

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



GSU Sports Photo

ONE MORE TO GO

SC STATE, LANGSTON FALL SHORT; TUSKEGEE UPSET, GRAMBLING MOVES ON

DILLON: Grambling QB gets G-Men back in SWAC title game. Will take on Jackson State in final game of '08.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

2008 MEAC GRID HONORS:

South Carolina State running back **Will Ford** was selected as the **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC)** Offensive Player of the Year and Morgan State linebacker **Jarrell Guyton** earned the Defensive Player of the Year honor as voted by the MEAC head football coaches and sports information directors.

Wide receiver **Willie Carter** of **Howard** earned the Rookie of the Year award and South Carolina State center **Raymond Harrison** was selected as the Offensive Lineman of the Year.

Coach of the Year honors went to South Carolina State head coach **Oliver "Buddy" Pough** who led the Bulldogs to their first playoff berth in 26 years. Under Pough's guidance, the Bulldogs finished the season with a 10-3 overall mark and clinched the MEAC title with an unblemished 8-0 conference record. The Bulldogs ranked in the top 10 of three FCS statistical categories including tackles for loss (4th), sacks allowed (6th), and scoring defense (9th).

Ford led the MEAC in rushing with 1,499 yards and was tied for third in the conference in scoring (78 points). He carried the ball 246 times for an average of 115.3 yards per game and accounted for 13 touchdowns. Ford, a junior from Travelers Rest, S.C., is just 1,009 yards away from becoming the MEAC's all-time leading rusher. He received the Rookie of the Year award in 2006 and was recently named a finalist for the Walter Payton Award.

Guyton led one of the most dominating defensive units in the FCS. For the second year in a row MSU led the

FCS in total defense giving up less than 213.4 yards per game. Guyton collected 35 solo and 35 unassisted tackles for the Bears this season. He put up numbers in almost every defensive statistical category including 70 total tackles, 13 tackles for a loss of 41 yards, four sacks for 22 yards in losses, one interception for a 22 yard return, three pass break-ups, one hurry, and one forced and recovered fumble.

Carter was a key offensive threat for the Bison before being sidelined with an ankle injury after just six games. He caught 44 passes for 477 yards and six touchdowns during that span averaging 10.8 yards per catch.

Harrison was the linchpin of one of the most dominating offensive attacks in the MEAC this season. The Bulldogs' third consecutive Lineman of the Year, Harrison was the anchor of a line that produced 4,972 yards of total offense including 2,651 yards on the ground.

2008 ALL-MEAC SELECTIONS

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

QB - Curtis Pulley, r-Jr., FAMU; **RB** - Will Ford, Jr. SCSU; DevanJames, Jr., MSU; **TE** - Octavius Darby, Sr., SCSU; **WR** - Justin Brown, Sr., Hampton; Kevin Elliott, r-Fr., FAMU; **OL** - Robert Okefor, Jr., FAMU; Dennis Conley, r-Sr., Hampton; Dwayne Delaney Sr., MSU; Johnny Culbreath, So., SCSU; **C** - Raymond Harrison, Sr., SCSU

DEFENSE

DL - Justin Lawrence, Jr., MSU; Cedric Lloyd, Sr., SCSU; Chris Baker, Jr., Hampton; Dennis Marsh, r-Sr., NSU; **LB** - Jarrell Guyton, Sr., MSU; Travis Roland, r-Sr., B-CU; Endor Cooper, Sr., Howard; **DB** - Terrell Whitehead, Jr., NSU; Markee Hamlin, Jr., SCSU; Chris Williams, Sr., MSU; Darren McKhan, Jr., MSU; **P** - Jahmal Blanchard, Jr., Hampton; **PK** - Justin Castellat, Jr., NSU; **RS** - LeRoy Vann, Jr., FAMU

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

QB - Herbert Byner, r-So., Hampton; **RB** - DeAngelo Branche, r-So., NSU; Brian Sulmer, Jr., B-CU; Philip Sylvester, So., FAMU; **TE** - Taj Jenkines, Jr., FAMU; **WR** - Oliver "Tre" Young, Jr., SCSU; Jeremy Gilchrist, r-Sr., Hampton; Willie Carter Fr., Howard; **OL** - Ruebin Mordecai III, r-Sr., B-CU; Nygel Pearson, Sr., SCSU; Adrian Brown, Sr., DSU; Anthony Collins, r-Jr., FAMU; Robert Norris, Jr., MSU; **C** - Ryan Cave, Jr., Hampton

