

# BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



NCCU/Robert Lawson Photo  
**FLYING HIGH:** MEAC Commissioner Dennis Thomas flashes the Eagle sign after announcing NC Central's admittance into the conference.

## HIGHS AND LOWS

**NC CENTRAL JOINS, W-S STATE LEAVES MEAC; A&T, CLARK ATLANTA FACE TESTS**

## 2009 BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL (Results, Standings and Weekly Honors)

CIAA	CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION			
	DIV	ALL	W	L
E. DIVISION	W	L	W	L
Eliz. City State	0	0	2	1
Virginia State	0	0	2	1
St. Paul's	0	0	1	1
Bowie State	0	0	1	2
Virginia Union	0	0	1	2
W. DIVISION	W	L	W	L
J. C. Smith	1	0	1	2
Shaw	0	0	3	0
Fayetteville State	0	0	1	2
Chowan	0	0	0	3
St. Augustine's	0	0	0	3
Livingstone	0	0	0	3

MEAC	MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE			
	CONF	ALL	W	L
Florida A&M	1	0	2	0
NC A&T State	1	0	2	0
SC State	1	0	2	0
Hampton	0	0	1	1
Morgan State	0	0	0	1
Howard	0	0	0	1
Norfolk State	0	1	1	1
Delaware State	0	1	0	1
Bethune-Cookman	0	1	0	2
# W-Salem State	0	0	0	2
# Not eligible for title				

SIAC	SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE			
	CONF	ALL	W	L
Clark Atlanta	3	0	3	0
Albany State	2	0	3	0
Miles	2	1	2	1
Tuskegee	2	1	2	1
Morehouse	1	1	2	1
Kentucky State	1	1	1	2
Benedict	1	2	2	2
Fort Valley State	1	2	1	2
Lane	0	2	0	2
Stillman	0	3	0	3

SWAC	SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE			
	DIV	ALL	W	L
E. DIVISION	W	L	W	L
Alabama State	0	0	2	0
Alabama A&M	0	0	2	0
Miss. Valley St.	0	0	0	1
Alcorn State	0	0	0	1
Jackson State	0	0	0	2
W. DIVISION	W	L	W	L
Prairie View A&M	1	0	1	1
Southern	0	0	1	1
Grambling State	0	0	1	1
Ark. Pine Bluff	0	0	1	1
Texas Southern	0	1	0	2

INDEPENDENTS	W	L
	Langston	2
Savannah State	1	1
Tennessee State	1	1
W. Va. State	1	2
Concordia	1	2
N. C. Central	0	2
Lincoln (Mo.)	0	2
Edward Waters	0	2
Central State	0	3
Texas College	0	3
Cheyney	0	3

**CIAA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**  
OFF. LINEMAN Terry Jones, Jr., C, ECU  
RECEIVER Robert Holland, Fr., WR, CHOWAN - 8 rec., 169 yards, 2 TDs vs. Brev.  
OFF. BACK Ryan Carter, Jr., QB, JCSU - 200 passing yards, 127 rushing yards vs. EWIC.  
DEF. LINEBACKER Malcolm Jenkins, Jr., DE, ECU - 6t. 5s. 3.5 TFL, 2.5 sacks, 1 FF  
LB Jamal Gouridine, Fr., VSU - 2 recovs., 1 for TD, forced 2 fumbles, 4 tackles vs. Lincoln.  
DEF. BACK Jeffrey Gowdy, Sr., FS, FSU - 9 tackles, 6 solos, 2 interceptions vs. BSU.  
ROOKIE Daronte McNeill, RB, ECU - 17 car., 107 yds., 3 TDs vs. Tusculum.  
SPECIAL TEAMS Austin Turner, So, PK, FSU - 3-of-4 FGs (49, 31, 25), 3 PATs vs. BSU.

**MEAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**  
OFFENSE Lemarcus Coker, Sr., RB, HAMPTON - Piled up 334 all-purpose yards including 17 carries for 122 yards and 1 TD, returned opening kickoff 87 yards for TD, had 148 total return yards, and had 2 receptions for 64 yards in 31-24 loss to Alabama A&M.  
DEFENSE Brandon Jackson, Sr., MLB, NC A&T - Led the Aggies with 12 tackles, 6 solos, 1 sack for minus 8 yards, in win over Norfolk State.  
ROOKIE Mike Mayhew, So., RB, NC A&T - Led Aggies with 14 carries for 87 yards and scored go-ahead TD on 8-yard run vs. Norfolk State.  
SPECIAL TEAMS LeRoy Vann, Jr., PR, FAMU - Returned punts 95 and 80 yards for TDs vs. WSSU.

**SIAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**  
OFFENSE Mark Wright, Sr., QB, CAU - 21 of 33 for 279 yards 3 TD passes, 1 rushing TD vs. Lane.  
DEFENSE Michael Thompson, Sr., LB, BENEDICT - 7 tackles, 2.5 for losses, 1 forced fumble, 1 sack vs. Miles.  
NEWCOMER Deshon Best, Fr., LB, KSU - 10 tackles, 7 solo, 4.5 for loss, 1 forced fumble, 1 recovery vs. Morehouse.  
DAVID CARTER, Fr., RB, MHC - 95 all-purpose yards, 64 rushing on 13 carries, 32-yard reception vs. KSU.  
SPECIAL TEAMS Ian Mullen, Jr., PK, MHC - 2 field goals (28, 21), 3-of-3 PATs, 42.2 avg. on punts vs. KSU.  
OFFENSE LINE Willie Pritchett, Sr., OL, CAU - Graded at 98% with four pancakes.

**SWAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**  
OFFENSE Thomas Harris, Sr., WR, AA&M - 10 receptions, career-high 224 yards, 2 TDs (44, 32) vs. Hampton.  
DEFENSE Christian Anthony, Jr., DE, GSU - 8 tackles, 6 solos, 1 forced fumble, 2 interceptions, both for TDs, 1 he returned 25 yards for TD vs. NW State. The other he lateralled for a TD.  
NEWCOMER K. J. Black, Jr., QB, PV A&M - Came off bench to hit on 12 of 14 passes for 101 yards and 1 TD, 3 carries for 31 yards, 1 TD vs. New Mexico State.  
SPECIAL TEAMS Jake King, Sr., PK, ALAB. ST. - 2 PATs, 2 FGs (39, 32) vs. Savannah State.

**PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**  
OFFENSE Calvin McNairst, So., QB, TENNESSEE STATE - Hit 4 of 11 passes for 43 yards and rushed 14 times for 101 yards including a 6-yard TD in win over Jackson State.  
DEFENSE Cayetano Hingle, So., LB, LANGSTON - Had team-high 14 tackles, 9 solos, 2 interceptions, one returned 36 yards for TD vs. UAPB.  
SPECIAL TEAMS Omar Hill, Sr., DB/KR, LANGSTON - Brought back kickoff 85 yards to paydirt just before half to give Lions a 10-9 halftime lead vs. UAPB. Also had an interception.

## SCORES

**SEPTEMBER 10**  
Florida A&M 34, W-Salem State 10

**SEPTEMBER 12**  
Akron 41, Morgan State 0  
Alabama A&M 31, Hampton 24  
Alabama State 20, Savannah State 17  
Albany State 34, Stillman 8  
Arkansas-Pine Bluff 45, Langston 30  
Benedict 40, Miles 31  
Brevard 27, Chowan 24  
Catawba 51, Livingstone 0  
Charleston (WV) 35, W. Virginia State 0  
Clark Atlanta 33, Lane 0  
Elizabeth City State 49, Tusculum 29  
Fayetteville State 30, Bowie State 20  
Gannon 30, Cheyney 9  
Grambling State 38, NW (LA) State 17

Johnson C. Smith 27, Edward Waters 14  
Liberty 35, NC Central 10  
Lincoln (PA) 29, Southern Virginia 8  
Louisiana-Monroe 58, Texas Southern 0  
Mars Hill 20, Saint Augustine's 14  
Morehouse 27, Kentucky State 21  
NC A&T 17, Norfolk State 13  
N. Mexico State 21, Prairie View A&M 18  
Old Dominion 49, Virginia Union 17  
Rutgers 45, Howard 7  
SC State 24, Bethune-Cookman 3  
Saint Paul's 24, Webber International 21  
Shaw 28, Concordia 20  
Southern 68, Central State 0  
S. F. Austin 92, Texas College 0  
Tennessee State 14, Jackson State 7  
Tuskegee 22, Fort Valley State 15  
Virginia State 38, Lincoln (MO) 6

# A&T, Clark Atlanta to measure progress

## GAMES THIS WEEK

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**  
ESPN - Live  
Florida A&M vs. Howard in Tallahassee, FL 7:30

