

FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 8-14, 2005

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



NCCU Photo

THREE CHAMPS CROWNED

IT'S GOOD! Brandon Gilbert celebrates game-winning kick in CIAA title game vs. Bowie State.

NC CENTRAL, HAMPTON, ALBANY STATE TAKE GRID TITLES; PLAYOFFS BEGIN IN D2

2005 BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL (Results, Standings and Weekly Honors)

CIAA CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION					MEAC MID-EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE					SIAC SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE					SWAC SOUTH-WESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE					INDEPENDENTS				
DIV		ALL		CONF		ALL		CONF		ALL		DIV		ALL		DIV		ALL		W		L		
E. DIVISION	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L	W	L		
* Bowie State	5	3	8	3	* Hampton	7	0	9	0	* Albany State	8	1	8	1	E. DIVISION	W <td>L <td>W <td>L <td>Langston</td> <td>6</td> <td>3</td> </td></td></td>	L <td>W <td>L <td>Langston</td> <td>6</td> <td>3</td> </td></td>	W <td>L <td>Langston</td> <td>6</td> <td>3</td> </td>	L <td>Langston</td> <td>6</td> <td>3</td>	Langston	6	3		
Virginia State	5	2	6	4	SC State	5	1	7	2	Tuskegee	8	1	9	1	Alabama State	6	2	6	3	Concordia	5	3		
Shaw	4	3	5	5	Delaware State	4	2	5	4	Fort Valley State	7	2	7	3	Alabama A&M	5	2	7	2	Allen	5	3		
St. Paul's	3	4	4	6	Florida A&M	4	2	5	4	Kentucky State	5	4	6	5	Alcorn State	4	2	5	3	Texas College	6	4		
Virginia Union	2	5	3	7	Bethune-Cookman	3	3	6	3	Stalin	4	4	5	4	Miss. Valley St.	4	4	5	4	Paul Quinn	3	5		
Eliz. City State	1	6	2	8	NC A&T State	2	5	3	7	Jackson State	2	5	2	7	Jackson State	2	5	2	7	Lincoln (Mo.)	3	6		
W. DIVISION					Norfolk State	2	5	3	6	Benedict	4	5	6	5	W. DIVISION					Edward Waters	3	7		
* N.C. Central	7	1	10	1	Howard	1	5	4	5	Clark Atlanta	3	6	3	8	* Grambling State	7	0	7	1	Tennessee State	2	7		
W-Salem State	6	1	6	4	Morgan State	1	6	2	8	Miles	3	6	4	7	Southern	3	4	3	4	Cheyney	2	9		
St. Augustine's	5	2	8	2	* Clinched conference title, I-AA playoff berth					Morehouse	2	7	3	7	Ark. Pine Bluff	2	5	2	7	W. Va. State	2	9		
Fayetteville State	4	3	6	4						Lane	0	9	0	10	Prairie View A&M	1	5	3	5	Central State	1	5		
Livingstone	1	6	1	9						* Clinched conference title, Div. II playoff berth					Texas Southern	1	6	1	7	Savannah State	0	9		
J.C. Champ	0	7	0	10											* Clinched Div. title									

SIAC, MEAC titles clinched; NCAA playoffs loom

LUT WILLIAMS
BCSP Editor

The sixth CIAA Championship Game was the only matchup Saturday that had the moniker 'title game' attached to it but champs were also crowned in two other black college conferences.

While North Carolina Central earned its first CIAA football championship since 1980 with a dramatic, last-second 26-23 win over Bowie State (see story at right), Albany State of the SIAC and Hampton of the MEAC captured their respective titles without as much fanfare.

Albany State ripped Fort Valley State 41-23 in Columbus, Ga., to secure its second straight SIAC crown. The 8-1 Golden Rams Sunday were awarded their second consecutive trip to the NCAA Div. II playoffs where they will enter as the No. 4 seed in the Southeast Region and host 9-2 Central Arkansas, the No. 5 seed, this Saturday.

