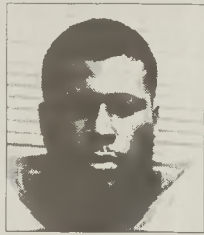


FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 23 THROUGH JANUARY 29

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



NC A&T Sports Photo
STEPHENS: NC A&T lineman rated among top ten prospects in nation.

RATING THE PROSPECTS

▼ COACH EDDIE ROBINSON LOOKS TO 54TH SEASON AT GRAMLING

1995-96 BLACK COLLEGE BASKETBALL (Results, Standings and Outstanding Players)

SCORES

JANUARY 20, 1996

Alabama A&M 97, Tuskegee 82
Alabama St 83, Grambling 72
Alcorn St 105, Prairie View 84
Beth-Cookman 65, Howard 53
Central State 75, Ky. State 37
Cheyney 71, Mansfield 60
Clark Atlanta 85, Savannah St 73
Lem-Owen 87, Morris Brown 72
Miles 80, Ft Valley St 62
Manhattan 98, Hampton 64
Miss Valley St 74, Jackson St 73
Morehouse 76, Paine 73
Morgan St 57, FAMU 54
NC A&T 68, Delaware St 66
NC Central 72, St Augustine's 67
Norfolk St 88, Eliz City St 84
St Paul's 71, Virginia St 61
SC State 67, Md-Eastern Shore 50
Southern 85, Texas Southern 74
Tenn St 82, SE Missouri 70
Winston-Salem St 74, JC Smith 71

JANUARY 21, 1996

NC Central 65, Winston-Salem St 51

CIAA

(thru 1/20)

	DIV	ALL
NORTH		
Va. Union	3-0	13-0
Bowie St	1-0	5-9
Norfolk State	2-1	10-2
Eliz. City	1-1	7-8
St Paul's	1-2	6-9
Va State	0-4	5-9
SOUTH		
NCCU	5-0	12-1
Shaw	3-2	9-5
St Aug	2-2	6-6
Livingstone	2-2	6-9
WSSU	1-3	3-10
Fayy. State	1-3	5-9
JC Smith	0-2	5-8

CIAA PLAYER OF THE WEEK
RODNEY CARMICHAEL, Jr., F, Norfolk State
Finished his two-game week with 39 points, 15 rebounds and two assists. Against Eliz. City he scored 30 points had two assists and grabbed 12 rebounds.

MEAC

(thru 1/20)

	CONF	ALL
SC State	5-0	9-4
Coppin	4-0	7-7
NC A&T	3-1	5-8
Morgan St.*	2-1	3-11
Md-ES	4-3	9-8
Del State	3-3	4-11
FAMU	1-5	6-10
Beth-Ckmm	1-5	5-9
Howard	0-5	0-14
Hampton**		4-13

*not eligible for post season play
**not eligible for conf. championship

MEAC PLAYER OF THE WEEK
JAMEL GREY, Soph., G, NC A&T
Scored 41 points had five assists and five rebounds in wins over BCC and Delaware State and a loss to North Carolina Central.

SIAC

(thru 1/20)

	CONF	ALL
EAST		
Clark Atl	6-0	13-0
Albany St	5-2	8-7
Ft Valley	3-3	5-8
Sav. State	3-4	4-8
Morris Brwn	2-3	6-6
Paine	1-8	5-9
WEST		
Ala A&M	9-1	11-2
LeM-Owen	4-2	7-4
Miles	3-3	6-7
Morehouse	5-4	9-6
Tuskegee	1-5	4-7
Kentucky St	1-8	3-11

SIAC PLAYER OF THE WEEK
RODNEY RICHARDSON, Jr., G, Alabama A&M
Averaged 21.3 points and 1.6 boards in three games, two victories and one loss.

SWAC

(thru 1/20)

	CONF	ALL
Miss Valley	5-0	14-3
Southern-BR	3-2	8-5
Alabama State*	3-2	6-9
Alcorn State	3-2	6-9
Tx Southern	2-3	7-10
Grambling	2-3	7-10
Jackson State	2-3	6-12
Prairie View	0-5	3-13

*not eligible for post season play

SWAC PLAYER OF THE WEEK
MARCUS MANN, Sr., C, Mississippi Valley
Had 27 points, 15 rebounds and two steals in 94-93 win over Jackson State.

DECARLOS ANDERSON, Sr., F, Alcorn State
Had 30 points, 12 rebounds, three assists and one steal in 105-84 win over Prairie View.

COMMENTS / QUESTIONS

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UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

NO FLUKE: After establishing a new NCAA Division II record for blocked shots in a game with 15 rejections against St. Augustine's College on December 5, St. Paul's College freshman center LaKeisha Phifer has duplicated that feat against Norfolk State. Phifer blocked 15 shots against the Spartans on January 13 to tie her newly established record. She now has the top two blocked shot performances of the 1995-96 season and leads the nation averaging 8.8 rejects per game. Phifer finished this week with 40 points, 37 rebounds, six steals and 36 blocked shots to earn CIAA Rookie of the Week honors. She had 22 points, 17 rebounds, 12 blocked shots, four steals and one assist against Virginia State. Clark Atlanta's Kisha Farmer is tenth in the country averaging a respectable 2.9 blocks per game. Farmer jumped into the top ten thanks to the nine blocks she accumulated January 9 in a game against Claflin.

