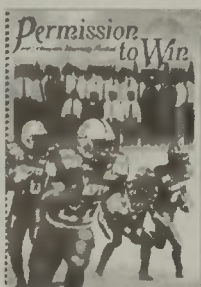


FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 16 - 21, 2004

BLACK COLLEGE
SPORTS PAGE

Hampton Media Guide Cover

PERMISSION GRANTED

BCSP TOP TEN; 2005 HOMECOMINGS, CLASSICS, PICKS AND PREDICTIONS

BCSP PRESEASON TOP TEN

HAMPTON - Defending MEAC champs are loaded with 17 returning starters including stars on offense, defense and special teams. After battling I-AA semifinalist William & Mary in first round playoff game, the Pirates are looking for more.

ALABAMA STATE - Defending SWAC champs only slightly behind Hampton in terms of solid, talented players on both sides of the ball. Favorites to repeat in the SWAC.

GRAMBLING STATE - The return of all-American QB Bruce Eugene makes the Tigers SWAC West favorites. Circle Nov. 15, Grambling vs. Alabama State, perhaps a preview of the Dec. 10 SWAC title game.

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE - MEAC co-champs are picked to challenge Hampton in the MEAC but must go on road to face Pirates and Bethune-Cookman. Consistent play from QB Cleveland McCoy will be key.

BETHUNE-COOKMAN - Wildcats unexpectedly lost some key players (Weems, Russell, Williams). Count on Alvin Wyatt to find the athletes to fill the void.

SHAW - The surprise team of 2004, the CIAA champs won't sneak up on anyone this year but they won't have to. Nationally-ranked defense, capable offense and 19 returning starters makes them CIAA favorites and favorites to reverse their D-2 playoff snub from last year.

TUSKEGEE - Eight points away from a perfect season in 2004, Golden Tigers are the cream of the SIAC crop this year.

ALABAMA A&M - All that's lacking for SWAC's best defense is a productive offense. QB Kelcy Luke gets his chance to make it jell.

SOUTHERN - Pete Richardson's defending SWAC West champs are flying under the radar and are thought to be rebuilding. It's not wise to underestimate the Jags.

ALBANY STATE - Coming off perfect regular season and ear-miss in D-2 playoffs, Golden Rams are re-loading and would challenge Tuskegee in SIAC.



Hampton Photo
TAYLOR: Black college national title is his to lose.

Preseason No. 1 Hampton aiming higher

ROSCOE NANCE

Special to the BCSP

Coach **Joe Taylor** has developed one of the premier college football programs in the country during his 13 seasons at **Hampton University**.

With 17 starters and 46 lettermen returning from last season's 10-2 squad that shared the **Mid Eastern Athletic Conference** title with **South Carolina State** and 12 preseason all-conference selections on hand, Taylor is cautiously optimistic about Hampton's prospects for the 2005 season.

They are the No. 1 team in the **BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE** preseason Top Ten, just ahead of defending **Southwestern Athletic Conference** champion **Alabama State** and **Grambling State**.

"We've got to stay focused," Taylor says. "We've got to stay healthy and make sure we don't put Hampton on our schedule. We can't let distractions get to us. We can't listen to the fact that just showing up is going to be enough. The key is to remain focused and not to forget what got us where we are."

The Pirates, the defending SBN Black College National champions who were rated just behind **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference** winner **Albany State** (11-1) in the final BCSP ranking, have won six conference titles in Taylor's 13 seasons as coach (three as members of the **CIAA** and three since joining the MEAC). But their run of success hasn't extended to postseason play. They are 1-6 in the I-AA playoffs, including a 42-35 first round loss to William & Mary in 2004 after leading 13-0.

Taylor doesn't dwell on Hampton's previous postseason shortcomings, but he acknowledges that one of the Pirates' goals is to make amends for their collapse against William & Mary.

"This is their goal, to avenge what happened last year in the first round," Taylor says. "A lot of things go into it. When you score 35 points, in my mind you should win. Once the kids have been there and see what it takes, it should be to your advantage if you get there again. Experience is something that you can't overlook or pay for. When they left the field last Thanksgiving, I could tell they were disappointed with the outcome. They know they



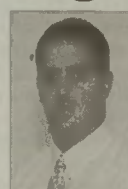
DURANT



LITTLEJOHN



LANGFORD



MURO



SHEPHERD



COLEMAN



McDANIELS



PATERINI

do belong and they can get it done."

However, Taylor says that the Pirates' program isn't defined by postseason play, and that Hampton doesn't need to win in the playoffs to validate itself.

"You start off and you want to win all the championships, even IAA," Taylor says. "I don't look at it (the playoffs) as a monkey on our back. We've had 150 guys who have graduated. We want to get it done. But the world is not surrounded by winning IAA. We'd love to win it. We want to win it. But we're not going to let (not winning it) say that we have not been successful."

