

FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 21 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 27, 1999

1999 BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL (Results, Standings and Weekly Honors)

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



TSU FACES SHOWDOWN IN TUCSON

**TSU PREZ HEAFNER:** His office's control of program at center of NCAA investigation.

TOP-RANKED TSU TAKES ANOTHER TEAM TO ARIZONA FOR FRIDAY TEST

SCORES

Alabama A&M 28, Miss. Valley State 19
Albany State 26, Morehouse 3
Benedict 35, Langston 12
Bowie State 23, Johnson C. Smith 19
Chad. Southern vs. W. Va. St., cancelled
Cherry 12, Elizabeth City 7
Delaware State 26, Norfolk State 6
Fort Valley State 28, Morris Brown 21
Hampton 25, Arkansas Pine Bluff 13
Howard 31, Bethune-Cookman 27
Jackson State 31, Grambling State 6
Kentucky State 38, Clark Atlanta 7
Maryville 25, Stillman 6
Morgan State vs. S. C. State, cancelled
Southern 42, Prairie View 0
Tenn.-Chattanooga 49, Savannah State 0
Texas Southern 35, Lane 15
Troy State 27, Alabama State 20
Tuskegee 13, Miles 7
Virginia State 35, N. C. Central 28, OT
Virginia Union 24, Livingstone 6

CIAA

Virginia State 2 0 0 2 1 0
Virginia Union 1 0 0 2 1 0
Bowie State 1 0 0 2 1 0
Fayetteville St. 1 0 0 1 2 0
Winston-Salem St. 0 0 0 0 2 0
Livingstone 0 1 0 1 2 0
NC Central 0 1 0 0 3 0
Elizabeth City St. 0 1 0 0 3 0
J.C. Smith 0 2 0 0 3 0

CIAA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

OFFENSE (Receiver)

**DAMON THOMPSON**, Jr., WR, Virginia State - Had 11 catches for 165 yards including a 14-yarder in OT to secure win over N. C. Central.

OFFENSE (Back)

**ANTONIO HARRIS**, Jr., QB, Virginia State - Connected on 18 of 27 passes for 331 yards and two TDs in win over NCCU.

DEFENSE

**SONNY PRITCHETT**, Sr., LB, Bowie State - Had a team-high 13 total tackles, including seven solos, and four tackles for loss of seven yards in win over J. C. Smith.

SPECIAL TEAMS

**GERALD WASHINGTON**, Soph., Bowie State - Blocked an extra point attempt and a punt. Returned a punt 11 yards.

MEAC

Hampton 2 0 0 3 0 0
Florida A&M 1 0 0 1 2 0
Bethune-Cookman 1 1 0 2 1 0
Howard 1 1 0 1 2 0
Delaware State 1 1 0 1 2 0
SC State 0 0 0 2 0 0
NC A&T 0 0 0 2 0 0
Norfolk State 0 1 0 1 2 0
Morgan State 0 1 0 0 2 0

MEAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

OFFENSE

**ELIJAH THURMAN**, Jr., WR, Howard - Had 11 catches for 202 yards and two TDs vs. Bethune-Cookman including a 35-yard game-winner with 25 left in Howard's 31-27 victory.

DEFENSE

**RICHARD MASON**, Jr., LB, Delaware State - Totalled 11 tackles, five solos, two for losses and had a fumble recovery as Hornets broke 19-game losing streak.

OFFENSIVE LINEMAN

**MPUMI MASIMBI**, Sr., OG, Howard - Graded out at 98% as Bison racked up 512 yards of total offense against Bethune-Cookman.

ROOKIE

**JAMAL NAJAF**, Fr., DE, Norfolk State - Had 11 tackles and three sacks in loss to Del. State.

SIAC

Fort Valley 2 0 0 4 0 0
Kentucky St. 1 0 0 2 0 0
Tuskegee 1 0 0 3 0 0
Miles 2 2 0 2 2 0
Albany State 1 1 0 2 2 0
Clark Atlanta 0 2 0 0 3 0
Lane 0 2 0 0 3 0
Morehouse 0 2 0 0 3 0
Savannah St. 2 2 0
Morris Brown 2 2 0

SIAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

OFFENSE

**LAVERN WHITE**, Jr., RB, Fort Valley State - Rushed for 135 yards on 20 carries and scored three TDs (35, 12 and 6) in 28-21 win over Morris Brown.

DEFENSE

**ANDRE DUDLEY**, Sr., DE, Tuskegee - Had ten solo hits, two sacks for -18 yards and had a pass break-up in win over Miles.

SPECIAL TEAMS

**CHRIS POINTER**, Sr., KR, Kentucky State - Returned four punts for 59 yards including one 55 yards for TD in win over Clark Atlanta. Pointer added a 55-yard TD run off a fumble recovery.

