

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

FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 9 THROUGH NOVEMBER 15, 1999

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



POST SEASON PICTURE CLEARING

HAYES: Has Aggies on six-game winning streak as FAMU comes in.

FAMU / A&T BATTLE FOR MEAC TITLE; TENN STATE LOOKS TO REPEAT IN OVC

SCORES

Table with columns for team names and scores. Includes Albany State 34, Livingston 13, etc.

CIAA

Table with columns for CONF and ALL. Includes Virginia State 7, 0, 0, 7, 2, 0, etc.

MEAC

Table with columns for CONF and ALL. Includes Florida A&M 6, 0, 0, 7, 2, 0, etc.

SIAC

Table with columns for CONF and ALL. Includes Fort Valley 5, 0, 0, 10, 0, 0, etc.

SWAC

Table with columns for DIV and ALL. Includes Jackson State 3, 0, 0, 7, 2, 0, etc.

INDEPENDENTS

Table with columns for W, L, T. Includes Tennessee State 9, 0, 0, etc.

CIAA PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

OFFENSE (Back) ANTONIO HAWKINS, Jr., QB, Va. State - Completed 20 of 31 passes for 383 yards and four TDs in win over Bowie State.

BCSP MEAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

OFFENSE JAJAH SEIDER, Sr., QB, Florida A&M - Hit on 30 of 46 passes for 295 yards and three scores and ran 17 times for 115 yards and two TDs in 65-18 rout of Southern.

SIAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

OFFENSE JASON BROOKINGS, Jr., TB, Lane - Gained 150 yards on 20 carries and caught three passes for 38 yards with one TD.

SWAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

OFFENSE COREY HOLMES, Jr., TB, Miss. Valley St. - Holmes chosen for third straight week after rushing up 237 yards on 49 carries and scoring four TDs in win over Alcorn State.

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK OFFENSE

AMARIAH ROBB, Jr., TB, Tennessee State - Robb turned in the third-best rushing performance in Tennessee State history, picking up a career-high 213 yards and a touchdown on 24 carries as the Tigers defeated Tennessee Tech 25-19.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

WHERE TO BOWL?: With just over a month left before game time, no one knows where or when the third annual Pioneer Bowl is going to be played.



CIAA Photo

KERRY: Which way Pioneer Bowl? Herndon Stadium in Atlanta on the campus of Morris Brown College has been the site of the first two games but may not be the first choice this year.

DOUBLEHEADER, ANYONE:

Don't go to Salisbury, N. C., this Saturday looking for the Livingstone vs. Fayetteville State game. It's been switched to Greensboro, N. C., at Dudley High School.

HOOP PACKAGE:

The MEAC has announced that Home Team Sports (HTS) will televise 11 games, including two women's contests as part of their regular season conference TV package.

GAMES SCHEDULED

- 1/8 - Coppin State at Beth.-Cookman or NC A&T at Howard, 4 pm
1/15 - Md. Eastern Shore at Morgan State, 4 pm
1/17 - Del State at Hampton (Men and Women)
1/22 - Norfolk State at Morgan State, 12 noon
1/29 - Del State at Morgan State, 12 noon
2/5 - Hampton at S. C. State, 12 noon
2/12 - Howard at NC A&T, 2 pm (Men and Women)
2/19 - S. C. State at Florida A&M, 12 noon
2/26 - Florida A&M vs. Bethune-Cookman, 9:30 pm

Playoff, bowl berths on the line Saturday

LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

Several black college football teams have clinched conference titles and are assured of postseason play as the season heads into its final three weeks.

INDEPENDENTS

Tennessee State (5-0 OVC, 9-0) has remained unbeaten, atop the BCSP rankings and #2 in Div. I-AA despite playing the last two games without injured all-American QB Leon Murray.



Tenn. St. Sports Photo

Murray hurt his knee Oct. 23 in the third quarter of the Blue Tigers win over Western Kentucky but has put off surgery. He has reportedly been fitted with a special knee brace and will play if necessary.

Even with a loss, the Tigers are probably still in the playoff picture because of their high ranking and wins over ranked teams Florida A&M and Jackson

State. They end the regular season Nov. 20 at Southeast Missouri State.

