

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



Chowan Sports Photo

2009 GRIDIRON WRAP-UP

NEW COACHES AT LIVINGSTONE, TSU; 2009 "BAAD TEAM"; ATTENDANCE NUMBERS

NEWCOMER: Chowan, who joined the CIAA this season, featured freshman wideout Robert Holland who had 86 receptions.

Black, Anthony lead "Baad Team"

LUT WILLIAMS
BCSP Editor

Likely the biggest football story of the 2009 black college football season was the rise of once lowly **Prairie View A&M** to the top of the **Southwestern Athletic Conference** and a tie with two-time **Mid Eastern Athletic Conference** champ **South Carolina State** at the top of the final BCSP ranking.

Prior to this season, in its first five years under head coach **Henry Frazier III**, **Prairie View** had established itself as a prime contender for league honors and one of the best defensive units in the SWAC.

While that had been sufficient to beat every other team in the SWAC, it was not enough to get it past West Division kingpin **Grambling State** who stymied the Panthers and annually outscored them at their annual October match-up at the *State Fair Classic* in the Cotton Bowl in Dallas.

That was until this year when Frazier inherited transfer quarterback **K. J. Black** from Western Kentucky. Black added a dimension that Frazier had not had in his previous five seasons – a top-flight signal-caller.

In the critical game vs. Grambling, Black hit on 19 of 26 passes for 164 yards and 2 TDs and ran for another 75 yards and another 2 TDs. The performance included a 15-yard run on 4th-and-1 late in the game that iced the 35-32 win, the first for the Panthers over the G-Men in the Frazier era.

In other words, Black got them over the (Grambling) hump.

But that's not all he did. He finished the season completing 70.4% (162 of 230) of his passes for 2,033 yards (225.9 ypg.), 22 TDs and just four interceptions. In four games, he had an 80% or above completion percentage, numbers usually reserved for players like Appalachian State's two-time *Walter Payton Award* winner Armanti Edwards. Black finished as the leader in all of FCS football in passing efficiency with a 172.77 rating.



BLACK



ANTHONY



FRAZIER



VANN



BLANCHARD

The Panthers went on to run the table in the SWAC, posting nine wins without a defeat. Black was named the league's offensive player of the year.

For his efforts in helping get Prairie View over the hump, he wins the **BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE** offensive player of the year award and is the offensive leader of the 2009 "Baad Team" of HBCU all-stars.

Frazier, who won the Eddie Robinson Award as the top coach in FCS football this year, also gets our award as the top coach in black college football.

For Black to win the award and be named the first-team signal-caller was quite an accomplishment given the stiff competition he faced from **South Carolina State** QB **Malcolm Long** and last year's recipient, **Florida A&M** QB **Curtis Pulley**.

Long was better this year than he was a year ago when he quarterbacked the Bulldogs to their first MEAC title in 16 years. This season, Long passed for 2,503 yards, 20 TDs with just 10 interceptions, while completing 64.4% of his passes. He's the second team QB. Pulley, meanwhile, lived up to his billing, practically matching his numbers from a year ago as he rushed for 881 yards and 6 TDs while passing for 1,824 yards and 12 TDs. Pulley leads the third team offense.

Joining Black on the first team offense are the receivers that topped the 1,000-yard receiving mark this season. **Chowan** freshman **Robert Holland** hauled in a black college-best 86 receptions for 1,078 yards including 7 TDs. **Southern** senior **Juamorris Steward** had 80 receptions for 1,022 yards and 11 TDs.

Joining Black in the first team backfield are seniors **Quinn Porter** of **Stillman** and **Ulysses Banks** of **Alabama A&M**. Porter led all black college rushers with 1,287 yards, averaging 6.4 yards per carry and 138.6 yards per game while scoring 9 touchdowns. His best outing was against **Lane** where he rushed for 279 yards. Banks led the SWAC in rushing and finished third amongst black college rushers, piling up 1,123 yards (102.1 ypg.) with 8 TDs. **Southern** tight end **Warren Matthews** was the leading pass catcher at his position, hauling in 27 passes and scoring six touchdowns.

With eight sacks, 16.5 tackles for loss, 55 solo tackles (tops in the SWAC), five interceptions, two recovered for TDs, five forced fumbles and three recoveries (both tops in the SWAC), it's easy to see why **Grambling State** 6-4, 275-pound lineman **Christian Anthony** is the 2009 BCSP defensive player of the year.

Alabama A&M defensive end **Jeremy Maddox**, who posted 12 sacks, joins him on the first team D-line along with **Morgan State's** **Justin Lawrence** and **St. Augustine's** **Marcus Crump**. Shaw defensive back **Quintez Smith**, who led Div. II with nine interceptions, leads the first team secondary along with **Southern's** **Jason House** who led FCS with ten picks.