SWAC

Alabama A&M 1 0 0 2 1 0
Alcorn State 1 0 0 1 1 0
Jackson State 0 0 0 2 1 0
Miss. Valley St. 0 1 0 0 3 0
Alabama State 0 1 0 0 3 0

SWAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

OFFENSE

**DESTROY WRIGHT**, Sr., RB, Jackson State - Accounted for 224 yards of total offense, 163 rushing on 24 carries with one TD, 61 on four catches and a TD in win over Grambling.

DEFENSE

**YOUSSEF HEAD**, Sr., LB, Jackson State - Had nine tackles, seven solos, four for -14 yards, a sack and a pass break-up vs. Grambling.

SPECIAL TEAMS

**MATT BUSHART**, Sr., P, Southern - Averaged 43.6 yards on seven punts with long of 50 yards in win over Prairie View.

INDEPENDENTS

Tennessee State 3 0 0
W. Va. State 2 1 0
Benedict 2 2 0
Langston 1 1 0
Cheyney 1 2 0
Stillman 0 3 0

BCSP PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

OFFENSE

**LEON MURRAY**, Sr., QB, Tennessee State - Sparked again, completing 25 of 41 passes for 345 yards and four TDs (43, 15, 43 and 57), with no interceptions in 42-25 win over Florida A&M.

DEFENSE

**JULIUS HULL**, Jr., WR, Tennessee State - Caught five of Murray's aerials for 137 yards and three TDs (43, 43 and 57).

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

TSU MAKING A MOVE: Tennessee State (3-0), fresh off a 42-25 win over defending black college champion

Florida A&M Saturday, moved up to eighth in the latest Sports Network NCAA Div. I-AA poll, receiving one first place vote. TSU is also eighth in the USA Today/ESPN I-AA poll where they received two first place votes. Meanwhile, QB Leon Murray, who has passed for 888 yards, 10 TDs and no interceptions in the Blue Tigers three games is nursing a hyper-extended knee he suffered in the fourth quarter of the FAMU game. Murray, who left the game late in the fourth quarter with his knee packed in ice, has led TSU to 447 yards and 43.7 points per game. He has two weeks to rest before an Oct. 2 date at Alabama A&M. Hampton (3-0) and Southern (3-0) are ninth and tenth in the ESPN poll while FAMU (1-2) fell into a tie for 18th. Jackson State (2-1) is 21st. Hampton (10), Southern (12), FAMU (19) and Jackson State (21) made the Sports Network Top 25.



Wade Nash photo

**MURRAY:** Blue Tigers signal caller nursing injured knee.

Classics, inter-conference games close first month



Wade Nash Photo

**HAIL TO THE KING:** Henry "Hank" Aaron, shown here speaking before the start of Saturday's Tennessee State/Florida A&M game, was honored in pregame ceremonies. Twenty-five (25) years ago Aaron hit home run #715 to surpass Babe Ruth as the major league's all-time home run king.

LUT WILLIAMS BCSP Editor

A mixture of conference and non-conference games highlight this week's schedule as the first month of the season comes to a close. Key non-conference matchups are on the classic schedule.

Grambling State (0-0) SWAC West, 2-1) suffered their first loss last week against Jackson State and has the unenviable task of trying to rebound against #2 Hampton (2-0 MEAC, 3-0) in the 22nd Urban League Classic at Giants Stadium in the Meadowlands (5:00 pm). Grambling has not beaten Hampton since 1994, the year that former coach Eddie Robinson posted his last winning season which included a trip to the Heritage Bowl. Coach Joe Taylor's troops have won three straight including last year's 28-15 triumph over the Doug Williams-led Tigers.

Bethune-Cookman (0-1 MEAC, 2-1) also hopes to get back on the winning track in Fort Lauderdale's South

Florida Classic (7 pm) as they take on Morris Brown (2-2). B-CC was knocked from the unbeaten ranks in a last minute loss to Howard. Mo Brown has won two close games and lost two close ones.

Also on the non-conference schedule, North Carolina A&T (0-0 MEAC, 2-0) travels to Elon (3-0) in a battle of unbeaten (2 pm). Howard (1-1 MEAC, 1-2) hosts Texas Southern (1-0 SWAC West, 1-2) in Washington, D. C. (1 pm).

South Carolina State (0-0 MEAC, 2-0) and Florida A&M (1-0, 1-2) moved their MEAC contest to Jacksonville's All-tell Stadium for the 63rd Orange Blossom Classic (3 pm). SCSU hasn't beaten FAMU since 1994, when they finished 10-2 and appeared in Heritage Bowl IV.