Hampton ran its record to 9-0, the only unblemished mark in NCAA Div. I-AA football, and clinched the MEAC title and automatic bid to the playoffs with a 24-10 road win at Bethune-Cookman. The Pirates host Florida A&M Saturday and close out the season Nov. 19 at home vs. Savannah State before beginning postseason play on Nov. 26. The I-AA playoff field will be announced on Sunday, Nov. 20.

The Pirates received 44 first place votes to move up to second in the Sports Network national poll behind 8-1 New Hampshire who garnered 57 first-place votes. They are also second in the USA Today/ESPN poll. If the Pirates win their final two games they should be in position to host playoff games through the national semifinals.

South Carolina State (7-2), in second place in the MEAC, moved up to 17th in the Sports Network poll and has a good chance to receive an at-large berth to the I-AA playoffs if they can win their final two games against Morgan State (at home, Nov. 12) and N.C. A&T (Nov. 19 in Charlotte, N.C.).

The only division and conference titles still to be decided are in the SWAC. Grambling State (7-1) is in as West Division champ. Alabama State (6-3, 6-2) can claim the East Division title and a spot opposite Grambling in the Dec. 10 SWAC Championship Game at Birmingham's Legion Field with a win Saturday (2:30 p.m.) in its final SWAC game at Mississippi Valley State (5-4, 4-4).

A loss by Alabama State opens the door for Alcorn State (5-3, 4-2) or Alabama A&M (7-2, 5-2) who meet Saturday (2 p.m.) at Alcorn State. A&M has one game left after Saturday, against Prairie View on Nov. 19. Alcorn State has games left against Jackson State on Nov. 19 and a make-up game against Grambling postponed from Sept. 3 because of Hurricane Katrina that will be played on Dec. 3 at Alcorn State.

NCAA Div. II Playoffs - First Round
Albany State (8-1) vs. C. Arkansas (9-2)
12 noon, Albany, GA
Albany State's opponent, Central Arkansas.

CIAA CHAMPIONSHIP GAME VI

N.C. Central comeback clips Bowie St. 26-23

Western Division champion North Carolina Central fought back from a 17-0 halftime deficit and got a 30-yard field goal from placekicker Brandon Gilbert with three seconds left to knock off East Division champ Bowie State 26-23 and claim the title in the sixth CIAA Championship Game Saturday in Durham.

The win helped the 10-1 Eagles land the second seed in the NCAA Div. II Southeast Region field announced Sunday and earn a first-round bye into the national championship playoffs that begin Saturday. On Nov. 19 the Eagles will host the winner of this Saturday's matchup of No. 3 seed Valdosta State (9-2) and No. 6 seed North Alabama (8-2).

At press time, there was no word on whether Bowie State (8-3) would represent the CIAA in the Dec. 3 Pioneer Bowl in Charlotte, N.C. That announcement was expected Tuesday afternoon.

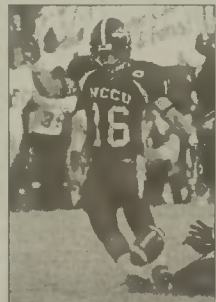
Gilbert's field goal was the last of four he kicked in the second half that helped keep the Eagles' comeback going. He hit on kicks of 33 yards and a career-best 47 yards in the third quarter and opened the fourth quarter with a 23-yarder before his game-clincher.

Between Gilbert's efforts, the Eagle offense, which had been held to 27 first half yards, came alive beginning with the second half kickoff that WR/KR Julius McClellan returned 36 yards to the Central 44. Six-plays and 56-yards later RB Greg Pruitt's 26-yard run put the Eagles on the board.

After stopping the Bulldogs on the ensuing possession, the Eagles' Michael Cook blocked BSU's Aaron Moore's punt and NCCU got the ball back on the BSU 18. Unable to pick up a first down, the Eagles' comeback got its first hiccup when Gilbert was short on a 40-yard field goal try. But it was the only second half possession in which they came up empty.

posted an 8-1 record to capture the outright championship of the Gulf South Conference. Despite that, the Bears are seeded behind Valdosta State, a No. 3 seed, who finished second in the GSC but defeated UCA, 12-7. The Bears only other loss was to Div. I-AA Tennessee-Martin of the Ohio Valley Conference, 35-34.