The Pirates, picked to repeat as MEAC champions, ranked No. 12 in the Sports Network preseason poll. Their defensive unit, which has nine

of 12 starters returning from the group that led I-AA with 43 forced turnovers, will be critical to Hampton's success.

"You hope your strength is defense," Taylor says. "That's where it all begins. If you play defense you always have a chance."

Middle linebacker **Justin Durant**, the MEAC preseason Defensive Player of the Year and reigning defensive player of the year, is Hampton's top defender.

The Pirates will feature a big, athletic defensive line. It will be anchored first team all-MEAC senior defensive end **Micah Littlejohn** and tackle **Marcus Dixon** and end **Kendall Langford**, a pair of 6-6, 275-pound sophomores also named to the all-MEAC team.

Corner backs **Mike West** and **Calvin Bannister** are bulwarks in the secondary, which is bound to be tested after giving up several big plays in the Pirates' postseason loss and in light of the difficulty opponents are likely to have running the ball.

On offense, the Pirates boast one of the top tandems of running backs in IAA in **Alonzo Coleman** and **Ardell Daniels**. Each rushed for more than 1,000 yards last season but were held to a combined 85 rushing yards in the playoff game. Coleman is the MEAC preseason offensive player of the year.

The Pirates also have proven players on special teams. Punter **Cameron Muro** and placekicker **Andrew Paterini** are first team preseason all-conference as is **Marquay McDaniel**, who plays wide receiver and was among the nation's leaders in punt returns last year.

But Taylor says the Pirates' offensive productivity will be determined by how efficient their passing game is. Senior quarterback **Princeton Shepherd**, another preseason All-MEAC pick, is the triggerman. McDaniel, **Dereck Faulkner** and **Onrea Jones** are his prime targets.

"If you run the ball all the time, they're just going to put a lot of people in the box and try to shut you down," he says. "It's going to be important to stretch the coverage, keep people out of the box and allow us to throw the ball as well as catch it."

BCSP Predictions: Boldly going ...

LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

The first and boldest prediction coming from the **BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE** this year is that the 2005 season will be the most exciting, memorable and ground-breaking campaign since 1994 when **Alcorn State** QB **Steve McNair** rewrote the college passing record books en route to a third place finish in the Heisman Trophy. Why? Because 2005 has more great races, exciting players and intriguing stories than at any time since. Here's our take on the conference races.

SWAC

By all accounts, defending champion **Alabama State** should repeat in 2005 but we're not buying it. In fact, their road through the East Division to the SWAC title game will not be easy. As for the title, in the SWAC it's what's on offense that counts and **Grambling** has more of it. Look out for **Bruce Eugene**'s assault on the record books. BCSP PREDICTION: Grambling.

SIAC

Tuskegee and **Albany State** have won every SIAC championship since 1997. Albany State returns only four (4) starters and a tough mid-season schedule could doom

Tuskegee and open the door to **Fort Valley State**. We say **John Morgan**'s Wildcats will walk right in. BCSP PREDICTION: Fort Valley State in an upset. - MEAC

Hampton is head and shoulders above anyone in the MEAC and after several close-calls should be ready to win a I-AA playoff game. The key will not be the defense that gave up 42 points to William & Mary, but a truly dominant rushing attack which produced two 1,000-yard rushers last year but did little against the Indians in the playoff loss. And don't be so sure that **South Carolina State** and **Bethune-Cookman** will finish behind the Pirates. **Howard** and **Morgan State** will have something to say about that. BCSP PREDICTION: Hampton, easily.

CIAA

How long has it been since **N. C. Central** challenged for a CIAA title? We're predicting **NCCU** will break **Fayetteville State**'s three-year stranglehold on the Western Division title and face defending champion **Shaw** in the Nov. 6 CIAA Championship Game. Now that's a matchup the folks in Durham can get excited about. BCSP PREDICTION: NC Central, at home, by a nose.