MEAC

The winner of Saturday's showdown in Greensboro (1 p. m.) between Florida A&M (6-0 MEAC, 7-2) and North Carolina A&T (6-0 MEAC, 8-1) will win the MEAC championship and earn the conference's automatic bid to the I-AA playoffs that begin Nov. 27.

FAMU, ranked eighth in the latest Sports Network poll, would have the best shot at getting in after a loss based on their high-ranking and two quality losses to Div. I Big-East power Miami and to I-AA's second-ranked team, Tennessee State.

A&T is ranked 23rd in the latest poll and probably has no shot at the playoffs with a loss. The only blemish on their record so far, an embarrassing 40-7 loss to Elon, a team sitting at 21st in the I-AA poll, is the chief reason.

Last year, FAMU defeated A&T 51-12 in Tallahassee. In that game, Rattler head coach Billy Joe called time with less than a minute left in the game with his team up 44-12 to give them time for another score A&T head coach Billy Hayes remembers.

SWAC

The SWAC has the most work left before deciding who will be representing their East and West Divisions in the inaugural conference championship game Dec. 11 in Birmingham and in the Heritage Bowl a week later.

In the East, Jackson State (3-0 SWAC East, 7-2) has beaten all division opponents except Alcorn State (1-1 SWAC East, 3-5). If Alcorn loses Saturday vs. Alabama A&M (1:30 p. m.), the East title belongs to JSU.

Texas Southern (3-0 SWAC West, 5-4) can capture the West Division title with a win Saturday at home against Southern (2-0 SWAC West, 8-1).

CIAA

Winston-Salem State (7-0 CIAA, 7-2) has claimed their first CIAA crown since 1991 and will represent the

1999 BCSP TOP TEN

- 1. TENNESSEE STATE (9-0) - Nine down, two to go after 25-19 win over Tenn. Tech. NEXT: Hosting Murray State for OVC title.
2. FLORIDA A&M (7-2) - Gulf Coast offense in peak form in 65-18 win over Southern. NEXT: Showdown in Greensboro with NC A&T for MEAC championship.
3. NORTH CAROLINA A&T (8-1) - Escaped upset-minded Delaware State, 24-13. NEXT: Hosting veritable MEAC championship game vs. Florida A&M.
4. SOUTHERN (8-1) - Drubbed by FAMU, 65-18. NEXT: At Texas Southern with SWAC West lead at stake.
5. FORT VALLEY STATE (10-0) - Downed Benedict, 24-17. NEXT: Looks for perfect regular season in Columbus, Ga. vs. Albany State.
6. JACKSON STATE (7-2) - Got by Texas Southern, 41-24. NEXT: At the University of New Haven (no kidding).
7. WINSTON-SALEM STATE (7-2) - CIAA champs completed perfect CIAA season, 21-0 over Elizabeth City. NEXT: Ends regular season at San Diego's Gold Coast Classic vs. I-AA Grambling State.
8. VIRGINIA UNION (7-2) - Whipped Fayetteville State, 49-14. NEXT: Ends season at J. C. Smith.
9. TUSKEGEE (7-2) - Downed Lane, 36-28. NEXT: Hosting Savannah State.
10. BETHUNE-COOKMAN (5-3) - Put away Hampton 34-27 in overtime. NEXT: At Norfolk State.
OTHERS: GRAMBLING STATE (5-3), HAMPTON (8-4), HOWARD (4-5)

conference in December's Pioneer Bowl unless a minor miracle occurs and they earn their way into the top four spots in the Div. II South Region. Headed into their regular season finale in San Diego vs. Grambling State, (the Rams are ranked seventh and need to get into the top four to make the playoff field. That's not likely even if they beat the Tigers, a Div. I-AA and SWAC member. Look for the Rams in Atlanta or wherever the Pioneer Bowl is to be played.

SIAC

Like WSSU, Fort Valley State (5-0 SIAC, 10-0) has claimed their first conference title since 1991. But unlike the Rams, the Wildcats could conceivably lose their season-ender this Saturday (Columbus, Ga., 1:30 p. m.) to Albany State (3-2 SIAC, 6-3) and still make the playoffs which begin Nov. 20.

The 'Cats will be ranked (Tuesday) fifth or sixth in the nation and will remain behind national number one Carson-Newman in the South Region. Even with a loss they should remain in the top four in the region. But, one never knows? Stranger things have happened. If the unthinkable happens and the 'Cats lose and are kept out of the playoffs, let the protests begin.