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19**  
Delaware vs. Delaware State in Newark, DE 12  
Bowie State vs. Livingstone in Bowie, MD 1  
C.W. Post vs. Cheyney in Brookville, N.Y. 1  
Lincoln (PA) vs. Shaw in West Grove, PA 1  
Tuskegee vs. Clark Atlanta in Tuskegee, AL 1  
NC Central vs. Morehead State in Durham, NC 1:30  
St. Augustine's vs. Virginia State in Raleigh, NC 1:30  
Lincoln (MO) vs. Morehouse in Jeff. City, MO 2  
Samford vs. Miles in Homewood, AL 2  
C. Michigan vs. Alcorn State in Mt. Pleasant, MI 3:30  
Jackson State vs. Grambling State in Jackson, MS 3:30  
Miss Valley St. vs. Ark.-Pine Bluff in Itta Bena, MS 5  
Alabama A&M vs. Jacksonville St. in Huntsville, AL 6  
J. C. Smith vs. Virginia Union in Charlotte, NC 6  
Norfolk State vs. William & Mary in Norfolk, VA 6  
Panhhandle State vs. Langston in Guymon, OK 6  
Southern vs. Tennessee State in Baton Rouge, LA 6  
Texas Southern vs. Texas College in Houston, TX 6  
Alabama State vs. Edward Waters in Montgomery, AL 7  
Fort Valley State vs. Lane in Fort Valley, GA 7  
Kentucky State vs. Kentucky Wesleyan in Frankfort, KY 7  
McNeese State vs. Savannah State in Lake Charles, LA 7  
**CLASSICS**  
*Western Virginia Educational Classic*  
Saint Paul's vs. Fayetteville State in Salem, VA 1  
*Miami Dade Football Classic*  
Benedict vs. Concordia in Miami, FL 4  
*12th Down East Viking Football Classic*  
Eliz. City St. vs. Chowan in Rocky Mount, NC 4  
*NY Urban League Classic*  
Morgan State vs. W-Salem State in E. Rutherford, NJ 4  
*Submarina San Diego Football Classic*  
Central State vs. Stillman in Chula Vista, CA 7:05  
**TV GAMES**  
ESPN - delayed-10:30pm ET  
NC A&T vs. Hampton in Greensboro, NC 6

## LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

At the top of this week's black college football schedule are stories of two programs trying to get back to respectability and perhaps achieve contender status. **Clark Atlanta** out of the SIAC and **North Carolina A&T** of the MEAC are teams looking for breakthrough conference wins to propel their seasons forward.

Fifth-year head coach **Ted Bahhur's** Clark Atlanta Aggies are off to a 3-0 start, one a forfeit win over **Stillman**, headed to a crucial showdown Saturday (1 p.m.) at conference kingpin **Tuskegee** (2-1, 2-1), who won the previous two SIAC titles and tied **Albany State** for the crown in 2006.

CAU, picked fourth by league coaches in the pre-season behind **Albany State**, **Tuskegee** and **Morehouse**, is averaging 31.5 points per game in wins over **Lane** and **Fort Valley State** and is being paced by sophomore quarterback **Mark Wright** who has thrown for 378 yards and 5 TDs with only one interception. Their offensive star however is running back **Winston Thompson**, last year's SIAC Offensive Player of the Year, who is averaging 136.5 rushing yards per contest thru two games. **Moe Lightburn** has been Wright's favorite target with 10 catches and 2 TDs. All three are juniors. The Panther defense, led by lineman **Marcus Winston**, has been just as impressive giving up just 12 points per game.

Tuskegee, meanwhile, has struggled to find offensive consistency after losing QB **Jacary Atkinson**, the two-time SIAC Player of the Year to graduation. Freshman **Jeremy Williams** has started the Golden Tigers three games and has 1 TD pass and 2 interceptions while totalling 436 passing yards. The Tigers' run game has also struggled. TU has already suffered a 23-16 upset loss to **Miles**. Wide receiver **Antoin Mitchell**



NC A&T/Charles Watkins Photo

NC A&T head coach Alonzo Lee (c.) and his players celebrate Saturday's 17-13 win over Norfolk State that has the Aggies and their new coach at 2-0 headed into Saturday's nationally televised showdown at home vs. Hampton.

has been the Golden Tigers most effective weapon, catching 13 passes for 286 yards and 3 TDs.

