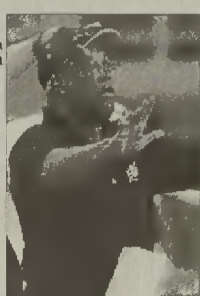


FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 9 THROUGH DEC. 15, 2003

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE

SWAC TAKES CENTER STAGE

TITLE GAME, ALL-STARS, HALL OF FAMERS, COACHING CHANGES IN SWAC



COE: Interim Alabama State coach Charles Coe III will try to give the Hornets their second SWAC title Saturday in Birmingham.

ALABAMA STATE HORNETS (8-4)

CHAMPION EAST DIVISION, CENTRAL SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE



Head Coach CHARLES COE

TEAM RECORD 2003 Overall: 8-4 2003 SWAC East: 5-2 BCSP Rank: 5th All-Time vs. Southern: 8-17 Last Time vs. Southern: 10-35, '03 Title Game Record: 0-1 SWAC Championships: 1 (1991)

COE'S RECORD Alma Mater: Kansas State (71) Record vs. Southern: 0-1 Record at ASU: 8-4 (1st year) Career Record: Same

2003 RESULTS ALABAMA STATE 8-4 38.....Florida A&M.....22 26...Bethune-Cookman...31 49.....Alcorn State.....28 24.....Ark.-Pine Bluff.....22 10.....Southern.....35 27.....Jackson State.....20 59.....Prairie View.....7 17.....Alabama A&M.....20 34...Grambling State...37 55...Miss. Valley State...31 38...Texas Southern.....26 48.....Tuskegee.....28

SOUTHERN JAGUARS (11-1)

CHAMPION WEST DIVISION, SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE



Head Coach PETE RICHARDSON

TEAM RECORD 2003 Overall: 11-1 2003 SWAC West: 6-1 BCSP Rank: 1st All-Time vs. ASU: 18-7 Last Time vs. ASU: 35-10, '03 SWAC Title Game: 1-0 SWAC Championships: 18 (1991)

RICHARDSON'S RECORD Alma Mater: Dayton (68) Record vs. ASU: 7-2 At ASU: 95-34 (11th year), 736 Career: 137-48-1 (18th year), 736

2003 RESULTS SOUTHERN 11-1 29.....Miss. Valley St.....0 62.....Prairie View.....7 35.....N. C. A&T.....16 35.....Alabama State.....10 53...Ark.-Pine Bluff.....7 55.....Alabama A&M.....25 30.....Jackson State.....20 34.....Alcorn State.....36 65.....Allen.....0 34.....Lincoln.....7 24...Texas Southern.....17 44...Grambling State.....44

SWAC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME V

Rematch could determine 2003 BCF national champion

LUT WILLIAMS BCSP Editor

Think the BCS is a mess? Try the BCNC (Black College National Championship) if BCSP No. 5 Alabama State (8-4) beats top-ranked Southern (11-1) at the SWAC Championship Game Saturday at Birmingham's Legion Field.

The ASU Hornets sit behind Southern, Grambling State (9-3), North Carolina A&T (10-3) and Bethune-Cookman (9-3) in the rankings and have lost to all the teams ahead of them except A&T.

But barring their 35-10 loss to Southern on Sept. 27, the Hornets have played the others close, losing 31-26 in a controversial ending to B-CC and 37-34 to Grambling when the G-Men scored twice in the last nine minutes to overcome an 11-point deficit.

Their other loss was a close 20-17 decision to No. 7 Alabama A&M at the Magic City Classic.

A win over the top-ranked Jaguars in their rematch Saturday would give Charles Coe III's squad at least an argument for being No. 1. They could say the teams ahead of them lost their final game (A&T and B-CC in the I-AA playoffs, Grambling to Southern at the Bayou Classic) while they knocked off the No. 1 ranked team in their finale.

While the national championship is an interesting subplot, the main thing to be determined Saturday is the new king of the

SWAC.

Southern knocked Grambling from its three-year perch atop the conference with a 44-41 win at the Nov. 29 Bayou Classic that gave Pete Richardson's troops their first SWAC West Division title since 1999 and got them back to the title game for the first time since then.

It seems like ages ago that Southern took the inaugural SWAC Championship Game 31-30 over Jackson State back in '99, capping their own three-year run with the crown. Since then, they've played second fiddle to Grambling's return to dominance orchestrated by head coach Doug Williams.

But the Bayou Classic win has put the Jags back in the limelight in their own version of "Return to Dominance," the theme on the cover of their 2003 Media Guide.

Dominance is exactly what the Jaguars have done, leading the conference in both scoring (41.7 ppg.) and scoring defense (15.5 ppg.) while coming within a last-second, two-point loss to Alcorn State of a perfect season. The average margin of victory in their 11 wins was 28.8 points.

Those wins included the 35-10 victory over Alabama State earlier this season. In that game, Southern scored touchdowns on four of their first five possessions to put the game away by halftime with a 28-3 lead.

