

# SPORTS REVIEW

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## Are grid classics a case of overkill?

You could call 1991 a "classic" season for black college football. It seems that every game is billed as a "classic."

Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary defines classic as being of recognizable value; serving as a standard of excellence, traditional, enduring.

With that in mind, it is ludicrous that many of the matchups scheduled for 1991 would be called classics. But they are.

What's classic about a game between Hampton University and Alcorn State? They certainly aren't traditional rivals and neither serves as a standard of excellence. So why, pray tell, are they playing each other at the Silverdome in Pontiac, Mich. in the Motor City Classic?

The same yardstick can be applied to the South Florida Classic in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. that features South Carolina State and Bethune-Cookman.

True, it's a traditional matchup because both schools play each other every year as members of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference. But that's all that can be said for it.

Still, that game is more of a classic than a Bethune-Cookman vs. Morris Brown game. That one is being served up as the Conch Bowl Classic and will be played in the Bahamas. The Olympic City Classic, scheduled for Atlanta/Fulton County Stadium with Jackson State facing Morris Brown, shapes up as a classic mismatch.

What has happened is that promoters across the country have taken note of the increased interest in black college football in recent years. Now they're trying to capitalize on it. And athletic directors, facing budget cuts and growing pressure for their football programs to be self-supporting, are going right along with them. They look at the success that the Circle City Classic, Bayou Classic and Florida Classic have enjoyed and see dollar signs.

Schools are so blinded by it all, that they will sign a contract with some slick-talking Joe — who may or may not have two nickels to rub together — to play whoever can put 11 guys on the field, jack up ticket prices and head off to Timbuktu and call it a classic.

No one ever stops to think that not every game is a classic. Some football games are just football games. Most games are just football games.

It is inconceivable that in one season, any team

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## The Football Classics Schedule

DATE	CLASSIC/GAME	GAME TIME
Aug. 31	Georgia State vs. Jacksonville, Fla.	7 p.m. EST
	Lab City Weekend Classic @ Atlanta	5 p.m. EST
	Clark/Atlanta University vs. Morris Brown College	7:30 p.m. CST
	Heritage Bowl @ Miami	7 p.m. EST
	Tennessee State vs. Memphis	7 p.m. EST
	Alabama State vs. Southern	7:30 p.m. CST
	Whitney Young vs. @	7 p.m. EST
	Virginia Union vs. @	2 p.m. CST
	Circle City Classic @ Indianapolis	1 p.m. CST
	A&M vs. Alcorn State	2:30 p.m. EST
	Bayou Classic @ New Orleans	1 p.m. EST
	Florida Classic @ Tampa, Fla.	2 p.m. EST
	Florida A&M vs. Bethune-Cookman	7:30 p.m. EST
	South Florida vs. @ Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.	7 p.m. EST
	North Carolina vs. Bethune-Cookman	7 p.m. EST
	Atlanta Football Classic @ Atlanta	7 p.m. EST
	Southern University vs. South Carolina State	7:30 p.m. EST
	Motor City Classic @ Pontiac, Mich.	7 p.m. EST
	Hampton University vs. Alcorn State	1:30 p.m. EST
Oct. 5	Circle City Classic @ Indianapolis	1:30 p.m. EST
	Alcorn State vs. Howard University	7 p.m. EST
	Morehouse-Tuskegee Classic @ Columbus, Ga.	7 p.m. EST
	Morehouse College vs. Tuskegee University	7 p.m. EST
	South Florida vs. @ Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.	1 p.m. EST
	South Carolina vs. Bethune-Cookman	2 p.m. EST
Oct. 20	Heritage Bowl @ Miami	7 p.m. EST
	Florida A&M vs. South Carolina State	7 p.m. EST
Nov. 2	Circle City Classic @ Birmingham	1 p.m. CST
	Alabama A&M vs. Alabama State	7:30 p.m. EST
	Olympic City Classic @ Atlanta	7:30 p.m. EST
	Jackson State vs. Morris Brown College	2 p.m. EST
Nov. 9	Orange Blossom Classic @ Miami	2 p.m. EST
	Southern University vs. Florida A&M	7:30 p.m. EST
	Conch Bowl Classic @ Tampa, Fla.	7:30 p.m. EST
	Central State (Ohio) vs. @	7:30 p.m. EST
Nov. 16	Fountain City Classic @ Tampa, Fla.	7:30 p.m. EST
	Albany State vs. Fort Valley State	7:30 p.m. EST
	Conch Bowl Classic @ Tampa, Fla.	7:30 p.m. EST
	Morris Brown College vs. Bethune-Cookman	7:30 p.m. EST
	Hank Aaron Classic @ Mobile, Ala.	7:30 p.m. EST
	Jackson State vs. South Carolina State	7:30 p.m. EST
Nov. 23	Turkey Day Classic @ Montgomery	1 p.m. EST
	Johnson C. Smith vs. Alabama State	1 p.m. EST
Nov. 30	Bayou Classic @ New Orleans	3 p.m. CST
	Southern University vs. Grambling	3 p.m. CST
	Florida Classic @ Tampa, Fla.	7:30 p.m. EST
	Florida A&M vs. Bethune-Cookman	7:30 p.m. EST
Dec. 21	Heritage Bowl @ Miami	TBA
	MEAC champion vs. SWAC champion	TBA