After suffering two straight winless seasons and a 3-9 mark last season, A&T is off to a 2-0 start (1-0 MEAC) under new head coach **Alonzo Lee**. But the Aggies started that way last year under now deposed head coach **Lee Fobbs**. How different they are this time around will be tested Saturday (6 p.m.) when they face **Hampton** (1-1, 0-0), who is also laboring under a new coach, longtime assistant **Donovan Rose**.

The Aggies are getting good play from QB **Carlton Fears** while the defense, Lee's forte, leads the MEAC in total defense (195.5 ypg.). Hampton has turned the offensive reins over to Syracuse transfer **David Legree** after last year's starter and second team preseason all-MEAC QB **Herbert Bynes** went down with an ankle injury before the season started.

Elsewhere, **Grambling State** (1-1, 0-0 SWAC) is at **Jackson State** (0-2, 0-0 SWAC) in a SWAC in a rematch of the last two SWAC title games.

## UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

### ADD TWO TO THE NFL LIST:

The BCSP inadvertently left off two former black college players on opening day NFL rosters from our listing last week.



Indianapolis Colts Photo

**SIMPSON:** Second-year player from Morgan State on Colts' roster.

Former **Morgan State** and **MEAC** standout running back **Chad Simpson**, in his second year with the Indianapolis Colts was left off the list. Simpson, a 5-9, 216-pound specimen who made the Colts roster as a 2008 rookie free agent, ran for 46 yards on 18 carries with one touchdown and caught three passes for 30 yards a season ago. In Sunday's season-opening 14-12 win over Jacksonville, Simpson returned three kickoffs for 81 yards with a long return of 39 yards. Simpson is the second Morgan State player in the league and the 19th from the MEAC, tops among black college conferences.

Also, former **Tennessee State** standout offensive lineman **Cecil Newton**, is on the Jacksonville Jaguars' practice squad. His addition brings to four the number of TSU players now in the league, tied for second most among black colleges with **Bethune-Cookman** and **Howard**.

There are now a total of 44 former black college players on NFL rosters, 22 each in the NFC and AFC. The total is down 11 from last year's numbers.

## LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

The long and painstaking reclassification process from NCAA Div. II to Div. I status took markedly different turns for two institutions last week as the **Mid Eastern Athletic Conference** announced Thursday that **North Carolina Central University** had been admitted to its league only to find out a day later that **Winston-Salem State University** decided to withdraw from it.

The developments brought some degree of closure to administrators who have worked tirelessly over the past five years trying to fulfill all the provisions for a move up, including putting in place all the necessary funds and facilities. For fans however, who have perhaps suffered most as the process played out, it brought a mixture of relief and confusion.

Why, some NCCU fans ask, did it take so long for the MEAC to make this decision? And why, WSSU fans ask, did the Rams go through five years of changes to end up where it started – in Div. II and the **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association** (CIAA).

MEAC Commissioner **Dr. Dennis Thomas**, for obvious reasons, is one of those dealing with a mixture of elation and disappointment.

Thomas was on hand Thursday in Durham, N.C. for the happy announcement that NCCU, one of the original founding members of the MEAC in 1970 who decided to withdraw when the conference reclassified to NCAA Div. I status in 1979, had been voted back into the league effective July 1, 2010. NCCU, who had returned to the CIAA and competed there from 1979 to 2007, is in the third year of its reclassification from NCAA Div. II to Div. I.

"I am elated to have such an outstanding academic institution as North Carolina Central return to the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference," said Thomas at the press conference announcing the decision. "I commend Chancellor (**Charlie**) **Nelms**, (Athletics Director) **Dr. Ingrid Wicker-McCree**, and the entire NCCU family for all their continued hard work as they make the transition from Division II to Division I."

Thomas said NCCU was a "perfect fit" for the MEAC and kept the conference in compliance with its long-range strategic plan of adding up to 14 members. On Thursday, NCCU was the league's 13th member.

But before the ink literally dried on that announcement, the league was knocked back to 12 members Friday when WSSU, another former CIAA member who had been seeking re-classification to Div. I since 2004 and had been conditionally admitted to the MEAC in 2007, decided to give up its Div. I and MEAC pursuit, and attempt to return to Div. II and the CIAA.

In that school's press release, WSSU Chancellor **Donald J. Reaves** said, "in the final analysis the resources to complete the reclassification simply were not available, currently nor prospectively, in sufficient amounts."