Virginia Union (1-0 CIAA, 2-1) is at home to Winston-Salem State (0-0 CIAA, 0-2) in a battle of CIAA favorites while SIAC leader Fort Valley State (2-0 SIAC, 4-0) is at dangerous Kentucky State (1-0 SIAC, 2-2) at 1:30 pm.

GAMES THIS WEEK

<b>SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1999</b>	
Alabama A&M vs. Prairie View A&M in Huntsville, AL	6:30p
Arkansas-Pine Bluff vs. Alcorn State in Little Rock, AR	7:00p
Bowie State vs. Livingstone in Bowie, MD	1:00p
Bucknell vs. Delaware State in Lewisburg, PA	12:30p
Elizabeth City State vs. J.C. Smith in Eliz. City, NC	7:00p
Elon vs. North Carolina A&T in Elon, NC	2:00p
Howard vs. Texas Southern in Washington, DC	1:00p
Jackson State vs. Miss. Valley State in Jackson, MS	6:30p
Kentucky State vs. Fort Valley State in Frankfort, KY	1:30p
Lane vs. Morehouse in Jackson, TN	1:00p
Liberty vs. Fayetteville State in Lynchburg, VA	7:00p
Lincoln (MO) vs. Kemper Military in Jeff. City, MO	2:00p
Lock Haven vs. Cheyney in Lock Haven, PA	2:00p
Miles vs. Clark Atlanta in Fairfield, AL	1:30p
N. C. Central vs. Benedict in Durham, NC	4:00p
Rhode Island vs. Morgan State in Providence, RI	12:00p
Virginia Union vs. W-Salem State in Richmond, VA	7:00p
<b>CLASSICS</b>	
26th Gulf Coast Classic	
Alabama State vs. Southern in Mobile, AL	7:00p
South Florida Classic	
Bethune-Cookman vs. Morris Brown in Ft. Lauderdale	7:00p
63rd Orange Blossom Classic	
Florida A&M vs. S.C. State in Jacksonville, FL	3:00p
22nd Whitney Young Urban League Classic	
Hampton vs. Grambling State in E. Rutherford, NJ	5:00p
6th Joe Turner Classic	
Savannah State vs. Virginia State in Savannah, GA	5:30p

Tennessee State ready to face the music

LUT WILLIAMS BCSP Editor

The biggest event on this week's black college schedule may be Tennessee State's date with NCAA officials Friday morning in Tucson, Arizona.

That's where and when TSU officials, including President Dr. James Heafner and new athletics director Dr. James Smith, get to answer questions related to NCAA charges of "lack of institutional control" over its athletics program.

An investigation by a university committee into the charges this summer uncovered

several infractions and imposed a series of internal sanctions aimed at heading off more stringent NCAA measures.

Heafner said Saturday in Atlanta that nearly a dozen school officials will be attending the inquiry including key members of the committee that conducted the self-study.

"We feel that what we will say to them will be very important because we're going to tell the truth," said Heafner. "There are some things that we self-reported that we did wrong and we're going to admit that. And there's nothing wrong with that.

We've imposed many sanctions on ourselves and I think that what they'll see is that what we have done is not only in the best interest of Tennessee State but of NCAA rules and regulations."

Head football coach L. C. Cole and his brother, former Tiger's offensive coordinator, Johnny Cole, are scheduled to testify and answer questions before the NCAA Infractions Committee. Johnny Cole has been banned from the staff for the year while L. C. Cole has been barred from off-campus recruiting and had his salary frozen as a result of the internal

investigation.

Smith, who was hired as AD in mid-August after several years as an assistant athletic director at the University of Memphis, was given the job to right the athletic department ship after it had apparently floundered for the past three years.

"When we selected James Smith, we selected someone that the NCAA has a lot of respect for," Heafner said. "He will be there to let them know the changes that have been made thus far since he's been on board, and they've been signifi-



Tennessee State Photo  
**NEW MAN:** New AD James Smith expected to boost TSU's appearance before the NCAA.

cant and dramatic." The NCAA's decision is not expected until late October or early November.

Williams, Grambling not there yet

ROSCOE NANCE Special to the BCSP

Don't look now, but Grambling State could be on the verge of reclaiming its spot among black college football's elite.

After four consecutive losing seasons, the G-Men began the season 2-0 for the first time since 1994 before losing to Jackson State this past weekend. What's more, they are packing the kind of offensive wallop they carried in their halcyon days, averaging almost 28 points a game.

But Doug Williams, in his second season as the successor to legendary head coach Eddie Robinson, isn't proclaiming that Grambling is back being the program that struck fear in opponents' hearts for so many years.

"We're just in our second year," says Williams. "We're not in a reloading situation. We're rebuilding. That's not overnight. It's good for the program that we're where we are but we have to be prepared if things don't work out. We have to be fair. This is not basketball... Give me a center, a point guard, a rebounder and somebody who can shoot, and we can turn it around. Football is a little different."