UCA running back Kentrel Rogers amassed 965 rushing yards and 20 TDs His 11.6 points per game is tops in the GSC. Starting QB Nathan Brown completed 72.7% (133 of 183) of his passes for 1,520 yards, 15 TDs and only six interceptions. Aaron Fairouz is the leading



NCCU Sports Photo

GAME-WINNER: NCCU PK Brandon Gilbert hits 30-yarder that gives the Eagles their first CIAA grid title since 1980.

The Eagle defense, which was shredded for 212 first-half yards, again stopped the Bulldogs on a three-and-out and forced a punt. This time the Eagles moved into field goal range and Gilbert booted through his 33-yarder to get them within 17-10.

Bowie State (8-3) came right back however needing only three plays to cover 80 yards, the last 46 on a pass from QB Lamar Manigo to wideout Glenn Thomas, their second scoring hookup of the day, that put the Bulldogs up 23-10 with 3:45 to go in the period.

Undeterred, the Eagles took the ensuing kickoff and marched 48 yards in nine plays and inched to within 23-13 as Gilbert was true from 47 yards away, 12 seconds before the end of the quarter.

The Eagles then got their only turnover of the game at the beginning of the final quarter when linebacker Greg Peterson picked off a Manigo pass that set them up at the BSU 9. Again, with the offense unable to advance the ball, NCCU head coach Rod Broadway turned to Gilbert whose 23-yarder cut the deficit to 23-16 with 13:55 to play.

BSU went on a 10-play, 62-yard drive that took more than four minutes off the fourth quarter clock but Ronald Walls' 36-yard field goal was wide left and gave the ball back to the Eagles with 9:29 left. Five plays later QB Adrian Warren found McClellan on a fly pattern down the left sideline that he hauled in for a 60-yard score. The celebration, and 15-yard penalty for it that followed, forced Gilbert to kick a 35-yard PAT that pulled the Eagles even at 23 with 7:41 left.

BSU's final drive lasted just three plays and Moore's punt gave NCCU the ball at their own 49. They ran 10 plays over the final 5:08 before Gilbert put through his game-winner.

Gilbert shared game MVP honors with BSU running back Isaac Redman, who tallied 112 yards on 28 carries and scored the game's first TD on a two-yard run.

SCORES

NOVEMBER 5
Alabama A&M 52, Jackson St. 6
Albany St. 41, Fort Valley St. 23
Alcorn St. 38, Miss. Valley St. 36
Allen 32, S. Virginia 20
Benedict 42, Lane 20
C. Carolina 42, Savannah State 16
Concordia vs. Paul Quinn
E. Illinois 27, Tenn. State 3
Edw. Waters 83, Atlantic Coll. 6
Florida A&M 24, NC A&T 14
Grambling St. 32, Alabama St. 27
Hampton 24, B-Cookman 10
Kutztown 29, Cheyney 12

Langston 35, NW Okla. State 33
Miles 34, Morehouse 24
Norfolk St. 24, Morgan St. 21
Prairie View 34, Ark.-Pine Bluff 7
Shepherd 51, W. Va. State 10
SC State 23, Howard 9
Southern 44, Texas Southern 20
Stilman 22, Clark Atlanta 12
Texas College 22, S. Nazarene 7
Tuskegee 31, Kentucky St. 13

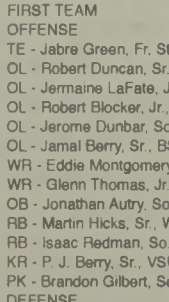
CIAA CHAMPIONSHIP GAME
NC Central 26, Bowie St. 23

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

CIAA FOOTBALL HONORS:

