

FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 20-26, 2005

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



NCCU Sports Photo

PITCHED BATTLES

UNBEATENS IN DURHAM, SOUTHERN, UAPB LOOK TO UPHOLD SWAC HONOR

WARREN: NC Central QB faces unbeaten Bowie State leading all black college QBs with 13 TD passes.

2005 BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL (Results, Standings and Weekly Honors)																				
CIAA				MEAC				SIAC				SWAC				INDEPENDENTS				
CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION				MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE				SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE				SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE								
DIV		ALL		CONF		ALL		CONF		ALL		CONF		ALL		DIV		ALL		
W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	
E. DIVISION				CONF				CONF				CONF				E. DIVISION				
Bowie State	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	Tuskegee	3	0	3	0	Alabama State	2	0	2	1	Paul Quinn	2	1
Virginia Union	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	Fort Valley State	3	0	3	1	Jackson State	1	0	1	2	Concordia	2	2
Eliz City State	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	Albany State	3	1	3	1	Miss Valley St.	2	1	2	1	Cheyney	2	2
St Pauls	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	Stilman	2	1	2	1	Alabama A&M	1	1	2	1	Allen	1	1
Virginia State	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	Kentucky State	1	1	2	2	Alcorn State	0	0	1	1	Langston	1	1
Shaw	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	Morehouse	1	2	2	2	W. DIVISION					Tennessee State	1	2
W. DIVISION				CONF				CONF				CONF				E. DIVISION				
N. C. Central	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	Clark Atlanta	1	2	3	3	Grambling State	1	0	1	1	Texas College	1	2
St. Augustine's	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	Morehouse	1	2	2	2	Southern	1	1	1	1	W. Va. State	1	3
Fayetteville State	1	0	3	1	0	1	2	Benedict	0	2	2	2	Prairie View A&M	0	1	1	1	Lincoln (Mo.)	1	3
W. Salem State	1	0	1	3	0	1	2	Lane	0	3	0	4	Ark Pine Bluff	0	2	0	3	Savannah State	0	3
Livingstone	0	1	0	4	0	1	2	Miles	0	3	0	4	Texas Southern	0	2	0	2	Central State	0	3
J. C. Smith	0	1	0	4	0	1	2						Texas Southern	0	2	0	2	Edward Waters	0	4

CIAA unbeatens hook up, SIAC/SWAC clash

A battle of unbeatens in the CIAA and two SWAC/SIAC interconference battles highlight the final weekend of the first month of the 2005 regular season.



BROADWAY REDMOND LYNN

CIAA
In the CIAA, Bowie State and North Carolina Central, two of three conference teams off to 4-0 starts, get it on in Durham (4:00 p.m.) in a classic battle that could be a preview of the Nov. 5 title game that will also be staged in the Bull City.

So far both schools have wins over MEAC opponents with NC Central downing NC A&T and BSU defeating Morgan State but the similarities, or contrasts, don't end there.

NCCU leads the CIAA in total offense getting a healthy 424 yards per game while BSU leads in total defense giving up just 167 yards per contest. NCCU is the best passing team (268 ypg.) while BSU is best on the ground (257.2 ypg.). NCCU QB Adrian Warren with WR

Torrey Ross (26 rec., 6 TDs) leads the passing stats (253 ypg., 1,015 yards, 13 TDs, 4 int.) while BSU RB Isaac Redmond is the best rusher (85 car., 477 yds., 119.2 ypg., 7 TDs). This is shaping up to be a pitched battle between second-year coach Mike Lynn at BSU and third-year man Rod Broadway at NCCU.