Morgan State's **George Howard**, who racked up 134 tackles for the Bears, leads the linebacking corps and is joined by **Grambling's** **Cliff Exama** (94 tackles) and **Clark Atlanta's** **Zimier McCloud** (92).

Florida A&M kick returner **Leroy Vann**, who brought back five punts for TDs this season and set a new FCS career record for returns for touchdowns, holds down the return specialist position for the second year in a row. Ditto for **Hampton** punter **Jamal Blanchard** who led all black college punters with a 43.9 yard average, third best in FCS. **Grambling** freshman **Ari Johnson**, who converted 18 of 23 field goals and was good on 36 of 38 PATs for 90 total points, is the placekicker.

2009 BCSP "BAAD TEAM" OF BLACK COLLEGE ALL-STARS

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE

QB - K. J. Black, Jr., **Prairie View A&M**; **RB** - Quinn Porter, Sr., **Stillman**; Ulysses Banks, Sr., **Alabama A&M**; **WR** - Robert Holland, Fr., **Chowan**; Jumorris Stewart, Jr., **Southern**; **TE** - Warren Matthews, Sr., **Southern**; **OL** - Johnny Culbreath, Jr., **SC State**; Robert Okefor, Jr., **Florida A&M**; Xavier Manuel, Sr., **Alabama A&M**; Ramone Harewood, Sr., **Morehouse**; David Mims, Sr., **Virginia Union**; **PK** - Ari Johnson, Fr., **Grambling State**; **KR** - Leroy Vann, Sr., **Florida A&M**

FIRST TEAM DEFENSE

DL - Christian Anthony, Jr., **Grambling State**; Jeremy Maddox, Sr., **Alabama A&M**; Justin Lawrence, Sr., **Morgan State**; Marcus Crump, Sr., **St. Augustine's**; **LB** - George Howard, Sr., **Morgan State**; Zimier McCloud, Sr., **Clark Atlanta**; Cliff Exama, So., **Grambling State**; **DB** - Quintez Smith, Sr., Shaw, **Justin Hannah**, Sr., **Tuskegee**; Terrell Whitehead, Sr., **Norfolk State**; Jason House, Jr., **SU**; **P** - Jamal Blanchard, Sr., **Hampton**

STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

HIGHEST ATTENDANCE AT 2009 BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL GAMES

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. FLORIDA CLASSIC - Nov. 21 - Citrus Bowl, Orlando Florida A&M vs. Bethune-Cookman | 59,418 |
| 2. MAGIC CITY CLASSIC - Oct. 3 - Legion Field, Birmingham Alabama A&M vs. Alabama State | 55,322 |
| 3. BAYOU CLASSIC - Nov. 28 - Super Dome, New Orleans Southern vs. Grambling State | 53,618 |
| 4. ATLANTA CLASSIC - Sept. 26 - Georgia Dome, Atlanta Florida A&M vs. Tennessee State | 51,950 |
| 5. SOUTHERN HERITAGE CLASSIC - Sept. 13 - Liberty Bowl, Memphis Jackson State vs. Tennessee State | 43,306 |
| 6. STATE FAIR CLASSIC - Oct. 3 - Cotton Bowl, Dallas Prairie View A&M vs. Grambling State | 42,786 |
| 7. CHICAGO CLASSIC - Sept. 26 - Soldier's Field, Chicago Miss. Valley State vs. Alabama State | 42,600 |
| 8. LABOR DAY CLASSIC - Sept. 6 - Legion Field, Birmingham Miles vs. Tuskegee | 42,010 |
| 9. CIRCLE CITY CLASSIC - Oct. 3 - Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis Tuskegee vs. Alabama A&M | 35,289 |
| 10. JACKSON STATE HOME GAME - Oct. 3 - Mem. Stad., Jackson, MS Southern vs. Jackson State | 33,977 |
| 11. TUSKEGEE HOMECOMING - Nov. 7 - Abbott Stad., Tuskegee, AL Tuskegee vs. Stillman | 28,973 |
| 12. LITERACY CLASSIC - Nov. 7 - Mem. Stad., Little Rock, ARK. Grambling State vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff | 26,712 |
| 13. NY URBAN LEAGUE CLASSIC - Sept. 19 - M'lands, E. R'd, NJ Morgan State vs. W-Salem State | 25,604 |
| 14. SOUTHERN HOMECOMING - Oct. 17 - Mumford Stad., B. R., LA Southern vs. Fort Valley State | 24,500 |
| 15. SC STATE HOME GAME - Oct. 17 - Dawson Stadium, Orangeb., SC SC State vs. Florida A&M | 24,496 |
| 16. LABOR DAY CLASSIC - Sept. 5 - Price Stadium, Norfolk, VA Virginia State vs. Norfolk State | 24,325 |
| 17. JOHN MERRITT CLASSIC - Sept. 5 - Titans Stadium, Nashville, TN Tennessee State vs. Southern | 23,871 |
| 18. MOREHOUSE HOMECOMING - Oct. 24 - Harvey Stadium, Atlanta Morehouse vs. Clark Atlanta | 23,123 |
| 19. FOUNTAIN CITY CLASSIC - Nov. 7 - Mem.I Stad., Columbus, GA Albany State vs. Fort Valley State | 23,121 |
| 20. GATEWAY CLASSIC - Sept. 26 - Edward Jones Dome, St. Louis Tuskegee vs. Kentucky State | 23,000 |
| 21. TENN. STATE HOMECOMING - Nov. 7 - LP Field, Nashville, TN Tennessee State vs. Tenn.-Martin | 22,092 |
| 22. WSSU HOME GAME - Sept. 5 - Bowman-Gray Stadium, W-S, NC NC A&T vs. WSSU | 22,000 |
| 23. LABOR DAY CLASSIC - Sept 5 - Reliant Stadium, Houston Prairie View A&M vs. Texas Southern | 21,775 |
| 24. NC A&T HOMECOMING - Oct. 11 - Aggie Stadium, Greensboro, NC NC A&T vs. Bethune-Cookman | 21,500 |
| 25. SWAC/MEAC CHALLENGE - Sept. 6 - Citrus Bowl, Orlando, FL SC State vs. Grambling State | 21,367 |
| 26. M'HOUSE-SKEEGE CLASSIC - Oct. 10 - Mem. Stad., Col'bus, GA Tuskegee vs. Morehouse | 21, 023 |
| 27. SWAC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME - Dec. 13 - Legion Field, B'ham Prairie View A&M vs. Alabama A&M | 20,218 |
| TOTAL | 857,976 |
| | 31,776 average (27 games) |