The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association has announced its all-conference football teams and players of the year. Winston-Salem State senior running back Martin Hicks was named the offensive player of the year while St. Augustine's senior line-backer Tyrone Pettaway took home the defensive honor. Hicks, a 5-8, 175-pound native of Oxford, N.C., ranked fourth in the conference in rushing with 987 yards on 147 attempts, an average of 6.7 yards per carry and 98.9 yards per game. He led the conference in touchdowns with 14 and in points scored with 86 or 8.6 per game. Pettaway, a Newport News, Va., native led a Falcons' defense that was among the nation's leaders. He finished second in the CIAA with 96 tackles, 53 solo stops and 43 assists. The all-conference team and players of the year were honored at the CIAA Football Championship Game Banquet on Thursday, November 3, 2005 in Durham, N.C.



WSSU Sports Photo

HICKS: Rushed for 989 yards, led CIAA with 14 TDs after 1,000-yard season in '04.

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE
TE - Jabre Green, Fr. St. Aug's - Pittsboro, NC
OL - Robert Duncan, Sr., NCCU - Winston-Salem, NC
OL - Jermaine LaFate, Jr., VSU - Wilmington, DE
OL - Robert Blocker, Jr., BSU - Chicago, IL
OL - Jerome Dunbar, So., WSSU, Aiken, SC
OL - Jamal Berry, Sr., BSU, Largo, MD
WR - Eddie Montgomery, Sr., St. Aug's, Gaffney, SC
WR - Glenn Thomas, Jr., BSU, Surtland, MD
OB - Jonathan Autry, So., FSU, Spring Lake, NC(1)
RB - Martin Hicks, Sr., WSSU, Oxford, NC
RB - Isaac Redman, So., BSU, Paulsboro, NJ
KR - P. J. Berry, Sr., VSU, Washington, DC(1)
PK - Brandon Gilbert, So., NCCU, Graham, NC

DEFENSE
DL - Tyreva Smith, Sr., BSU, Baltimore
DL - Ronald Dowdy, Sr., NCCU, Fayetteville, NC
DL - Jason Holman, Jr., WSSU, Richmond, VA
DL - Maceo Thomas, Jr., ECSU, Portsmouth, VA
LB - Tyrone Pettaway, Sr., St. Aug's, Newport News, VA
LB - Sterling Green, Sr., BSU, Hyattsville, MD
LB - Anthony Hicks, Jr., FSU, Wilmington, DE
DB - DeLaurence Walker, Sr., FSU, Wilmington, NC
DB - Greg Toler, Fr., St. Paul's, Washington, DC
DB - Torrance Nunally, Jr., Shaw, Danville, VA
DB - Pierre Lee, Sr., VSU, Colonial Hts., VA
P - Shaun Gutierrez, Fr., SPC, Oakland Park, FL
PR - Eddie Montgomery, Sr., SAC, Gaffney, SC

MVSU SOCCER TO FACE UCLA:

The Mississippi Valley State Devils, one day removed from capturing the school's first title in women's soccer, had another first as the team received the SWAC's first-ever automatic bid to the NCAA Women's College Cup, the NCAA's Div. I women's soccer tournament. The Devils (13-5-2) will travel to Los Angeles to face the national runner-up from last season, the Bruins of UCLA. The match will take place Friday, Nov. 11 at 5 p.m. at UCLA's Drake Stadium. MVSU is coached by 2005 SWAC Coach of the Year Dean Joseph and is led on the field by Sheena Cussen, Sonia Curvelo and goalie Maria Del Guercio. Cussen and Curvelo each had eight goals and three assists while Del Guercio had 85 saves on the season. The team had a five-game winning streak during the season and was unbeaten (2-0-1) during the conference tournament. The Pac-10 champion is 17-1-2 and is the No. 1 seed in the NCAA Regional (No. 3 seed overall). The meeting will be the first between the Bruins and the Devils. Other teams participating in the sub-regional include UC-Riverside (11-4-5) and Colorado (12-7-3).