2005 CLASSIC, BOWL AND CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27		
Capital City Foundation Classic		
Lincoln vs. Central State in Topeka, KS	7:00pm	
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3		
SWAC / MEAC Challenge		
Alabama State vs. South Carolina St. in B'ham, AL	2:30pm	
Detroit Classic		
Hampton vs. Jackson State in Detroit, MI	1:00pm	
Chicago Football Classic		
Miss. Valley State vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff in Chicago	3:00pm	
John Merritt Classic		
Tennessee State vs. Alabama A&M	6:00pm	
Labor Day Classic		
Virginia State vs. Norfolk State in Norfolk, VA	6:00pm	
Labor Day Classic		
Texas Southern vs. Prairie View A&M	7:00pm	
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4		
Dayton City Classic		
Central State vs. Saint Paul's in Dayton, OH	6:00pm	
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5		
Aggie-Eagle Classic		
N.C. Central vs. N.C. A&T in Raleigh, NC	1:30pm	
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10		
Wade Wilson Classic		
Cheyney vs. Saint Paul's in Cheyney, PA	1:00pm	
Palmetto Capital City Classic		
Benedict vs. Johnson C. Smith in Columbia, SC	5:00pm	
Southern Heritage Classic		
Tennessee State vs. Jackson State in Memphis, TN	6:00pm	
Masonic Classic		
Morgan State vs. Bowie State in Baltimore, MD	6:00pm	
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17		
Clyde Williams Classic		
St. Paul's vs. Fayetteville State in Martinsville, VA	1:00pm	
Ohio Classic		
Morgan State vs. Savannah State in Cleveland, OH	1:30pm	
Stan Lomax Classic		
Clark Atlanta vs. Fort Valley State in Brunswick, GA	3:00pm	
Harvey Moore Azalea City Classic		
Edward Waters vs. Morehouse in Valdosta, GA	5:00pm	
Heritage Classic		
Kentucky State vs. Central State in Lexington, KY	5:00pm	
Arkansas Classic		
Arkansas Pine Bluff vs. Alabama State	6:00pm	
52nd Gateway Classic		
Bethune-Cookman vs. South Carolina State	7:00pm	
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18		
Willie Gary Triangle Classic		
Shaw vs. North Carolina Central in Durham, NC	2:00pm	
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24		
Fish Bowl Classic		
Norfolk State vs. Bethune-Cookman in Norfolk, VA	1:00pm	
Gateway Classic		
Arkansas Pine Bluff vs. Tuskegee in St. Louis, MO	4:00pm	
35th New York Urban League Classic		
Morgan State vs. Hampton in E. Rutherford, NJ	4:00pm	
Atlanta Football Classic		
Tennessee State vs. Florida A&M in Atlanta	4:00pm	
Joe Turner Classic		
Savannah State vs. Howard in Savannah, GA	6:00pm	
7th Down East Classic		
Elizabeth City State vs. St. Augustine's	6:00pm	
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25		
5th Steel City Classic		
Stillman vs. Miles in Birmingham, AL	2:00pm	
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1		
22nd Circle City Classic		
Tennessee State vs. N. Carolina A&T in Ind., IN	4:00pm	
FIU/FAMU Orange Blossom Classic		
Florida Int'l vs. Florida A&M in Miami	6:00pm	
32nd Gulf Coast Classic		
Alabama State vs. Southern in Mobile, AL	7:00pm	
State Fair Classic		
Prairie View vs. Grambling State in Dallas	7:00pm	
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8		
70th Tuskegee-Morehouse Classic		
Tuskegee vs. Morehouse in Columbus, GA	2:30pm	
Greenville HBCU Holiday Classic		
Edward Waters vs. Clark Atlanta in Greenville, SC	4:00pm	
Prince George's Classic		
Morgan State vs. North Carolina A&T in Landover, MD	4:00pm	
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15		
13th CSRA Classic		
Savannah State vs. B-Cookman in Augusta, GA	2:00pm	
Battle of the Bay		
Norfolk State vs. Hampton in Norfolk, VA	7:00pm	
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22		
Gold Bowl		
Virginia Union vs. Bowie State in Richmond, VA	1:30pm	
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29		
64th Magic City Classic		
Alabama State vs. Alabama A&M in Birmingham, AL	2:30pm	
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5		
Knoxville Legacy Classic		
Morehouse vs. Miles in Knoxville, TN	12noon	
CIAA Championship Game		
E. Div. Champ vs. W. Div. Champ in Durham, NC	1:00pm	
16th Fountain City Classic		
Albany State vs. Fort Valley State in Columbus, GA	1:30pm	
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19		
Capital City Classic		
Jackson State vs. Alcorn State in Jackson, MS	1:00pm	
Rivalry Classic		
S. C. State vs. N. C. A&T in Charlotte, NC	2:00pm	
Florida Classic XXVI		
Florida A&M vs. Bethune-Cookman in Orlando, FL	4:00pm	
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24		
82nd Turkey Day Classic		
Alabama State vs. Tuskegee in Montgomery, AL	1:00pm	
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26		
Bayou Classic XXXII		
Southern vs. Grambling State in New Orleans	1:00pm	
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3		
Pioneer Bowl		
CIAA Rep. vs. SIAC rep. in Mobile, AL	TBA	
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10		
SWAC Championship Game		
E. Div. Champ vs. W. Div. Champ in Birmingham	1:00pm	

