

FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 30 THROUGH JAN. 5, 2003

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE

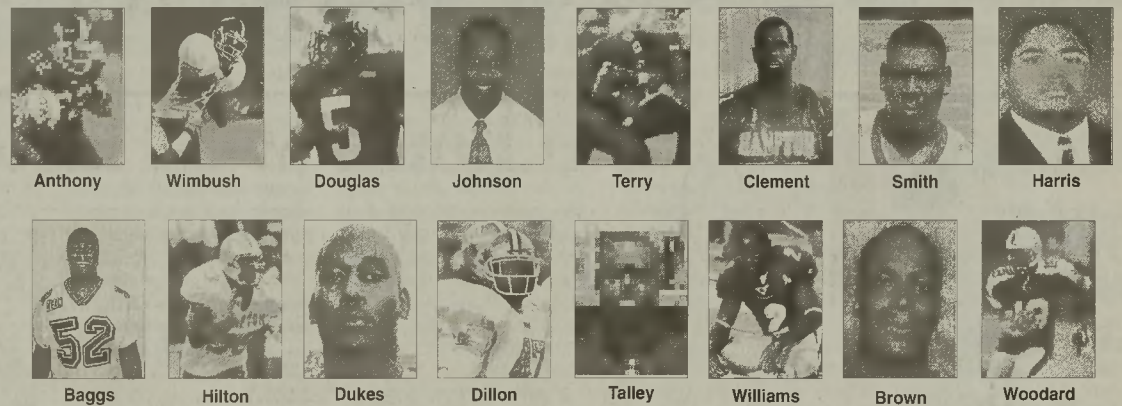


Photo by Hal Lamar

2003 FOOTBALL WRAP-UP

RELENTLESS: Walter Curry's 16 sacks and 35 tackles for losses earns him Baad Team award.

STATS, ATTENDANCE NUMBERS AND FINAL 2003 BCSP INDIVIDUAL AWARDS



Richard, Curry lead 2003 Baad Team

LUT WILLIAMS, BCSP Editor

Southern quarterback Quincy Richard led the most prolific offense in black college football this year.

Walter Curry was the leader of the nation's stingiest defense at Albany State.

For those reasons, and the fact that both players led their teams to conference championships and national acclaim, they are the 2003 BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE offensive and defensive players of the year and leaders of the BCSP BAAD TEAM of black college all-stars.

Richard emerged from a crowded field of great quarterbacks in the Southwestern Athletic Conference to lead his team to 12-1 record, the 2003 SWAC title and the undisputed rank as the best team in black college football.

To do so, the fifth-year senior from Opelousas, La., had to unseat quarterback Bruce Eugene and his Grambling State Tigers from a perch they had maintained for most of the last three seasons.

The Jaguars did it behind an outstanding 65.8% passing percentage, 3,427 passing yards and 33 touchdowns from Richard, who also topped Eugene in their head-to-head showdown at this year's Bayou Classic. Richard's performance there (552 passing yards, 5 TDs) before a NBC TV national audience, not only sealed a spot for the Jaguars in the SWAC Championship Game but was the final stroke in wresting the mantle as the best black college quarterback this season.

Sharing the offensive stage with Richard is Tennessee State running back Charles Anthony who led all black college rushers this year with 1,708 yards while scoring 13 TDs. Fort Valley State junior Derrick Wimbrush is the other man in the backfield after bursting onto the black college scene



Photo by Ken Snipp

TRUE FIELD GENERAL: Southern QB Quincy Richard led the most prolific and efficient offense in black college football. His ability to properly read defenses and make quick decisions was key to the Jaguars 41-point per game production and 12-1 finish.

averaging 7.3 yards per carry en route to a 1,348-yard output. Grambling wide receiver Tramon Douglas is the only repeater from last year's BAAD TEAM offense. He followed his 87-catch season last year with a black-college best 77 receptions this year. Tennessee State's C. J. Johnson, the only receiver to top 1,000 yards this year, earns the nod at the other receiving position.

Hampton's two outstanding lineman, center Jelani Clement and tackle Patrick Cheatham, join with Southern's Miniya Smith. Alabama State's Kevin Harris and Alabama A&M's Robert Louis to make up the first team offensive line.

Curry's 16 sacks and 35 tackles for losses helped make Albany State the best defense in all of

NCAA Div. II football leading the Golden Rams to their first SIAC title since 1997.

Buck Buchanan Award finalist Steve Baggs of Bethune-Cookman, Isaac Hilton of Hampton and Lieutenant Dukes of Alabama A&M join Curry on the defensive front. A formidable linebacking crew includes Jason Ocean of Livingstone, Kevin Talley of Norfolk State and Ronald Dillon of Alabama State. Southern's Lenny Williams, Shaw's Shawn Woodard, Florida A&M's Levy Brown and Alabama State's Tyrone Parsons man the secondary.

First-year head men, George Small of North Carolina A&T and Charles Coe of Alabama State, who both led their teams to conference titles, share the top coach award.

