson, Fr., CAU; PR - Daron Clark, Sr., SC; PK - Shun Gutierrez, Sr., LC; P - Shun Gutierrez, Sr., LC

Playoffs, Classics in Thanksgiving spotlight

SC State, Langston in playoffs; Bayou to determine SWAC West champ

LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

Two big playoff games and three classics are all that's in store for black college fans over the Thanksgiving holidays but those contests should be more than enough to whet their appetite as each carries its own bit of significance.

South Carolina State, champion of the **Mid Eastern Athletic Conference** for the first time since 1994 and in the **NCAA Football Championship Subdivision (FCS)** playoffs for the first time since 1982, begins its quest for a national title Saturday (12 noon) against the mighty three-time defending champion Mountaineers



SCSU Sports Photo

FORD: 1,000-yard rusher key for SCSU vs. App State.

of Appalachian State in one playoff scenario.

The other playoff game has **Langston** (see story below), in the **NAIA** playoffs for the first time since 1994 and coming off a first round win, taking on Sioux Falls in a 12 noon quarterfinal match-up in Idaho.

Bayou Classic XXXV at the New Orleans Super Dome Saturday (1 p.m.) between **Grambling State** and **Southern** will help determine the **SWAC** West Division champion and the team opposite East Division champ **Jackson State** in the Dec. 13 **SWAC** Championship Game.

Also Saturday, a new Thanksgiving tradi-

GAMES THIS WEEK

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27

85th Turkey Day Classic
Alabama State vs. Tuskegee in Montgomery, AL 1

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

CLASSIC / TV GAMES
Bayou Classic XXXV - NBC
Southern vs. Grambling State in New Orleans, LA 1
Dallas Lone Star Classic
Texas Southern vs. Ark.-Pine Bluff in Dallas, TX 2:30
PLAYOFF / TV GAMES
NCAA FCS Playoffs - 1st Round - ESPN
Appalachian State vs. S. C. State in Boone, NC 12n
NAIA Playoffs - 2nd Round
Sioux Falls vs. Langston in Sioux Falls, SD 12n

tion begins as **SWAC** schools invade the Cotton Bowl for the second time this year in the **Dallas Lone Star Classic** (2:30 p.m.) pitting **Arkansas-Pine Bluff** against **Texas Southern**.

And preceding the Saturday games is Thursday's traditional Thanksgiving Day battle that will determine if **SIAC** champ and BCSP No. 1 **Tuskegee** can post its second straight undefeated season against **Alabama State** at the **85th Turkey Day Classic** (1 p.m.) in Montgomery, AL. (see story below).

South Carolina State (10-2) will have its hands full battling the team that has set the standard in FCS football over the past three seasons.

The pairing was met with mixed reactions from an audience gathered Sunday on the campus of SCSU for the unveiling of the 16-team playoff field. But Bulldog head coach **Buddy Pough** and his players said they were looking forward to the opportunity and the challenge.

"Well, we know it will not be easy," said Pough, "but we are happy to have a chance to compete for a national championship. Appalachian State is about as good as you can get and three-time defending champion. So, we know we have our work cut out for us and are looking forward to the game."

Appalachian State (10-2) features quarterback Armanti Edwards, who is the second most efficient passer (178.5) in FCS football competing 62.9% (141 of 224) of his passes for 2,146 yards, 25 TDs and only 2 interceptions. The Mountaineers are third in the nation in total offense (464.3 ypg.) and third in scoring (39.3 ppg.).

SCSU is led by MEAC rushing leader **Will Ford** who has run for 1,382 yards and 12 TDs and QB **Malcolm Long**. The Bulldog defense is among the best in the nation giving up just 15 points and 248 yards per game.

Langston advances to NAIA quarters

Langston jumped in front early Saturday and intercepted a pass in the end zone in the final minute that preserved a 20-14 win over Mid America Nazarene to advance the Lions (10-2) to the quarterfinals of the NAIA playoffs. It was the fourth-ranked Pioneers first loss of the season.

After chanting during their pregame warm-ups that Pioneer Stadium was "our house," the Lions played in the first quarter like they owned the place.

On Langston's first touchdown drive, quarterback **Danny Lowery** hit **Kor'Darien Mathis** out of the backfield on a swing pass for a 12-yard touchdown, one of two touchdown passes thrown by Lowery in the quarter. **Carlos Ross**, who finished with 191 all-purpose yards, scored what proved to be the game-winning touchdown on a 41-yard punt return as time ran out in the first quarter.

Langston scored all of its points in the opening quarter and forced the Pioneers to overcome their largest deficit this season.

"We knew that defense is our strength and that's how we pulled it out today," said **Langston** (10-2) head coach **Greg Johnson** of a unit that held MANU, the NAIA's top offense, to 346 yards and 14 points. Langston has NAIA's second best defense. Junior **Rodrick Jenkins** was selected as the Defensive Player of the Game after recording nine tackles and one sack. Four of his tackles combined for losses of 18 yards. **Darnell Brown** saved the day for the Lions with the end zone interception in the final minute, his ninth of the season.