2005 HOMECOMINGS

OCTOBER 1st	
ALABAMA A&M vs. Texas Southern	3:00pm
BETHUNE-COOKMAN vs. Morgan State	4:00pm
CHEYNEY vs. Millersville	1:00pm
N. C. CENTRAL vs. St. Augustine's	12n
SAINT PAUL'S vs. Virginia Union	1:00pm
OCTOBER 8th	
ALCORN STATE vs. Prairie View	2:00pm
ALLEN vs. Chowan	1:00pm
KENTUCKY STATE vs. Fort Valley State	1:30pm
LANGSTON vs. Texas College	2:00pm
LINCOLN vs. Georgia State	2:00pm
MILES vs. Lane	11:00am
ST. AUGUSTINE'S vs. Johnson C. Smith	4:00pm
SOUTHERN vs. Alabama A&M	6:30pm
VIRGINIA STATE vs. Saint Paul's	1:30pm
VIRGINIA UNION vs. Shaw	1:30pm
OCTOBER 15th	
BOWIE STATE vs. Saint Paul's	1:00pm
CLARK ATLANTA vs. Albany State	1:30pm
FAYETTEVILLE STATE vs. J. C. Smith	1:30pm
LANE vs. Morehouse	2:00pm
MORGAN STATE vs. Howard	1:00pm
NORTH CAROLINA A&T vs. Delaware St.	1:30pm
SHAW vs. Elizabeth City State	1:30pm
TEXAS SOUTHERN vs. Alcorn State	2:00pm
WEST VIRGINIA STATE vs. W. Va. Tech	1:30pm
OCTOBER 22nd	
ALBANY STATE vs. Benedict	1:30pm
CONCORDIA vs. South Alabama	TBA
DELAWARE STATE vs. Morgan State	1:00pm
ELIZABETH CITY STATE vs. Saint Paul's	2:00pm
FLORIDA A&M vs. Norfolk State	3:00pm
FORT VALLEY STATE vs. Stillman	1:30pm
HAMPTON vs. South Carolina State	2:00pm
HOWARD vs. North Carolina A&T	1:00pm
JACKSON STATE vs. Grambling State	4:30pm
MISS. VALLEY ST. vs. Texas Southern	2:00pm
MOREHOUSE vs. Clark Atlanta	2:00pm
PAUL QUINN vs. W. New Mexico	1:00pm
OCTOBER 29th	
GRAMBLING STATE vs. Texas Southern	1:30pm
JOHNSON C. SMITH vs. N. C. Central	1:00pm
LIVINGSTONE vs. Fayetteville State	2:00pm
NORFOLK STATE vs. Howard	1:00pm
PRAIRIE VIEW vs. Mississippi Valley State	5:30pm
SAVANNAH STATE vs. Central State	2:00pm
S. CAROLINA STATE vs. Delaware State	1:30pm
TEXAS COLLEGE vs. Haskell	4:00pm
WINSTON-SALEM ST. vs. St. Augustine's	2:00pm
NOVEMBER 5th	
ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF vs. Prairie View	2:30pm
BENEDICT vs. Lane	2:00pm
EDWARD WATERS vs. Atlantic College	3:00pm
TENNESSEE STATE vs. Eastern Illinois	6:00pm
TUSKEGEE vs. Kentucky State	1:00pm
NOVEMBER 12th	
STILLMAN vs. Lincoln	1:30pm
NOVEMBER 24th	
ALABAMA STATE vs. Tuskegee	1:00pm

THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

2005 BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL PICKS

(by Head Coaches, SIDs and Media)

CIAA

EASTERN DIVISION

1. Shaw
2. Bowie State
3. Virginia State
4. Elizabeth City State
5. Virginia Union
6. St. Paul's

WESTERN DIVISION

1. Fayetteville State
2. North Carolina Central
3. Winston-Salem State
4. St. Augustine's
5. Johnson C. Smith
6. Livingstone

MEAC

COACHES POLL

1. Hampton (8)
2. South Carolina State
3. Bethune-Cookman
4. Morgan State
5. North Carolina A&T
6. Delaware State
7. Howard
8. Florida A&M
9. Norfolk State

MEDIA POLL

1. Hampton (16)
2. S. Carolina State (2)
3. Bethune-Cookman
4. Morgan State
5. Howard
6. Florida A&M
7. North Carolina A&T
8. Delaware State
9. Norfolk State

SIAC

1. Tuskegee
2. Albany State
3. Fort Valley State
4. Miles
5. Kentucky State
6. Morehouse
7. Stillman
8. Lane
9. Benedict
10. Clark Atlanta

SWAC

EAST DIVISION

1. Alabama State (89)
2. Alabama A&M (68)
3. Alcorn State (53)
4. Miss. Valley St. (38)
5. Jackson State (36)

WEST DIVISION

1. Grambling State (85)