It's also the first time since 1988 the CIAA has had three teams at 4-0. The other 4-0 squad, St. Augustine's plays in Rocky Mount, N.C. against Elizabeth City State (1-3, 0-1 CIAA E) Saturday

BCSP TOP TEN

1. HAMPTON (3-0) - Struggled past NC A&T, 31-14. NEXT: Morgan State at the Meadowlands on BET.
2. SOUTH CAROLINA STATE (3-0) - Outlasted then #4 Bethune-Cookman, 27-24. NEXT: Idle.
3. GRAMBLING STATE (1-1) - Humbled at Washington State, 45-7. NEXT: Idle.
4. TUSKEGEE (3-0) - Ran by Benedict, 31-16. NEXT: Meets Ark.-Pine Bluff in St. Louis.
5. BETHUNE-COOKMAN (2-1) - Comeback falls short against S. C. State, 27-24. NEXT: At Norfolk State for Fish Bowl.
6. ALABAMA STATE (2-1) - Strong second half nets 41-10 win over Ark.-Pine Bluff. NEXT: Hosts Alcorn State.
7. ALBANY STATE (2-1) - Outsourced Lane, 52-31. NEXT: At Southern.
8. NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL (4-0) - Survived against Shaw, 37-31. NEXT: Showdown of unbeaten at home vs. Bowie State.
9. ST. AUGUSTINE'S (4-0) - Knocked off Virginia State, 44-14. NEXT: Faces Eliz. City State in Rocky Mt., NC.
10. BOWIE STATE (4-0) - Beat Livingstone, 33-15. NEXT: At #8 NC Central in battle of unbeaten teams.

offense (311.7 ypg.). Wide receiver Kenneth Henderson's 18 receptions and five TDs also led the conference. The Golden Tigers lead the SIAC in total offense and defense.

Conversely, the Golden Lions have struggled on offense scoring just five touchdowns and averaging only 14.5 points through three games, the worst in the SWAC. After posting the SWAC's best rushing numbers last year during an 8-3 campaign, UAPB head coach Mo Forte has incorporated much more passing into its offense with John Pierce (28 of 55, 2 TDs, 4 ints.) at the helm.

Albany State goes into Baton Rouge to face a Southern team that has had two weeks to prepare after losing to Mississippi Valley State for the first time in 11 years.

Jaguar QB J. C. Lewis is among the SWAC passing (297 ypg.) and total offense leaders and is the trigger-man for the conference's highest scoring unit (33 ypg.). The Jaguars, however, are at the bottom of the rushing stats netting only 39 yards per game.

Look for Albany State to try and pound its SIAC best rushing attack (218.8 ypg.) against a young Southern defense. ASU features the double-A running back duo of Antwan Andrews (118.8 ypg., 4 TDs) and Antonio Atkins (64.5 ypg., 1 TD). ASU QB Hosea Harris is completing 60.3% of his passes (41 of 68) for 509 yards with five TDs and just one interception. ASU is second in the SIAC in run defense and total defense.

GAMES THIS WEEK

SATURDAY, SEPT. 24	
Concordia vs. Webber Int'l in Selma, AL	1:00pm
Shaw vs. Livingstone in Raleigh, NC	1:00pm
W. Va. St. vs. Charleston (WV) in Institute, WV	4:00pm
NC Central vs. Bowie State in Durham, NC	4:00pm
Edw. Waters vs. Lincoln (MO) in Jacksonville, FL	5:00pm
Miss Valley St. vs. Jackson St. in Itta Bena, MS	5:00pm
Benedict vs. Fort Valley State in Columbia, SC	6:00pm
Clark Atlanta vs. Lane in Atlanta, GA	6:00pm
Elon vs. NC A&T in Burlington, NC	6:00pm
Fayetteville St. vs. Virginia St. in Fayetteville, NC	6:00pm
J. C. Smith vs. Saint Paul's in Charlotte, NC	6:00pm
Langston vs. Paul Quinn in Langston, OK	6:00pm
NW (LA) St. vs. Texas Southern in N. Lenoir, VA	6:00pm
Va. Union vs. Winston-Salem St. in Richmond, VA	6:00pm
Alabama A&M vs. Allen in Huntsville, AL	6:30pm
Alabama St. vs. Alcorn St. in Montgomery, AL	7:00pm
C. Carolina vs. Delaware St. in Conway, SC	7:00pm
Morehouse vs. Kentucky State in Atlanta, GA	7:00pm
Southern vs. Albany State in Baton Rouge, LA	7:00pm
Texas College vs. Georgia State in Tyler, TX	7:00pm
West Chester vs. Cheyney in Chester, PA	7:00pm
CLASSICS	
Fish Bowl Classic	
Norfolk State vs. Bethune-Cookman in Norfolk, VA	1:00pm
Gateway Classic	
Ark.-Pine Bluff vs. Tuskegee in St. Louis, MO	4:00pm
7th Down East Viking Classic	
Eliz. City St. vs. St. Aug's in Rocky Mount, NC	6:00pm
Joe Turner Classic	
Savannah State vs. Howard in Savannah, GA	6:00pm
TV GAMES	
35th NY Urban League Classic (BET, 9pm)	
Hampton vs. Morgan State in East Rutherford, NJ	4:00pm
Atlanta Football Classic (Turner South)	
Tennessee State vs. Florida A&M in Atlanta, GA	4:00pm
SUNDAY, SEPT. 25	
TV GAME	
5th Steel City Classic (ESPN2)	
Stillman vs. Miles in Birmingham, AL	2:00pm