DEFENSE

DL - Cameron Houston, Jr., FAMU; Keyon Brooks, Sr., SCSU; Kendrick Ellis, So., Hampton; Dexter Jackson, Jr., B-CU; **LB** - Wakeem Goode, Sr., Hampton; Tony White, Sr., SCSU; Marshall McFadden, Sr., SCSU; **DB** - Curtis Holcomb, So., FAMU; Antonio Cox, Jr., B-CU; Don Carey, Sr., NSU; Jonathan Wade, So., Hampton; **P** - Justin Keable, r-So., B-CU; **PK** - Carlo Turavani, So., Hampton; **RS** - Kevin Teel, Sr., Hampton

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

SCORES

NOVEMBER 27
Alabama State 17, Tuskegee 13

NOVEMBER 28
NAIA Quarterfinals
Sioux Falls 50, Langston 13

NOVEMBER 29
Ark.-Pine Bluff 28, Texas Southern 7
Grambling St. 29, Southern 14

FCS Playoffs - First Round
App. State 37, SC State 21

MEAC

	CONF			ALL		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
^ SC State	8	0	10	3		
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

MEAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

OFFENSE
WILL FORD, Jr., RB, SCSU - Ran 23 times for 117 yards and a 13-yard third quarter TD vs. Appalachian State in a first round FCS playoff game.

OCTAVIUS DARBY, Sr., TE, SCSU - Caught five passes for 68 yards including scoring catches of 19 and 15 yards in first round loss to App State.

DEFENSE
MARKEE HAMLIN, Jr., DB, SCSU - Led Bulldogs with 11 tackles, 9 solos, and had an interception vs. App State.

SPECIAL TEAMS
DONOVAN RICHARD, So., DB, SCSU - Blocked a third quarter punt setting up a TD that pulled Bulldogs within 24-21 vs. App State.

SIAC

	CONF			ALL		
	W	L	T	W	L	T
Tuskegee	9	0	10	1		
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
JACARY ATKINSON, Sr., QB, TUSKEGEE - Completed 21 of 38 passes for 218 yards and one TD also rushed for 31 yards on 15 carries and scored a TD in loss to Alabama State.

DEFENSE
ANTHONY RODNEY, TUSKEGEE - Led the Golden Tigers with 9 tackles, 4 solos, 2 for losses of 11 yards vs. Alabama State.

SWAC

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

SWAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

OFFENSE
GREG DILLON, Jr., QB, GSU - Ran 26 times for 136 yards and one TD (14 yards) and hit on 9 of 13 passes for 151 yards and a TD in win over Southern that clinched W. Div. title.

DEFENSE
MARTELL MALLET, Sr., RB, UAPB - Ran 25 times for 141 yards and 2 TDs (2, 4) in win over TSU.

DEFENSE
ALABAMA STATE DEFENSIVE UNIT - Picked off two Jacary Atkinson passes, sacked him three times and held them undefeated Tuskegee to 12 rushing yards in 25 attempts in upset win.

INDEPENDENTS

	W	L
Langston	10	3
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
REMINGTON COOPER, LANGSTON - Caught a 51-yard TD pass from Danny Lowery in first half of NAIA quarterfinal loss to Sioux City.

DEFENSE
RODRICK JENKINS, LANGSTON - Returned an interception 92 yards for a touchdown in loss to Sioux City.

Regular season ends with thud! Bang!

Grambling takes SWAC West Division crown; Tuskegee falls in finale

LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

There was a mixture of joy and pain as the black college football regular season came to an end over the Thanksgiving weekend.

The season ended Thursday for **SIAC** champ **Tuskegee** with a thud as the Golden Tigers lost for the first time in 27 games falling to 3-8 **Alabama State**, 17-13.

Conversely, **Grambling State** finished on a high note capturing its second straight **SWAC** West Division title Saturday with a 29-14 *Bayou Classic* win over **Southern** in New Orleans that earns the G-Men their second straight trip to the SWAC Championship Game.

Hopes Dashed

There was more than Tuskegee's perfect season on the line as the 10-0 Golden Tigers ventured into Montgomery, AL., Thursday for the 85th *Turkey Day Classic* vs. Alabama State, the oldest classic in black college football.

With a win, Tuskegee would not only have extended the nation's longest winning streak on any level, established its gridiron dominance over Alabama's other black colleges and broken its own school record for consecutive wins, but it also would have clinched its second straight black college football national championship.