ROBIN'S IN THE HOOD: Ironically in the same game where Phifer tied the blocked shot record, Norfolk State's Michelle Sessoms picked up 11 steals, to tie for second place nationally for most steals in a game this season. Sessoms' performance tied three other players behind Miles College's Deshawn Cooley who had 12 thefts on November 22 against Stillman College. The top thief in Division II women's basketball is Virginia State's Doris Moncrief averaging 6.4 steals per game. Albany State's Chiquita Wright is third in the nation with 4.8 thefts per contest. Sessoms is fourth with a 4.6 steals per game average just ahead of N.C. Central's Michelle Harrison who averages 4.5 steals per contest.



Norfolk State Sports Photo
SESSOMS: Eleven steals against St. Paul's.

MOVIN' UP, HUH?: After a reasonably successful football campaign (8-3 in Division I-AA) the Hampton Pirate basketball teams are having a rough time in their first year in Division I. The women's team suffered through a seven-game losing streak beginning with a loss to the Lady Aggies of N.C. A&T in the championship game of their own Thanksgiving Tournament. Hampton's women (4-8) didn't win their second game of the season until they beat Lafayette at home Dec. 30. Things have improved a bit as the Lady Pirates are 3-1 in January going into a Jan. 24 game against the College of Charleston. Hampton's men's team (4-12) is currently in the middle of a four-game losing streak having suffered blowouts on the road at Dayton (91-65) and Marshall (123-95) only to return home and suffer back-to-back losses to Iona (91-69) and Manhattan (98-64). The Manhattan loss, televised on ESPN2 last weekend, leaves the Pirates at 1-1 on television this season. Hampton appeared on "The Deuce" back in December and beat The Citadel, 83-66, in Charleston, SC.

THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

FORMER BLACK COLLEGE PLAYERS IN SUPER BOWL XXX

DALLAS COWBOYS

NO	POS.	NAME	COLLEGE
43	S	Greg Briggs	Texas Southern
61	OG	Nate Newton	Florida A&M
79	OT	Erik Williams	Central State

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

NO	POS.	NAME	COLLEGE
29	DB	Randy Fuller	Tennessee State
82	WR	Yancey Thigpen	Winston-Salem State
84	TE	Tracy Greene	Grambling
95	LB	Greg Lloyd	Fort Valley State
80	WR	Johnnie Barnes*	Hampton

*Injured Reserve

SOURCE: Team Rosters

Gettin' ready to get paid

LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

The National Combine ratings of collegiate football prospects appeared in USA Today last week (Jan. 17) and the early results show only a couple of black college players have chances of being first round picks in the April 20-21 National Football League draft.

Steve McNair (Alcorn State - Houston Oilers), Hugh Douglas (Central State - New York Jets) and Tyrone Poole (Fort Valley State - Carolina Panthers) were all black college first round picks in last year's draft but this year that number could dwindle to one.

If so, that one is sure to be North

Carolina A&T offensive lineman Jamain Stephens, rated one of the top ten prospects in the entire draft. The 6-6, 310 pound offensive tackle is projected as an early first round pick based on his 6.9 rating out of a possible 8.0 score. That rating is the eighth highest among prospective draftees. A rating of 6.9 indicates the player is a solid prospect. Stephens' 40-yard dash time is 5.17. He is rated behind only UCLA tackle Jonathan Ogden (7.2) amongst all offensive linemen.

Alcorn State's 6-3, 294 pound defensive end Bryant Mix is the highest rated black college defensive player. His 6.1 rating should translate to a late first round or early second round selection.

The next highest rated black college prospect is Tennessee State wide receiver Clarence Jones. At 6-0, 184, Jones 6.0 rating makes him the eighth best player at the position considered the deepest in this year's draft. Jackson State receiver Greg Spann (6-0, 212 pounds) has the fastest 40-yard dash time among the deep list of receivers with a 4.37 clocking. He carries a 5.7 rating.

Scouts like Albany State defensive back Markko



Tenn. St. Sports Photo
TSU'S JONES: Third highest rated black college player in draft.

Maddox's size and physical toughness. Maddox, the SIAC Defensive Player of the Year, received a rating of 5.8. His college teammate, tight end Clarence Benford has a 5.0 rating. South Carolina State running back Michael Hicks, the MEAC Offensive Player of the Year has a 5.1 rating.

ELSEWHERE

At the Senior Bowl in Mobile, Al., Winston-Salem State running back Richard Huntley wowed the scouts gaining 67 yards on eight carries (8.3 yards per carry) as the North defeated the South 25-10. Huntley, the leading rusher in black college football, is not rated among the top ten running back prospects but surely raised his stock with his performance. He was the only black college player of the North squad. Alabama State wide receiver Reggie Barlow caught two passes for 19 yards for the South squad. Barlow is not rated among the 15 top receivers.