Totten finds the one to follow him at MVSU

ROSCOE NANCE
BCSP Correspondent

Mississippi Valley State coach Willie Totten has been waiting for the right quarterback ever since he took over the program at his alma mater four years ago.

Totten, a Hall of Fame quarterback for the Delta Devils in the mid-1980s says his wait is over with the emergence of junior signal caller Aries Nelson, a 6-3, 215-pound junior from Cleveland, Miss.

"He's great," Totten says. "He's mobile, he has a good arm, and he manages the offense well. When Aries came on campus, I knew I had the quarterback to make this thing go like we wanted it to."

Nelson, who transferred to Mississippi Valley last fall after two years at Mississippi State - one in which he was red-shirted - has led the Delta Devils to a 2-1 record. They opened the season with consecutive victories against Arkansas-Pine Bluff and Southern University, marking it their first 2-0 start since 1993, before losing to Alabama A&M Saturday.

Nelson has been nothing less than spectacular. He has twice been named SWAC Offensive Player of the Week, the first time after throwing for 269 yards and three touchdowns in Week 1 against Arkansas-Pine Bluff and again last week after passing for 318 yards and a touchdown against Alabama A&M.

Nelson passed for 353 yards and one touchdown against Southern in between those performances. He has passed for



MVSU Sports Photo

"AIR" APPARENT: Nelson, attempting a pass in last year's game against Alabama State, has been compared by his coach to former Alcorn State and current NFL QB Steve McNair.

940 yards and five touchdowns for the season, and he leads the SWAC in total offense with 340 yards a game. He has thrown just two interceptions in his first three games, both against Alabama A&M, after throwing three in his first game last season.

Nelson and the Devils host Jackson State Saturday in a key SWAC East Division matchup.

"He has matured a great deal since we played him last year," Southern coach Pete Richardson says. "He made big plays on us last year, we were just fortunate to beat him. He's a force. He has made a difference in their team."

Totten says Nelson, the 2004 SWAC

Newcomer of the Year, has grown by leaps and bounds since last season. He arrived on campus just two weeks before the season began after transferring from Mississippi State. Totten, who coached Nelson for two seasons at Eastside High, had planned to ease him into the Delta Devils' system. But that plan went by the boards as the other quarterback failed to take command of the offense.

Having seen first-hand what Nelson was capable of doing, Totten didn't hesitate to start him in the Delta Devils' season opener. The circumstances were similar to what the two had been through together at Eastside, where Nelson started for Totten as a freshman and led the team to a 2-8 record. Nelson's sophomore season, Eastside was 7-2-1.

"He turned the program around as a sophomore," Totten says. "His second year, he knew what I was trying to do. It's the same here. He did OK (last season). He knew 50%-60% of the system. It's amazing how he has picked up the system and run with it."

Mississippi Valley was 3-8 last year. After Week 2 of this season, they were ranked nationally (Sheridan poll) for the first time since 1984, when Totten was guiding the Delta Devils' "Satellite Express" offense which featured wide receiver Jerry Rice.