But it was not to be as head coach **Reggie Barlow's** Hornets summoned up a superb effort to close out its regular season with a bang!

ASU's defense held the high-scoring Golden Tigers (39.6 points per game) to just 12 rushing yards in 25 carries, sacked Tuskegee's SIAC Player of the Year, QB **Jacary Atkinson** three times while picking off two of his passes en route to the upset win, its first in the classic in five years.

Still, Tuskegee had a chance to pull out the game late, driving to the ASU 30 where four passes into the end zone fell incomplete. One of those passes produced a controversial call because the Tuskegee faithful thought they had scored.

Tuskegee head coach **Willie Slater** talked before the game about the toll playing 11 weeks in a row had taken on his team. Perhaps that toll finally showed on Thursday.

On to Birmingham

Grambling bounced back from a 14-0 second quarter deficit to score 29 unanswered points and subdue Southern.

Southern QB **Bryant Lee**, who engineered the two first-half scoring drives, went

Two up, two down in playoffs

South Carolina State and Langston were the two black college teams involved in playoff games this past weekend and both came up short.

Appalachian State 37 South Carolina State 21

Outstanding Appalachian State quarterback Armanti Edwards threw for a career-high 433 yards and four touchdowns as the three-time defending champions held off MEAC champion South Carolina State in a first round Football Championship Subdivision playoff game Saturday in Boone, N.C.

The Mountaineers (11-2) needed all of Edwards' heroics to stave off a game Bulldog squad (10-3) that picked him off twice, ending a string of 176 passes without an interception, and blocked a third quarter punt they converted into a score to trail just 24-21 with nine minutes left in the contest.

First, facing a third-and-12 from his own 23, Edwards escaped a pass rush to hit T.J. Courman who broke a couple of tackles to earn a critical first down. Edwards, who was 29-of-41 on the day, later found Brian Quick on a 2-yard scoring toss to up the lead to 31-21. He added a late fourth quarter scoring pass to seal the win. The Walter Payton Award finalist also rushed for 48 yards accounting for 481 of the Mountaineers 557 yards of total offense.

"It is a bit disappointing not to come away with a victory," SCSU head coach **Buddy Pough** said. "I take my hat off to them (the Mountaineers) and thought they played pretty good. But, I also thought that we belonged (in the company of an Appalachian State). We wanted to get in (the playoffs) and get something done, and I thought our kids played well most of the time. They did not give in. But, we realize we still got some work to do. We will continue to improve and I think you might



BCSP Photo **DARBY:** Had two 1st-half TD catches to keep SCSU in it.

see us again (in the playoffs).

SCSU quarterback **Malcolm Long** threw two first half touchdowns to **Octavius Darby** and was 17-of-41 for 176 passing yards on the day. Long opened the scoring by hitting Darby from 19 yards out completing a drive that covered 71 yards in 10 plays. He hit Darby again on a 15-yard scoring strike with 7:40 left in the second quarter at the end of a 12-play, 60-yard drive. The Bulldogs trailed 17-14 at the break.

Running back **William Ford**, who rushed for 117 yards on 23 carries becoming the first Bulldog to rush for 100 yards eight times in a season, followed the blocked punt by scampering in from 13 yards out with 3:49 left in the third quarter to pull the Bulldogs within 24-21.

Sioux Falls 50 Langston 13

In the NAIA quarterfinals, Langston ran into a buzzsaw in 2nd-ranked Sioux Falls.

The undefeated Cougars (12-0) had 50 points by the end of the third quarter in their rout of the Lions (10-3). Defensively, USF held the Lions to only 150 total yards (13 rushing) and forced four turnovers (three interceptions), including a 42-yard interception return for a touchdown. Special teams also contributed with two punt blocks, one of which was recovered in the end zone for a touchdown. The Cougars also dominated on the ground, racking up 265 yards on 55 carries.

Langston scored in the first quarter as **Remington Cooper** hauled in a pass from QB **Danny Lowery** deep down the middle of the field and eluded several defenders for a 51-yard touchdown, making it 17-6 with 2:46 remaining in the first quarter. Langston would not score again until the fourth quarter when linebacker **Rodrick Jenkins** picked off a pass and ran it back 92 yards for a touchdown, making the score 50-13.

out with a knee injury in the final minute of the first half and with him went the Jaguars' hopes. **Warren Matthews** replaced him in the second half and could not generate any offense. Matthews was picked off three times.