The theme of dominance was furthered illustrated last week when Southern quarterback Quincy Richard and defensive backs Lenny



RICHARD



WILLIAMS



DILLON



WILLIAMS

Williams and Jarmaul George were named SWAC offensive, defensive and freshman players of the year (See story below).

But the Alabama State story may be even more compelling. Coe, an experienced Div. I assistant but never a head coach, took over as interim coach at Alabama State in August only three weeks before the start of the season after the school had an ugly, publicly drawn-out split with former head coach L. C. Cole.

With just three weeks to prepare, and impressions that the program was in disarray - the Hornets were picked in the preseason by SWAC coaches to finish last in the East Division - Coe guided the Hornets to a surprise 38-22 win over highly-regarded Florida A&M in the season-opener in Detroit.

They followed that with the outstanding performance against MEAC-favorite Bethune-Cookman in Mobile. A week later they returned home to knock off Alcorn State 49-28.

Even in their loss to Southern, Alabama State had its chances, coming away with one field goal in three

forays inside the Southern 5-yard line.

Along the way, the Hornets also lost Coe for two games to open heart surgery.

So any impression that this game is a sure Southern win is misguided.

The emergence of Richard (3,270 yards, 31 TDs), a fifth-year senior who led a contingent of seven Jaguars to all-SWAC honors, was the key to re-establishing Southern as an offensive juggernaut. Three receivers, first-teamer Chris Ard (51 rec.), second-teamer Chris Davis (46 rec.) and Lionel Joseph (46 rec.) were among the top ten in receptions in the SWAC and junior running back Kenneth Peoples was third in the conference in rushing (82 ypg.).

Coe developed a steady defense to go along with the high-scoring offense that Cole had been known for at ASU. While Williams (1,095 yards), a Tennessee transfer, and QB Tavarius Jackson (2,175 yards, 18 TDs), an Arkansas transfer, lead the offense, linebacker Ronald Dillon leads the defense with 99 tackles including 7.5 sacks.

SWAC CHAMPIONSHIP YARDSTICK

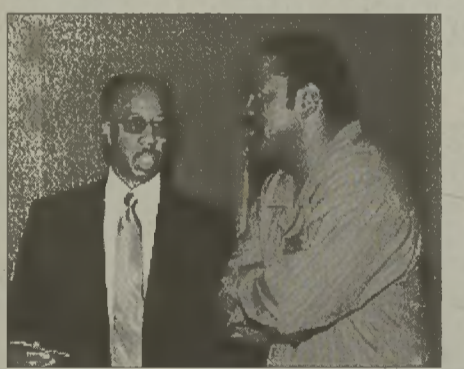
Table with columns for Southern and Alabama State statistics: Points (41.7 vs 35.4), Points Allowed (15.5 vs 25.6), Rushing Yards (161.6 vs 197.2), etc.

Table of Offensive Leaders: Passing (Richard, Tavarius Jackson), Rushing (Peoples, Williams), Receiving (Davis, Lucas), Scoring (Ackley, Johnson).

Table of Defensive Leaders: Tackles (Morgan, Dillon), Interceptions (Erin Damond, Hill), Sacks (Kelvin Mack, Dillon).

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS



SWAC Photo

TWO FOR THE ROAD: Arkansas-Pine Bluff head football coach Lee Hardman (l.) and Texas Southern head coach Bill Thomas (r.), shown here at the SWAC preseason football press conference...

TWO COACHES OUT: Texas Southern head football coach Bill Thomas and Arkansas-Pine Bluff head football coach Lee Hardman both announced their resignations last week...

Whittington was released after only one year at Prairie View A&M. TSU Associate Athletic Director Ricky Holden will assume the administrative duties for Thomas until the position is filled. Thomas recorded four winning seasons in his 10-year coaching career at TSU where he compiled a 49-58 overall record...

BCSP Notes

SWAC Grid Stars

Southern University's quarterback Quincy Richard along with Jaguar defensive backs Lenny Williams and Jarmaul George swept three of the four top post season individual honors...

Richard was named Offensive Player of the Year, Lenny Williams was selected the Defensive Player of the Year and George was tabbed Freshman of the Year...

Richard, a 6-3, 210, senior from Opelousas, LA, led the Southern Jaguars to an 11-1 regular season, the SWAC West division title and a berth in the SWAC Championship football game...

Lenny Williams, who was named pre-season defensive player of the year at the beginning of the season, is a 6-0, 190, senior from Lake Charles, LA. He led the Jaguars in tackles (66) and spearheaded a defense that allowed opponents just 15.5 points per game...

Jarmaul George, a 6-0 180 freshman defensive back from New Orleans, LA, started eleven games as a true freshman, was sidelined prior to the Bayou Classic with a broken leg...

Williams, a 5-8, 205-pound sophomore from Montgomery, AL, finished the regular season with 1,095 yds (91.2 ypg) second in SWAC rushing by just 2 yards.

Overall, Southern had eleven players picked (four on 2nd team), followed by Alabama A&M (4/3) and Alabama State (3/4) with seven. Grambling State picked up six selections (3/3), Arkansas-Pine Bluff and Texas Southern had four players named (1/3). Mississippi Valley State and Jackson State garnered three picks, followed by Prairie View with one player picked (1st team).