MVSU Sports Photo

JOSEPH

BCSP TOP TEN

- HAMPTON (9-0)** - Beat Bethune-Cookman, 24-14 to clinch MEAC title. NEXT: Hosts Florida A&M.
- GRAMBLING STATE (7-1)** - Outlasted Alabama State, 32-27. NEXT: Hosting Concordia.
- SOUTH CAROLINA STATE (7-2)** - Defeated Howard, 23-9. NEXT: Hosts Morgan State Thursday on ESPNU.
- ALBANY STATE (8-1)** - Downed Fort Valley State, 41-23 to take SIAC crown. NEXT: NCAA Div. II first round playoff game at home vs. Central Arkansas.
- TUSKEGEE (9-1)** - Shut down Kentucky State, 31-13. Earns Pioneer Bowl berth. NEXT: Idle until Nov. 24 date at Alabama State.
- NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL (10-1)** - Beat Bowie State 26-23 in CIAA Championship Game. NEXT: First round bye in Div. II playoffs.
- ALABAMA A&M (7-2)** - Throttled Jackson State, 52-6. NEXT: Key SWAC E. Div. matchup with Alcorn State.
- ALABAMA STATE (6-3)** - Fall short vs. Grambling, 32-27. NEXT: At Mississippi Valley State trying to clinch SWAC East title.
- BETHUNE-COOKMAN (5-3)** - Fell to Hampton, 24-14. NEXT: Hosting Howard.
- FORT VALLEY STATE (7-3)** - Lost to Albany State, 41-23. NEXT: Season completed.
- BOWIE STATE (8-3)** - Lost CIAA title on last-second FG vs. NC Central, 26-23. NEXT: Likely in Pioneer Bowl vs. Tuskegee.
- ST. AUGUSTINE'S (8-2)** - Idle. NEXT: Season over.

BCSP Notes

GSU's Eugene returns to form
Grambling State QB Bruce Eugene has definitely returned to the form that allowed him to finish in the top three for the Walter Payton Award (best offensive player in Div. I-AA) in 2002 and 2003.

The senior has thrown for 2,858 yards and 35 touchdowns with just three interceptions with three games left on his regular season schedule. He has completed 56.8% (167 of 294) of his passes. He is second in total offense (360.8 ypg.) and passing efficiency (173.7) in I-AA.

With his four-TD performance Saturday vs. Alabama State, he has tied former Alcorn State and current NFL QB great Steve McNair with 118 career TD passes, second best in SWAC history.

NCCU repeats in CIAA Volleyball

The North Carolina Central Lady Eagles volleyball team took the conference volleyball championship for the second consecutive year Saturday with a 3-0 sweep (30-15, 30-18, 30-21) of Virginia

GAMES THIS WEEK

THURS., NOVEMBER 10		
SC State vs. Morgan State in Orangeburg, SC		7:30pm
SAT., NOVEMBER 12		
Delaware State vs. Norfolk State in Dover, DE		12 noon
Bethune-Cookman vs. Howard in Daytona Beach, FL		1:00pm
Grambling State vs. Concordia in Grambling, LA		1:00pm
Hampton vs. Florida A&M in Hampton, VA		1:00pm
North Greenville vs. Allen in Tigerville, SC		1:00pm
SE Missouri vs. Tennessee St. in Cape Girardeau, MO		1:00pm
Texas College vs. Bacone in Tyler, TX		1:00pm
Sav. State vs. Gardner Webb in Savannah, GA		1:30pm
Alcorn State vs. Alabama A&M in Alcorn State, MS		2:00pm
Langston vs. Haskell in Langston, OK		2:00pm
Miss. Valley State vs. Alabama State in Itta Bena, MS		2:30pm
Prairie View vs. Jackson State in Prairie View, TX		3:00pm
Ark.-Pine Bluff vs. Southern in Pine Bluff, AR		4:00pm
Texas-El Paso vs. Texas Southern in El Paso, TX		7:05pm
HOMECOMINGS		
Stilman vs. Lincoln (MO) in Tuscaloosa, AL		1:30pm
NCAA DIV II PLAYOFFS - 1st ROUND		
Albany State vs. Central Arkansas in Albany, GA		12 noon