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE

- QB - Quincy Richard, Sr., Southern
RB - Charles Anthony, Jr., Tennessee State
RB - Derrick Wimbrush, Jr., Fort Valley State
TE - Rodney Terry, Sr., Virginia Union
OL - Miniya Smith, Sr., Southern
OL - Jelani Clement, Jr., Hampton
OL - Robert Louis, Jr., Alabama A&M
OL - Kevin Harris, Sr., Alabama State
OL - Patrick Cheatham, Sr., Hampton
WR - Tramon Douglas, Sr., Grambling State
WR - C. J. Johnson, Sr., Tennessee State
PK - Ross McKernan, So., Fayetteville State
RS - Brandon Hussey, So., Winston-Salem State
Defense
DL - Steve Baggs, Sr., Bethune-Cookman
DL - Walter Curry, Jr., Albany State
DL - Isaac Hilton, Sr., Hampton
DL - Lieutenant Dukes, So., Alabama A&M
LB - Jason Ocean, Sr., Livingstone
LB - Kevin Talley, Jr., Norfolk State
LB - Ronald Dillon, Jr., Alabama State
DB - Lenny Williams, Sr., Southern
DB - Tyrone Parsons, Sr., Alcorn State
DB - Shawn Woodard, So., Shaw
DB - Levy Brown, Sr., Florida A&M
P - Travis Gumbs, Jr., Tuskegee

Second and third teams and more extensive stats can be viewed at Onnidan.com.

THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

2003 INDIVIDUAL LEADERS OFFENSE

Table with columns: RUSHING, TEAM, CI, G, Att, Yds, Avg, TD, Yds/G. Includes Charles Anthony, Derrick Wimbrush, A. Rutherford, Alonzo Coleman, John Washington, Martin Hicks.

Table with columns: PASSING, TEAM, CI, G, A, Cmp, Int, Pct, Yds, TD, Yds/G. Includes Bruce Eugene, Quincy Richard, Donald Carrie, Kevin Jones, Ben Dougherty, Jerm. Kimbrough.

Table with columns: TOTAL OFFENSE, Team, CI, G, Rush, Pass, Plays, Total, Yds/G. Includes Bruce Eugene, Quincy Richard, Ben Dougherty, Jerome Kimbrough, Donald Carrie, Kevin Jones, Uyl Joyner.

Table with columns: REC. / GAME, Team, CI, G, Rec, Yds, TD, Avg/C, Rec/G. Includes Tramon Douglas, Rod Miller, Daryl Bright, Taurus Morgan, Howard Gilmore, C. J. Johnson.

Table with columns: REC. YARDS, Team, CI, G, Rec, Yds, TD, Avg/C, Yds/G. Includes C. J. Johnson, Howard Gilmore, Tramon Douglas, Jerome Mathis, Eric Plant, Chris Jeter, Daryl Bright.

Table with columns: ALL PURPOSE, Team, CI, G, Rush, Rec, PR, KR, Yds, Avg. Includes Charles Anthony, Devon Wallace, Cedric Bowen, Derrick Wimbrush, Raymond Murphy, Rav. Dupree, Jerome Mathis.

Table with columns: SCORING, Team, CI, G, TD, XPT, FG, Pts, Pts/G. Includes Alonzo Coleman, Martin Hicks, Derrick Wimbrush, Byron Cary, Jeremiah Bonds, Charles Anthony.

DEFENSE

Table with columns: TACKLES, Team, CI, G, POS, Solo, Ast, Tot, Avg. Includes Kevin Talley, Moises Gordon, Jason Ocean, Anthony Robinson, Kitwana Jones, Ben Harges.

Table with columns: INTERCEPTIONS, Team, CI, G, Int, Yds, TD. Includes Shawn Woodard, Walt Williams, Nelson Johnson, Shelton Bellon, Tyrone Parsons.

Table with columns: SACKS, Team, CI, G, Tot, Yds. Includes Walter Curry, Steve Baggs, Paul Thomas, Albert Gamble, Taurus Covington, Sylvester Peoples, Mario Young, Vernell Rogers, Herman McCord.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Table with columns: PUNT RETURNS, Team, CI, G, Ret, Yds, TD, Avg. Includes Brandon Hussey, L. Goolsby, Ravenell Dupree, Alvin Jackson, Daryl Bright, Marcus Wright.

Table with columns: KO RETURNS, Team, CI, G, Ret, Yds, TD, Avg. Includes Raymond Murphy, Ed Montgomery, Cedric Bowen, Dontre Williams, Marcus Wright, Corbey Jones.

Table with columns: FIELD GOALS, Team, CI, G, FG, FGA, Pct, FG/G. Includes Ross McKernan, Yonnick Matthews, Tony Oby, David McConnell, Rashad Cylar, Vincent Patrick.