Grambling meanwhile rode the arms and legs of quarterback **Greg Dillon** to victory. Dillon rushed for 136 yards on 26 carries including a 14-yard TD scamper and completed 9 of 13 passes for 151 yards and another TD. GSU, who piled up

217 rushing yards, also got fourth-quarter TD runs from running backs **Cornelius Walker** (4 yards) and **Frank Warren** (31 yards).

By virtue of the win the G-Men avoided a three-way tie which would have necessitated a coin-flip to determine the division champ. They will now face East Division winner **Jackson State** in the Dec. 13 title game at Legion Field, a rematch of last year's game won by JSU 42-31. JSU lost at Grambling earlier this year (Sept. 20), 14-5.

Williams, TSU mates take Ohio Valley Conference honors

Tennessee State senior running back **Javarris Williams** has been named the 2008 Ohio Valley Conference Offensive "Player of the Year."

Williams, a 5-11, 220-pound native of Foster High

BCSP TOP TEN

- SOUTH CAROLINA STATE** (10-3) - MEAC champ battled App State but fell 37-21 in first round of FCS playoffs. **(TIE) GRAMBLING STATE** (9-2) - Defeated Southern, 29-14 in Bayou Classic to win SWAC West crown and earn SWAC title game berth. NEXT: East Div. champ Jackson State in Dec. 13 SWAC championship game.
- PRAIRIE VIEW A&M** (9-1) - Finished second in SWAC West.
- TUSKEGEE** (10-1) - SIAC champ had undefeated season, 26-game win streak halted in season finale by Alabama State, 17-13.
- FLORIDA A&M** (9-3) - Tied for second (5-3) in MEAC with three others.
- BETHUNE-COOKMAN** (8-3) - Tied for second (5-3) in MEAC with three others.
- SHAW** (8-3) - CIAA champs season over.
- TENNESSEE STATE** (8-4) - Two straight losses to end season dashed OVC title and FCS playoff hopes
- SOUTHERN** (6-5) - Fell to Grambling in Bayou Classic, 27-14. NEXT: Season over in third place in SWAC West.
- ALBANY STATE** (7-4) - Season over after 1st round Div. II playoff loss.

in Richmond, Texas, leads ten (10) TSU Tigers on various All-OVC teams, including three on the first team.

In the 2008 season, Javarris averaged a league-best 103.7 ypg with 1,037 yards in ten (10) games, including a league-best fifteen (15) rushing touchdowns. Williams also scored one touchdown on a pass for sixteen TDs on the year and a league-leading 9.6 points per game scoring average.

He finishes his TSU career as the top all-time rushing TD leader (42) and second on the all-time rushing list with 4,329 yards. He had six (6) 100-yard rushing games this season and twenty (20) such games in his career. Williams rushed for over 1,000 yards three consecutive years.

Joining Williams on the first team of the 2008 All-OVC team are two senior offensive linemen in center **Cecil Newton** and tackle **Cornelius Lewis**.

Newton, a 6-2, 305-pound native of Atlanta, is a four-year starter and the leader of the TSU offensive line. Lewis, a 6-5, 310-pound native of Jacksonville, FL, transferred to TSU from Florida State in 2007 and



WILLIAMS

helped solidify the Tigers' offensive front that powered the TSU rushing attack to average almost 200 yards per game.

Other Tigers gaining 2008 All-OVC honors were on the second team. On the offensive line, senior tackle **Dumaka Atkins** (6-4, 302, Sarasota FL), a transfer from Florida State in 2008 was selected. On defense, senior lineman **Maurice Davis** (6-3, 245, Sr.) from Irondale, AL was honored. Among defensive backs, senior **Larry Williford** (6-2, 195) from Knoxville, Tn., was recognized and sophomore **Eugene Clifford** (6-2, 195) from Cincinnati, OH, a transfer from Ohio State gained honors.

Tennessee State had four players named to the All-Newcomer team, consisting of freshmen or first-year OVC players. Tigers named were **Eugene Clifford**, junior WR/KR **JaJuan Spillman** (5-8, 152), a transfer from Louisville, sophomore DL **Marcus Broxie** (6-4, 245), a transfer from West Virginia, and redshirt freshman **LB Rico Council** (6-0, 254) from Chattanooga, TN. The Big Blue of TSU finished the season with an 8-4 record, the most wins since the 2001 (8-3) season.