HIGHEST ATTENDANCE AT 2009 HOMECOMING GAMES

| | |
|--|--------|
| TUSKEGEE vs. Stillman - Nov. 7 - Tuskegee, AL | 28,973 |
| SOUTHERN vs. Fort Valley State - Oct. 17 - Baton Rouge, LA | 24,500 |
| MOREHOUSE vs. Clark Atlanta - Oct. 24 - Atlanta | 23,123 |
| TENNESSEE STATE vs. Tenn.-Martin - Nov. 7 - Nashville, TN | 22,092 |
| NC A&T vs. Bethune-Cookman - Oct. 31 - Greensboro, NC | 21,500 |
| SC STATE vs. Delaware State - Oct. 31 - Orangeburg, SC | 21,257 |
| JACKSON STATE vs. Alabama State - Nov. 7 - Jackson, MS | 18,510 |
| FLORIDA A&M vs. Norfolk State - Oct. 24 - Tallahassee, FL | 17,049 |
| NORFOLK STATE vs. Howard - Oct. 31 - Norfolk, VA | 15,832 |
| ALABAMA STATE vs. Tuskegee - Nov. 26 - Montgomery, AL | 15,632 |
| ARK. PINE BLUFF vs. Edward Waters - Oct. 24 - Pine Bluff, AR | 14,823 |
| WINSTON-SALEM STATE - Oct. 31 - vs. Hampton, NC | 14,372 |
| ALBANY STATE vs. Clark Atlanta - Sept. 26 - Albany, GA | 12,113 |
| MILES vs. Fort Valley State - Oct. 3 - Fairfield, AL | 11,381 |
| CLARK ATLANTA vs. Kentucky State - Oct. 3 - Atlanta | 10,437 |
| GRAMBLING STATE vs. Miss. Valley St. - Oct. 31 - Grambl., LA | 10,425 |
| NC CENTRAL vs. Central State - Oct. 31 - Durham, NC | 10,319 |

Football attendance matters

LUT WILLIAMS
BCSP Editor

The *Florida Classic* moved back atop the list of highest attended games in black college football in 2009 but perhaps because of a depressed economic climate, attendance was down at most of the top games (See STAT CORNER).

The traditional late November (Nov. 21st) matchup of **Florida A&M** and **Bethune-Cookman** in Orlando's Citrus Bowl drew 59,418 fans, slightly down from the 60,612 that attended the 2008 game but good enough to top the list. The Florida Classic was second a year ago.

The *Magic City Classic*, the game that topped the list the last two seasons and set records in each, fell to second drawing 55,322 to the Oct. 3, 2009 matchup of Alabama's two HBCU state schools, **Alabama State** and **Alabama A&M**. The MCC drew 69,113 in 2008.

The *Bayou Classic* held on to third place drawing 53,618 to the New Orleans Super Dome for the Nov. 28 **Grambling State** vs. **Southern** game. Last year's BC drew 59,874.