Table with columns: PUNTING, Team, CI, G, Punts, Yds, Avg. Includes Travis Gumbs, Cameron Muro, Zach Bussey, Joey Hudak, Scott Lambert, Jonathan Clark, Jon Vorosholin.

Attendance matters

Over 1 million devoted fans attended the top 30 black college football games in the 2003 season.

The annual BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE listing of the top attended games unveiled this week shows that 30 games topped the 20,000 mark in attendance this year, up from 27 a year ago. Those top 30 games drew 1,117,992 fans, an average of 37,266 per game.

The top 27 games a year ago drew a total of 932,746 fans, an average of 35,546 fans per game.

Orlando's Florida Classic pitting in-state rivals Bethune-Cookman and Florida A&M topped the list for the fourth straight year, drawing 73,358 for this year's exciting 39-35 B-CC win.

The Bayou Classic in New Orleans between Louisiana rivals Grambling State and Southern finished second for the third year in a row. A crowd of 70,151 packed the Superdome to watch another thriller as Southern knocked off the G-Men 44-41 en route to winning the SWAC and black college championships.

The in-state rival theme continued as the third largest crowd (63,117) witnessed the Magic City Classic battle between Alabama A&M and Alabama State, won by A&M, 20-17.

The newest entrant into the top ten was the inaugural Detroit Classic played at the new Ford Field that drew 54,941 to the Florida A&M vs. Alabama State matchup won by Bama State, 38-22.

Classic Attendance

As they say, black college Classic games are the bomb.

A look at 2003 NCAA attendance statistics released on Dec. 20, shows that the top 19 neutral-site games are of the black college Classic variety. The numbers are a testament to the fact that no one else on the Div. I-AA level can draw the numbers and fill the major venues like black college Classic games.

The only I-AA schools to make the neutral-site list are The Citadel with a game in Charlotte, N.C., and Maine, with a date in Portland, Me.

By School

Florida A&M, who is moving from NCAA Div. I-AA to Div. I football, is listed as the top black college in I-AA football atten-

dance this year. The Rattlers averaged 21,343 fans for their three home games this season to finish behind Yale (23,578 avg.) and Montana (22,469 avg.) in the national statistics.

Southern, which drew an average of 19,732 fans for its six home games finished just behind FAMU in fourth place.

Two other black college finished in the top ten, perennial leader Jackson State was sixth at 18,196 for its five home games and North Carolina A&T eighth at 16,066 for four dates.

Four other black colleges finished in the top 20, Texas Southern (13), Norfolk State (15), Tennessee State (17) and Grambling State (20).

I-AA ATTENDANCE LEADERS

Table with columns: RANK, TEAM, TOTAL ATTEND., AVG ATTEND., GAMES. Includes Yale, Montana, Florida A&M, Southern, Delaware, Jackson State, Citadel, N. C. A&T, Texas Southern, Norfolk State, Tennessee State, Grambling State, South Carolina St., Alcorn State, Alabama A&M, Alabama State, Bethune-Cookman.

At Homcomings

The attendance at seven black college homecoming games topped the 20,000 mark this year led by the 29,467 that attended the Nov. 8 Tuskegee game.

North Carolina A&T, which topped the list a year ago, had the second largest homecoming crowd this year with 26,685 for its game vs. Howard.

Table with columns: RANK, TEAM, DATE, ATTENDANCE. Includes Tuskegee, N. C. A&T, Florida A&M, Southern, Texas Southern, Grambling, Jackson State, Alcorn State, Alabama State, Alabama A&M, Morgan State, Winston-Salem State, Albany State, Benedict, Howard.

THE STAT CORNER, II

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE

BEST ATTENDED BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL GAMES IN 2003

Table with columns: RANK, GAME, DATE, LOCATION, ATTENDANCE. Includes Florida Classic, Bayou Classic, Magic City Classic, Circle City Classic, AL Lipscomb/State Fair Classic, Grambling State vs. Prairie View, Detroit Classic, Florida A&M vs. Alabama State, Southern Heritage Classic, Palmetto Classic, Jackson State Home Game, Ohio Classic, CAPITAL CITY CLASSIC, Alcorn State at Jackson State, Urban League Classic, Gateway Classic, Arkansas-Pine Bluff vs. Kentucky State, A. G. Gaston Classic, SWAC Championship Game, Labor Day Classic, Tuskegee Homecoming, Southern/Texas Southern, N. C. A&T Homecoming, Florida A&M Homecoming, Southern Homecoming, Morehouse/Skegee Classic, Texas Southern Homecoming, Alcorn State at Texas Southern, Southern Home Game, Arkansas-Pine Bluff at Southern, Aggie/Eagle Classic, N. C. A&T vs. N. C. Central, Grambling Homecoming, Alcorn State Game, Alcorn State at Southern, Las Vegas Classic, Jackson State Homecoming, Arkansas-Pine Bluff at Jackson State, Grambling Home Game, Alcorn State at Grambling State.

TOTAL 1,117,992 37,266 average (30 games)