Still Williams is pleased with the start the Tigers have gotten off to after four consecutive losing seasons and not finishing higher than fourth in the Southwestern Athletic Conference during that period. A big step in their continued growth is a date this weekend at Giants Stadium in the Meadowlands with BCSP #2 Hampton.

"This is the kind of start you want and you expect," he says. It goes without saying that other SWAC coaches are taking notice of the way Grambling has gotten out of the gate.

"Overall they've improved tremendously, and Doug has a good club," says Alcorn State coach Johnny Thomas, who started nine true freshmen on defense in the Braves' 41-25 season opening loss



All Pro Photography

**WILLIAMS:** Has Tigers on the right track to restoring winning tradition.

to Grambling in Chicago. "They took advantage of our youth and inexperience. They are significantly improved in passing and running. Their defense is strong enough to stop people from scoring and winning. They're not back to the Grambling of old to the extent where they line up and dominate you. They took advantage of our mistakes. That's what good clubs do. They will get back to that I'm sure. Doug has them heading in that direction."

Williams attributes much of Grambling's success to his coaching staff, which includes several NFL players.

Todd Bowles, a cornerback with the Washington Redskins when Williams was their quarterback, is the defensive coordinator. Former Minnesota Vikings wide receiver Sammie White, a Grambling alum, is receivers coach. Matthew Reed, another Grambling product and one of the first black quarterbacks in the NFL, is quarterback coach. One-time Pittsburgh Steelers guard Tyrone McGriff, a Florida A&M product, coaches the offensive line, and Ernest Sterling, who played for the Dallas Cowboys and the only holdover from Robinson's staff, coaches the defensive line. Sterling is in his 26th season at his alma mater.

"We're fortunate to have them," says Williams. "This our second year together.

We as coaches have a better command and understanding of who we have on the team. Having coaches who played in the NFL creates a lot of respect. When one of the coaches talks to you he can't be telling you something wrong. He knows what he's talking about. Nine out of 10 times he's experienced or he has seen it. He's been there."

Former Southern University defensive back Heishma Northern (running backs), Melvin Spears (offensive coordinator), Michael Roach (linebackers) and Leonard Griffin (strength and conditioning) complete the coaching staff.

But regardless of how accomplished his coaching staff is, Williams understands that ultimately it's players who win games. He cites improved attitudes among the G-Men as another key element this season.

"The kids came back in shape, worked hard and they are confident," he says.

The talent level is also higher than it has been in recent years. Freshman running back Trey White, the son of receivers coach Sammie White, was one of the most sought after athletes in Louisiana. He had scholarship offers from Miami (Fla.), Notre Dame and Tennessee and was recruited by virtually every major college in the nation.

But he has seen only spot action behind Walter Williams, who leads the Southwestern Athletic Conference in rushing. Windell Alvin, a 6-4, 290-pound offensive tackle from Riviera Beach, Fla., and defensive end Antwan Lawrence (6-1, 230) from Brunswick, Ga., were also blue chippers.

Quarterback Lionel Hayes is much improved and is the No. 1 passer in the SWAC. As good as Hayes has been this season, Williams thinks he can improve as the season progresses.

"As a coach and a fan, you look at it and say Lionel is having a great year," says Williams. "The numbers point to that. We

feel he could have even a better year with a few better decisions. He has better understanding of what we're trying to do, the scheme we're running. He looks at it a little different than last year when it was more getting the ball to the open guy and not worrying about why. He threw interceptions last year because a guy might have been open on one particular play and he thought he would be open again."

Hayes has thrown just one interception in 90 attempts this season and has 10 touchdown passes, including six against Alcorn. He threw 19 touchdowns with 11 interceptions, last season and completed 49% of his passes.

If Hayes keeps up that touchdown-to-interception ratio, Williams thinks Grambling will have an excellent chance to capture the SWAC Western Division championship and play for the conference title on Dec. 11 in Birmingham, Ala.

"When you go to camp you have that in mind," says Williams. "If you don't, you shouldn't be practicing. If you play well and things go right, that happens. It's no different than the (expansion) Cleveland Browns thinking they're going to the Super Bowl."

"Turnovers, mistakes and staying focused will be the key to the rest of the season. They're handling our early success pretty good. We try to keep them down to earth. We tell them to enjoy tonight because we have a game next week."

Many observers looked at the Jackson State game as the yardstick that would measure exactly where the Grambling program is. Williams disagrees with that kind of thinking.

"I don't look at it as a measuring stick," he says. "You can't as a coach. It's just another game."

Even though Grambling lost, the Tigers are still in excellent position to win the SWAC West title since Jackson State is in the Eastern Division and their game didn't count in the league standings.