2003 ALL-SWAC FOOTBALL TEAM

(as picked by the SWAC football coaches and sports information directors)

Table listing first team offensive players: OL - Kevin Harris, QB - Quincy Richard, RB - Kenneth Peoples, WR - Alfred Ard, TE - Jacob Wilson, FB - Eric Hernandez, DL - Michael Howlett, DL - Timothy Parham, DL - Lieutenant Dukes, DL - Maurice Troutman, LB - Ronald Dillon, LB - Omega Logan, LB - Jarrett Proulx, LB - Tyrone Parsons, DB - Lenny Williams, DB - Octavian Bond, DB - Jarmaul George, PK - Brian Morgan, KR - Corey Alexander.

BCSP TOP TEN

- 1. SOUTHERN (11-1) - SWAC West Champion. NEXT: Dec. 13 vs. #5 Alabama State in SWAC Championship Game. 2. GRAMBLING ST. (9-3) - Season over. Tied for first in SWAC West. 3. N. C. A&T (10-3) - Season over. MEAC champ. First round I-AA playoff loser. 4. BETHUNE-COOKMAN (9-3) - Season over. Tied for second in MEAC. First round I-AA playoff loser. 5. ALABAMA STATE (8-4) - SWAC East Champion. NEXT: SWAC Championship Game, Dec. 13 vs. Southern in Birmingham. 6. ALBANY STATE (9-2) - SIAC champs. NEXT: Pioneer Bowl on Dec. 20 vs. CIAA champ, Fayetteville State. 7. ALABAMA A&M (8-4) - Season over. Third in SWAC East. 8. HAMPTON (7-4) - Season over. Tied for second in MEAC. 9. S. C. STATE (8-4) - Season over. Tied for second in MEAC. 10. ALCORN STATE (7-5) - Season over. Tied for first in SWAC East. (TIE) TENNESSEE STATE (6-5) - Season over.

- Paul Covington - Jackson State
- A member of the Jackson State Sports Hall of Fame, he served as a basketball coach before moving to the administrative side of athletics. He was the Tigers' assistant athletic director for many years.
- Grant Alan Dungee, III - Alcorn State
- He had a career that spanned over forty years at Alcorn State from 1957-89. During this entire time he as head coach of the women's and men's track and cross country teams and football assistant coach and scout. He served as Chair and Professor of Health and Physical Education from 1964-89.
- Alice Jackson - Grambling State
- As a member of the Grambling State Women's Track team, she was a finalist in the SWAC Championships 200m, 400m, 4x100m relay and 4x400m relay teams. Jackson competed in the Pan American Games as a member of the USA team and won a gold medal in the 4x100m and 4x400m relay.
- Charles "Chuck" Prophet - Mississippi Valley State
- "Chuck" Prophet was a member of the Mississippi Valley State athletic program for 20 years. He spent ten years of his three-decade tenure in the role of Director of Athletics and served in a dual role as sports information director for a full twenty years. Prophet was a co-founder of the SWAC Football Press Tour and served as its sole director for nineteen years.
- Dr. Dennis Thomas - Alcorn State
- A native of Heidelberg, Mississippi, Dennis entered Alcorn State at the age of 16 and embarked on a collegiate career that is still in the SWAC record books. In 1974, Thomas made major history as the first and only offensive lineman named as SWAC Offensive Player of the Year. He finished his career as a three-year letterman, a two-time Pittsburg Courier 1st Team All-American, Black Mutual Sports Network All-American and Outstanding College Athletics of America (1974). Thomas is currently the commissioner of the Mid East Athletic Conference.
- Davis Weatherby - Mississippi Valley State
- Weatherby was the head football coach and athletic director at Mississippi Valley State for seven years. He was known for his development of outstanding individual football players.
- Sidney Williams - Southern
- Williams played for Southern from 1960 to 1964. In his senior year he was selected as an All-American. He played five seasons in the NFL with the Cleveland Browns, Washington Redskins, Baltimore Colts and the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Eight to go into SWAC HOF

Eight former Southwestern Athletic Conference athletes or administrators have been selected to be inducted into the SWAC Hall of Fame on Friday, December 12, 2003 in the Downtown Birmingham Sheraton's main Ballroom.

Marino Casem, a 1992 SWAC Hall of Fame inductee, will be the keynote speaker at the 2003 SWAC Hall of Fame luncheon.

The SWAC Hall of Fame Luncheon, which begins at 11:30am, is held in conjunction with activities surrounding the Southwestern Athletic Conference Football Championship week-end. The 2003 All-SWAC football team will be honored following the luncheon.

Listed below are the inductees with a short synopsis of their careers.

- Charlie "Choo-Choo" Brackins - Prairie View A&M
- "Choo-Choo" led the Panther football team to forty wins and only four losses between 1951-54. He quarterbacked them to four SWAC championships and two National championships. During this time he was also selected as an All-American quarterback. Brackins was later drafted by the Green Bay Packers.