Reaves, who reported that the athletic department had lost \$6 million since announcing the move up in '04 and projected losses of some \$15 million by 2012 if it continued the process, recommended to the WSSU Board of Trustees to halt the re-classification. The board unanimously backed his recommendation.

Reaves went on to say in the statement, "as the athletics deficits continued to mount, there appeared to be no rational way we could continue the process. I believe this is the right decision for WSSU at this point in time given our resources."

Critics of WSSU's decision point out that several members of its current



REAVES

Board of Trustees are the same who voted unanimously in 2004 to make the move up. The original decision was made when current A&T Chancellor **Harold L. Martin** was chancellor at WSSU. Many feel Reaves has been against the move and strongly lobbied the board to reverse course.

Thomas was in Winston-Salem Thursday night for the nationally televised MEAC football game on ESPN between WSSU and **Florida A&M**. He was not on hand Friday for WSSU's deflating announcement.

"I'm obviously disappointed when a member-institution decides to leave," Thomas said Monday from his office in Virginia Beach, Va. "We understand that they're dealing with the situation as best they can. They've decided that it's in their best interest to go back to Div. II. We wish them well on their journey."

Thomas, who as athletic director helped **Hampton University** make the move from Div. II to Div. I and from the CIAA to the MEAC in the mid-1990s, would not comment on the particulars of WSSU's decision, nor the hurdles NCCU will face going forward.

"Each institution stands on its merits," he said. "Chancellor Reaves had publicly stated what the problems were," said Thomas, who says he's been working with WSSU on the move since 2003.

"This is the landscape of intercollegiate athletics these days," he said while noting changes that have taken place in bigger conferences like the ACC, Big East and Big 12 over the last decade. "There's a lot of movement. Changes are the nature of the business. Our game plan is to move forward."

Based on current projections, NCCU will be fully eligible for MEAC championships beginning in the 2011-12 season, Thomas said. According to Reaves' statement, WSSU will begin the process of going back to Div. II immediately but will continue to compete in the MEAC and Div. I for the 2009-10 season.

Also according to Reaves, WSSU will have to file a letter of intent to the NCAA Div. II Membership Sub-Committee, reduce athletic staff and scholarships, the latter affecting a number of student/athletes who were recruited based on Div. I standards. "... We will be working with each affected-student to ensure that to the extent possible they are held harmless," Reaves statement read. "Those who may be affected by this move, either through loss of scholarship or the move from Division I athletics, will be given as much guidance and assistance as possible."

For now, the developments also bring an end to the MEAC's dream of having North Carolina's three largest Historically Black Universities and natural rivals separated by less than 100 miles – WSSU, NCCU and **North Carolina A&T State University**—in the conference, a sure blow to attendance numbers, as well as marketing and revenue opportunities. It also leaves the MEAC in somewhat of a quandary as it relates to its basketball tournament, which made a decision last year to bring the tourney to Winston-Salem in hopes that the local school's participation would boost attendance and revenue numbers.

Meanwhile, the CIAA, which has seen its ranks depleted by defections to the MEAC, is glad to be getting WSSU back.

"We welcome them back with open arms," CIAA Commissioner **Leon Kerry** told the *Winston-Salem Journal's* John Dell. "I'm as happy as I can be. I'm glad to hear they are back in our conference, and it's going to be a big boost for our league." Kerry also said that if WSSU can reduce its scholarships, it would be eligible to compete for CIAA titles next fall.

## THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

### PROJECTED CONFIGURATIONS OF MEAC AND CIAA



- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1) Bethune-Cookman University            | 1) Bowie State University          |
| 2) Coppin State University               | 2) Chowan University               |
| 3) Delaware State University             | 3) Elizabeth City State University |
| 4) Florida A&M University                | 4) Fayetteville State University   |
| 5) Hampton University                    | 5) Johnson C. Smith University     |
| 6) Howard University                     | 6) Lincoln (Pa.) University        |
| 7) Morgan State University               | 7) Livingstone College             |
| 8) Norfolk State University              | 8) Shaw University                 |
| 9) North Carolina A&T State University   | 9) Saint Augustine's College       |
| 10) North Carolina Central University    | 10) Saint Paul's College           |
| 11) South Carolina State University      | 11) Virginia State University      |
| 12) University of Maryland-Eastern Shore | 12) Virginia Union University      |
|  | 13) Winston-Salem State University |