The Lions were assessed 14 penalties for 128 yards, including a delay of game penalty before the game for jaw-to-jaw trash talking at midfield that delayed the opening kickoff. But the penalty didn't stop Langston from grabbing the early lead.

Next the Lions will play at the University of Sioux Falls Cougars. The Cougars finished the season ranked No. 2 in the NAIA and currently have an 11-0 record. They are unbeaten in 33-straight home games and have held seven of their 11 opponents this season without a point. Sioux Falls also ranks first in country in all major defensive statistical categories: scoring defense, total defense, rushing defense, and passing defense.

Kickoff is set for noon CST and will air by satellite radio on ESPN Radio, 1230 KWSN. Live stats will be on the NAIA website at <http://naia.cstv.com>.



JOHNSON

Tuskegee chasing 27th straight win, history

ROSCOE NANCE

BCSP Correspondent

Tuskegee coach **Willie Slater** isn't one given to flights of fancy.

That's why even though the Golden Tigers had 44 lettermen and 13 starters - including All-American quarterback **Jacary Atkinson** and All-SIAC receiver **Jason English** - returning from the Golden Tigers' unbeaten 2007 Black College National Championship squad, Slater didn't anticipate a repeat performance.

"I knew we had a chance to be pretty good," the third-year coach says.

The Golden Tigers have been more than pretty good. They enter their Thanksgiving Day season finale against arch-rival **Alabama State** ranked No. 1 among HBCUs with an unbeaten record (10-0) and riding a 26-game winning streak, which ties the school record.

"It's hard to do that shooting marbles, and it's certainly hard in football," **Florida A&M** coach **Joe Taylor** says. "I take my hat off to them. You don't see that very often."

Slater says he entered the season thinking the Golden Tigers' success would hinge on how well their offensive line performed after losing three starters to graduation. A trio of true freshmen, **Ryan Jackson**, **Darius**

Brown and **Charlie Craig** stepped in without missing a beat under the tutelage of Coach **Gregory Black**.

"He did an outstanding job. It was the best coaching job I've been around," says Slater, a five-time Division II National Assistant Coach of the Year at Troy State and the University of North Alabama.

The Golden Tigers will eclipse the school record for consecutive wins set from 1925-27 with a win over Alabama State. The streak is the longest current one of its kind in the nation at any level.

"It's been a blur for us," he says. "When you're having fun, time flies. The streak is a tribute to our players and their willingness to work and be disciplined, and to the coaches being sure they do what they need to do each week to put them in position to win."

Slater says one of the most difficult problems the Golden Tigers have faced this season has been playing 10 consecutive games without an open date. He says playing straight through took a physical and mental toll.

Physically, the Golden Tigers had to deal with injuries to Jackson, who missed four games with a broken hand, as well as Atkinson and English, who sustained minor nicks but didn't miss any games.

"Dealing with injuries and all

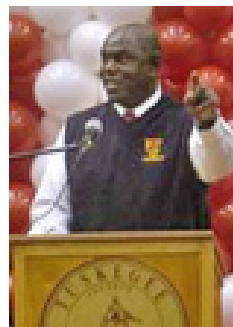
that, we've really been blessed," Slater says. "A lot of stuff you can't explain how it happens, why it happens. We've been blessed by The Good Lord. We're thankful for that more than anything."

Tuskegee won its third consecutive **SIAC** championship and has separated itself from the rest of the field in the conference. The Golden

Tigers are fifth in Division II in total offense (485.7 yards a game) and rushing offense (224.6 yards), 11th in scoring (39.1 points a game) and 27th in passing offense (261.1 yards). Their average margin of victory has been 20.8 points a game.

"They're the best team in Black College Football," says ESPN college football analyst **Eddie Robinson**, an Alabama State grad who played linebacker for 11 years in the NFL. "When you look at the winning streak, their margin of victory and the fact that they've beaten teams in the Football Championship Subdivision, you have to say they're the best team until somebody beats them."

Atkinson has passed for 2,444 yards and 23 touchdowns while



Tuskegee Sports Photo

SLATER: Three SIAC titles and 26 straight wins in three years.

completing 56.9% of his attempts. He's also rushed for 724 yards and 11 touchdowns.

"This guy, whether he has great games where he's unstoppable or an off game, he still makes enough plays to guarantee victory," says Robinson who compares Atkinson's impact to that of former NFL MVP Steve McNair during his time at **Alcorn State** in

the mid '90s.

The Golden Tigers have a four-game winning streak against Alabama State have won eight of their last nine meetings. They will be overwhelming favorites to beat the Hornets (2-8) again this season and wrap up another National Championship. Slater says he won't give the Golden Tigers a pre-game pep talk about how they're playing for a place in history and the prestige that would come with another National Championship.

"We haven't talked about that all season," he says. "They understand. They know. They know what they want to do. As long as they know what they want to, we have a chance. We just want to win this game."