Tuskegee (5-1 SIAC, 7-2), who has locked up second place in the SIAC, is likely to return to the Pioneer Bowl representing the conference.

Jaguar Nation goes wherever beloved Jags play

ROSCOE NANCE

BCSP Correspondent

No distance is too great, no location too remote for Southern University football fans to travel to watch the Jaguars play.

If Southern were to schedule a game in East Hell, the Jaguar Nation, as its fans are known, would be there in full force.

"It's just the Southern spirit," says Karryl Stewart, a 1996 Southern graduate from Baton Rouge who has followed the Jaguars since she was two years old. "We're always going to bring a crowd."

The Jaguar Nation has been estimated to number 30,000-40,000 die-hard Southern fans who will hit the road in the blink of an eye to support their team. And when they reach their destination, they make their presence known. Many of them arrive the Friday evening before the game in RVs and set up camp. On game day, they rise early and start preparing food for tailgate parties and engaging in pregame revelry. It's a spectacle that can be unsettling for opposing teams and even some times negate their home-field advantage.

They were the greater part of a crowd of 50,000-plus in Indianapolis when Southern faced Hampton in the Circle City Classic on October 2. Close to 50 RVs and buses with Louisiana tags were in place Friday afternoon for the Saturday afternoon game.

They helped fill up Jackson, Mississippi's 62,000-seat Memorial Stadium

when the Jaguars did battle with Jackson State. They literally took over the parking lot prior to the Oct. 16 game including all the spaces for the media. And it was only 10:30 in the morning.

"It shakes a team up," says Mississippi Valley State athletic director Chuck Prophet. "You come out and see 15 or 20 RVs and people cooking and laughing and you know they're not your fans. Players haven't seen anything like that. It affects them."

Southern's opponents have a love-hate relationship with the Jaguar Nation. They hate the idea of Southern having as much or sometimes more fan support than they do, but they love the revenue that Jaguar fans generate.

"We made a ton of money off the Southern game," says Prophet. Southern wasn't on Mississippi Valley's schedule this season because the schools are not in the same division as the Southwestern Athletic Conference went to a two-division format. But efforts are underway to renew the series. If and when it does resume, the Jaguar Nation can be counted on to come pouring into Ita Bena.

"It makes it a lot easier to play on the road when you know you have as many fans in the stadium as somebody else," says Southern coach Pete Richardson. "Our fans just like to travel."

Says quarterback Troy Williams: "It's great to go on a road trip and have more fans than the home team. It's a great motivation. It gets you pumped up."

Jewel Jefferson, better known as



Southern Sports Photo

EDMOND: Travelling Southern fans helped swell crowds at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis and Jackson's Memorial Stadium to over 50,000. Jaguars interim athletic director says fan support is evidence of the school's unity.

Mama Jag, is acknowledged as the queen of the Jaguar Nation. Jefferson, 73, has followed the Jaguars for the past 35 years beginning when she was manager of the athletic dining hall.

"I follow them because we have a coach who don't take no shucking and jiving and no bending and begging," says Jefferson, who can't remember the last time she missed a game. "I might not have many more (games)."

Jefferson epitomizes the Jaguar Nation. Win, lose or draw, she roots for Southern. She and the thousands of Southern fans who journeyed to Tall-

hassee Saturday and suffered through the Jaguars' 65-18 drubbing at the hands of Florida A&M stayed until the bitter end.

Even though the Rattlers dominated their beloved Jags, Southern fans were unbowed. They even complained prior to the game that the school was not allotted enough tickets.

"We'll always be No.1," said Tarnesha Covington during a lively postgame debate with Rattler fans. A senior from Houston, Covington has not missed a game since enrolling at Southern.

Covington says she starts planning for road trips as soon as the season ends and saves money during the summer for her fall junkets.

"We come in packs," she says. "We just have love for our school."

And they are not averse to traveling to the four corners of the world to display that love.

"It doesn't matter whether we win or lose," says Southern interim athletic director Brenda Edmond. "They still follow us. It's indescribable. Their support means so much to the staff and the student athletes. It makes it easy for us to do our jobs when we know we have the Jaguar Nation's support. There are several reasons they support us the way they do. They know we appreciate their support. Also, it's a show of support for the institution. Our fans have figured out we can do more when we come together."