"He's using people around him to make him better, and he's reading coverage better," said Totten. "You would have seen this out of him a long time ago if I had gotten him as a freshman right out of

high school."

It wasn't for lack of effort that Totten didn't get Nelson to come to Mississippi Valley. Nelson was No. 1 on the Delta Devils' recruiting list, just as he was No. 1 on several Division IA schools' lists before he signed with Mississippi State.

"I knew if he really wanted to go Division IA, we wouldn't be able to get him," Totten says, adding that he thought that Nelson was good enough to play in the SEC coming out of high school. "But we had that relationship. I wasn't upset (at not signing him). I would have been upset if we lost him to a I-AA school. I knew that if he was unhappy, he could transfer."

Nelson was red-shirted his freshman season. He competed for the starting position his sophomore season but didn't win it. When Sylvester Croom replaced Jackie Sherrill as coach following Nelson's sophomore season, he decided it was time to move on.

"If Jackie Sherrill had stayed, he wouldn't have transferred," Totten says. "Them getting a new coach made it better for me. I'm just glad he didn't like it at Mississippi State."

Totten compares Nelson favorably to Tennessee Titans quarterback Steve McNair, a former SWAC star from Alcorn State, because his size and mobility.

"It's up to him how good he can be," Totten says. "If he comes to practice and prepares, the sky can be the limit. He gives excitement like McNair. He moves well. He scrambles. He has a strong arm, and he's accurate."

SCORES

SEPTEMBER 15
Hampton 31, NC A&T 14
SEPTEMBER 17
Alabama A&M 21, Miss Valley St. 13
Alabama State 41, Ark.-Pine Bluff 10
Albany State 52, Lane 31
Alcorn State 24, Langston 7
Allen 24, Shorter 20
Bowie State 33, Livingstone 15
Farmont St. 52, W. Virginia State 0
Fayetteville State 23, St. Paul's 13
Florida A&M 33, Howard 20
Fort Valley St. 20, Clark Atlanta 0
Hampton 31, NC A&T 14
Jackson State 24, Texas Southern 21
James Madison 65, Delaware State 7

Kentucky St. 28, Central St. 0
Misapp 24, Concordia 23
Morehouse 50, Edward Waters 28
Morgan St. 55, Savannah St. 26
Nicholls State 54, Cheyney 0
NC Central 37, Shaw 31
Paul Quinn 48, SW Assemblies 7
St. Augustine's 44, Virginia State 14
St. Joseph 41, Lincoln (MO) 13
SC State 27, Bethune-Cookman 24
Southern 38, Prairie View A&M 0
Tenn.-Martin 42, Tennessee St. 20
Tusculum 20, Miles 14
Tuskegee 31, Benedict 16
Virginia Union 15, J. C. Smith 7
Washington St. 48, Grambling St. 7
W-Salem State 24, Eliz City State 23

HOW THEY DID IT

South Carolina State 27, Bethune-Cookman 24
SCSU (3-0, 1-0 MEAC) jumped out to a 20-0 lead in the first five minutes of the game and then turned away two late attempts to tie the score to leave Jacksonville's Alltel Stadium with a win over B-CC (2-1, 0-1 MEAC). The Bulldogs hit the Wildcats with a 45-yard catch and run by WR Chris Burgess, a 54-yard punt return by Roderikus Darby and a 36-yard TD reception by Burgess (3 rec., 88 yards) in the first 4:55 to jump on top 20-0. But the Wildcasts fought back, getting a TD run of five yards from Eric Weems in the first quarter, and a second quarter TD by P. J. Smith early in the second quarter to trail 20-14 at the break. The 'Cats went on top when Weems scored his second TD early in the third quarter and added to it on a 24-yard Jesus Cortez field goal to lead 24-20 entering the final period. The Bulldogs mounted a 17-play, 80-yard drive capped by Burgess's third TD catch of the day from QB Cleveland McCoy (15-27-0, 213 yards), from seven yards out with 7:45 to play, to put them ahead 27-24. Cortez was short on a 41-yard attempt with 4:01 remaining and had a 34-yarder blocked by SCSU's Marshall McFadden with 40 seconds left.