At the Hula Bowl in Hawaii, four black college players helped the East to a 17-10 win over the West. The black college players were Jackson State linebacker Eric Austin, Alcorn State defensive back Dante Dowers, Albany State tight end Clarence Benford and Central State junior wide receiver Jason Shelley who has declared for the draft.

Hampton scholar cited

Burger King Corporation's Scholar/Athlete Program presented Hampton University with a check for \$25,000 last week in the name of senior running back Malcolm Benson.

Benson was selected as the top scholar-athlete amongst players from NCAA Div. I-AA schools. Benson, an electrical engineering major with a 3.4 GPA, is a native of Jefferson City, Mo.

Benson also is the recipient of an \$18,000 National Football Foundation Post Graduate Scholarship awarded to only 17 athletes from around the nation.

Benson's brother, Tim, also a Hampton graduate, received the same award two years ago. Tim is



HU Sports Photo
BENSON: One for HU and one for himself.

Coach Robinson looks to new challenges in 1996

ROSCOE NANCE

BCSP Correspondent

When you're a 75-year-old coach whose been on the job for 53 seasons and your team posts a 5-6 record, the critics are bound to start singing that retirement tune.

But that's a song Grambling State football coach Eddie Robinson doesn't want to hear.

"When you get my age, people want to see you step down," said Robinson at the Jan. 11 Robinson Trophy Award Show in Hollywood. Robinson turns 76 on Feb. 13. "A lot of people opt for early retirement. They say they want to play golf or go fishing. I don't play golf. The ball doesn't bounce right for me, and the fish don't bite for me. I'd rather be on the field coaching. I believe I've earned the right to coach."

Robinson, the winningest coach in football history with 402 victories, had only the sixth losing campaign of his career and it hasn't set well with him. He's already looking ahead to the 1996 season and the opportunity to make amends for the poor showing the Tigers made in '95.

"Next season? I'm looking forward to next week," he said. "That ends everything on the banquet circuit, and I can get back to recruiting."

Robinson has never been one to make excuses. But he says all the hoopla that accompanied his quest for 400 victories during the '95 season led to

Grambling's downfall. The 400 marketing campaign required him to be away from practice a great deal, and because he is such a hands on coach things sort of fell apart.

"I didn't do my best work," he said. "You have to cooperate with media, but sometimes you do things that take away from the team. I was taking bows when I should have been coaching. I don't have any excuses. I have good players and good coaches."

Grambling was picked to challenge Southern for the Southwestern Athletic Conference championship after winning the title in '94. However, the Tigers slipped to fourth place behind Jackson State, Southern and Alabama State.

The offense was woefully inconsistent, losing 14 fumbles and throwing 15 interceptions. Despite the presence of senior Kendrick Nord, touted as the next great black college quarterback, the Tigers averaged just 144.5 yards passing a game.

"It wasn't an Eddie Robinson offense," said Robinson. "I need to be there. The coaches work as hard as they possibly can, and they're good people. But I look at what happened when I was there."

Robinson is eager to prove that '95 was an aberration. But his wife of 54 years says he took losing in stride.

"Other people worried about it more than he did," says Doris Robinson. "He's always been able to take the losses. There

COACH ROB:

Grambling coach Eddie Robinson (r.) is shown with Robinson Award winner James Roe (l.) of Norfolk State and the bust of Robinson presented to Roe. The 75-year old Robinson spoke to BCSP about his coaching future.



Stephanie Cunningham Photo

was a lot of second-guessing and wondering if he would retire. He has himself together."

One school of thought the past several years has been that Doris Robinson was encouraging Robinson to retire. Not so she says.

"I'm not going to worry with it," she says. "He may decide to retire and in three weeks he dead. Look at Bear Bryant. He has something to get up for. I've never seen a person enjoy a job as much as he enjoys coaching. He'll go down to the stadium just to smell the togs in the summer time. It's challenging to him. He's always wanted to coach, and he's happy. If I said retire, he would. But I'm not going to say that."

Robinson decided he wanted to become a coach when he was in elementary school. He started at Grambling at age 22, and over the years he has coached football, baseball and basketball, served as athletic director,

lined the field, washed uniforms and written game stories for local newspapers.

He turned down an offer from the Los Angeles Rams in the '70s that would have made him the first black head coach in the NFL.

"I just didn't want to work in the NFL," he said. "It's a matter of what guys want to do. I had a championship team at home and Doug (Williams). I may look silly, but money isn't everything. I'm not concerned about being the first. I've always coached some of the best athletes in the world."

More than two decades later, some are saying Robinson is silly for continuing to subject himself to the rigors of college athletics; he has nothing else to accomplish. But for Robinson, it's not about accomplishments. It's about competing and touching lives.

"If other coaches can do it, I can too," he said.