The only top game that saw its attendance increase this year was the Sept. 26th *Atlanta Classic* at the Georgia Dome that drew 51,950, slightly up from the 50,428 that attended the 2008 game that pits **Tennessee State** against

Florida A&M. The Atlanta Classic was fourth this season after finishing seventh a year ago.

Seven games drew over 50,000 a year ago. Only the top four made that number this season.

The *Southern Heritage Classic* (Sept. 13, **Jackson State** vs. Tennessee State) moved from sixth last year to fifth this year despite having a dropoff from 50,794 to 43,306 this season.

The *State Fair Classic* (Oct. 3, **Prairie View A&M** vs. **Grambling**) was sixth with 42,786 fans for its annual matchup at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas. The same game drew 54,315 in 2008.

The *Chicago Classic* jumped into the top ten this year drawing 42,600 to Soldier's Field for this year's Sept. 26 **Mississippi Valley State/Alabama State** game.

There were 27 HBCU games that topped 20,000 fans this year as opposed to 30 last season. Those games this season drew 857,976 fans, an averaged of 31,776 per game.

Homecomings were also down in attendance this year. **Tuskegee** again topped the list with 28,973 that packed into the Abbott Stadium for its Nov. 7 contest vs. **Stillman**. **Southern** drew 24,600 to its homecoming this year vs. **Fort Valley State** to finish second. **Morehouse** (23,123), **Tennessee State** (22,092) and **North Carolina A&T** (21,500) rounded out the top five.

BCSP Notes

Reed named new Tennessee State coach

Tennessee State has named **Rod Reed** as the Tigers' new head football coach. Reed, who served as associate head football coach in 2009, replaces **James Webster** who resigned on November 19, 2009. He will be the twenty-first head coach of the Tennessee State Tigers program, dating back to 1912.

Reed, 43, was a four-year letter winner at TSU (1984-88) and helped lead the Tigers to the second round of the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs in 1986. Reed capped off his career by being named a Sheridan All-America football player as a linebacker after his senior season. Rod is the son of the late **Robert Reed**, who was the first All-American for the legendary "Big John" Merritt.

This will be Reed's first assignment as head coach, he brings 17 years of experience in the coaching ranks. Including Tennessee State, he has held positions at East Texas Baptist College, **Prairie View A&M**, **Bethune-Cookman** and Seabreeze High School in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Reed began coaching at Tennessee State in 2003 as the defensive coordinator and linebackers coach. At the conclusion of that season, the Tigers led the Ohio Valley Conference in total defense for the first time in school history. His defensive unit accomplished the same feat in 2008.

Livingstone chooses James

Elvin J. James was named last week as the 33rd head football coach at **Livingstone College**.

James comes to Livingstone from **Elizabeth City State** where he is currently the Assistant to the Athletic Director. James last coached in 2006 when he was the coach of the offensive line at John A. Holmes High School in Edenton, NC.

James had two different stints as a coach for the Elizabeth City football team, first from 2000-2002 when he was the offensive line coach and again from 2003-2005 when he again coached the offensive line, but was also the assistant head coach and recruiter.

A total of 12 years was spent by James at Goldsboro High School in Goldsboro, NC where he was the head coach first from 1988-2000 and

then again from 2002-2003. In his 12 seasons at Goldsboro, James finished with a record of 79-69-1 with nine state playoff appearances and two Mid-Eastern AAAA Conference Championships in 1994 and 1995. Prior to being named the head coach at Goldsboro James spent two seasons as an assistant coach for the team.

James is taking over a Livingstone program that has won only three contests over the past three seasons and is coming off a 2009 campaign where the Blue Bears went 0-10. The last winning season for the Blue Bears came in 1998 when they went 7-3 and won their second straight CIAA Conference title.

James was a four-year letter winner at Elizabeth City State where he played as a defensive tackle and an offensive guard. James also signed with the Boston Breakers of the United States Football League as a free agent in 1982.

East beats West in inaugural HBCU Bowl

Florida A&M kick returner **Leroy Vann** returned a punt 81 yards for a first-quarter touchdown to highlight the East's 26-21 win over the West in the inaugural HBCU Bowl all-star game Saturday.

Vann, who returned five punts for touchdowns this season, won the game's most valuable player honors.

West quarterback **Tim Buckley** of **Alcorn State** had two touchdowns passing. Buckley threw a 24-yard TD pass to **Achille Hendje** of **Morehouse** to open the scoring. He threw a 29-yard scoring pass to **Alabama A&M** wideout **Thomas Harris** early in the fourth quarter.

The East took a 19-14 lead late in the second quarter on a 33-yard pass from **Norfolk State** QB **Dennis Brown** to Hampton RB **Lamaricus Coker**.

Early in the fourth quarter, **Devan James** of **Morgan State** scored on a 4-yard run to give the East a 26-14 lead.



JAMES



REED