Bowie State 33, Livingstone 15
QB Lamar Manigo's four TD passes allowed BSU to remain undefeated (4-0, 1-0 CIAA E) and get to 4-0 for the first time since 1988. Manigo finished 12 of 18 for 169 yards with scoring tosses of 11, 9, 7 and 39 yards. Meanwhile the BSU defense registered five sacks and held Livingstone (0-4, 0-1 CIAA W) to -21 rushing yards. LC QB Jason Mitchell was 18 for 36 for 245 yards without an interception with scoring passes of 7 and 14 yards.

North Carolina Central 37, Shaw 31
NCCU (4-0, 1-0 CIAAW) dominated Shaw for three quarters, entering the final period with a 34-10 lead, but surrendered three fourth quarter TDs to escape with a home win at the first Triangle Willie Gary Classic in Durham. NCCU got four TD passes (44, 37, 13) from QB Adrian Warren (13-31-2, 195 yards) and 100-yard efforts on the ground from both Greg Pruitt (30 car., 119 yds.) and Corey Brown (12 car., 116 yds.) to jump out to the big lead. Shaw came back behind QB Jermonty Kimbrough (19-45-2, 227 yds.) who threw scoring passes of 5 and 16 yards in the final period around a four-yard scoring run from Reginald Price to get the Bears within 37-31 with 5:28 to play. After stopping NCCU in the ensuing possession, freshman J. R. Tanner picked off a Kimbrough pass to seal the win. Torrey Ross had six receptions for 85 yards and two scores (44, 3) to lead the Eagles receivers while Anthony Frost had six for 106 including a five-yard score to pace the Bears.

St. Augustine's 44, Virginia State 14
St. Augustine's (4-0, 1-0 CIAA W) became the third CIAA team to reach 4-0 - the first time that's happened in the conference since 1988 - as they used big plays on defense to pull away from Virginia State (1-3, 0-1 CIAA E). SAC QB Darrell Nesbitt ran for one TD and passed for 167 yards (13-22-2) and two scores (16 and 25) but the Falcons' defense scored three times on Alex Hall's second quarter 10-yard fumble recovery return and third-quarter interception returns of 96 yards by Ivan Diggs and 58 yards by Kevin Jones to put the game away. The SAC defense had four sacks and picked off three interceptions.

Alabama A&M 27, Mississippi Valley State 13
Alabama A&M QB Kelecy Luke outshined MVSU QB Aries Nelson, throwing for three scores and running for one as the Bulldogs (2-1, 1-1 SWAC E) knocked the Delta Devils (2-1, 2-1 SWAC E) from the unbeaten ranks. The much-maligned A&M offense, which was shut out in a 44-0 loss to Grambling a week earlier, came to life behind the inspired play of Luke who completed 16 of 27 passes for 179 yards and the three scores (62, 7, 2) and also ran for 132 yards on 16 carries including a 14-yard run to paydirt that opened the scoring. Luke's brother Nic, added 117 yards on 16 carries to keep the A&M offense moving. Nelson, the SWAC's total offense leader, had another productive day completing 26 of 41 passes for 318 yards including a 20-yard scoring strike to Tyrone Timmons in the second quarter but also threw his first two interceptions of the season. A&M held MVSU to 78 rushing yards.

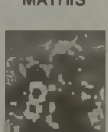
BCSP NFL PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

DEFENSE
ROBERT MATHIS, 6-2, 235, DE, Indianapolis (3rd year, ALABAMA A&M) - Five tackles, two assists, a sack and a forced fumble in win over Jacksonville.



MATHIS

OFFENSE
DONALD DRIVER, 6-0, 188, WR, Green Bay (7th year, ALCORN STATE) - Led Packers with six receptions for 105 yards including a 42-yard TD pass from Brett Favre in 26-24 loss to Cleveland.



DRIVER

Full list of black college players' performances in NFL games available on-line at BCSP at HBCUsports.com