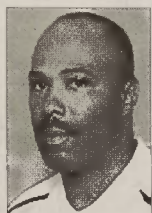


FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 26 - JAN. 1, 2007

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS



Alabama A&M Sports Photo CONNOR: Named new head coach at Benedict after helping Alabama A&M win first SWAC title.

FOOTBALL WRAPS

FINAL BCSP TOP TEN; INDIVIDUAL STATS AND BEST ATTENDED GAMES

NCCU, Hampton tie for top spot

LUT WILLIAMS BCSP Editor

As is often the case, determining the No. 1 black college football team in the final BCSP Top Ten came down to a couple of choices.

CIAA champion North Carolina Central and MEAC champion Hampton were the obvious picks as their seasons ranked head-and-shoulders above everyone else.

Hampton, led by veteran coach Joe Taylor, was the preseason No. 1 and held that position as it went undefeated through seven weeks of the regular season until its 13-6 loss at South Carolina State on October 21, its only blemish during a 10-1 campaign.

NCCU, under fourth-year head coach Rod Broadway, began the season ranked fifth behind Hampton, Grambling State, South Carolina State and Alabama A&M. The Eagles however kept their record clean as the others faltered and moved into the top spot after Hampton's loss.

After winning their respective conference championships - Hampton's third straight MEAC crown and NCCU's second straight CIAA title - both veteran teams would enter the postseason with confidence and lofty ambitions of a deep run in the playoffs.

Neither would see those ambitions realized however, with each losing its first game in the playoffs at home in the round of 16. Hampton dropped a 41-38 heart-breaker to New Hampshire while NCCU was thwarted by Delta State, 24-17.

Any difference between the two is slight that's why we're ranking both NC Central and Hampton at the top of the 2006 final BCSP Top Ten.

It's NCCU and Broadway's first No. 1 final ranking and only their second time in the Top Ten. The Eagles finished fourth last season.

This is Hampton's second time finishing on top of the BCSP Top Ten. The Pirates finished alone on top in 1997. Hampton was second in 1994, 2003 and 2004.

Behind the Eagles and Pirates are two



BROADWAY: Leads NCCU to second straight CIAA crown, first No. 1 finish.

SWAC teams that emerged from a crowded field to compete for that conference's championship.

Alabama A&M (9-3) takes third by virtue of the Bulldogs first conference championship since joining the SWAC in 1996. And it took them four tries to do it.

Finally this year, with Grambling, the team that beat them in three other SWAC Championship games out of the way, the Anthony Jones' Bulldogs prevailed knocking off Arkansas-Pine Bluff 22-13 in

the title game. The UAPB Golden Lions (9-4) were perhaps the Cinderella story of 2006. Head coach Mo Forte's troops were picked to finish fourth in the West Division by league coaches but ran past perennial division kingpins Southern and Grambling in the midst of a seven-game winning streak that garnered them the division title.

Handicapped in the SWAC championship game, they bowed to A&M, 22-13. The Golden Lions occupy the fourth spot. If the glass slipper didn't fit UAPB then it certainly wore well for 9-3 Elizabeth City State under head coach Waverly Tiller. The Vikings, picked fifth in the division in preseason voting by CIAA coaches, rolled undefeated to the conference's East Division title, battled NC Central on near even terms in the league's title game and then battled gamely in the Div II playoffs.

The Vikings earned their fifth place standing in the final ranking. Albany State (7-4), which won its fourth straight SIAC crown under James "Mike" White and made a third straight trip to the D2 playoffs, holds down number six. Delaware State, who cemented its place behind Hampton in the MEAC with its second straight second-place finish, is seventh.

South Carolina State (7-4), rebounded from a shaky start to tie Delta State for second in the MEAC. The Bulldogs, under Buddy Pough, are eighth.

Tuskegee (9-3), in new coach Willie Slater's first season, was the only SIAC team to knock off Albany State but faltered against lesser SIAC opponents to finish behind the Golden Rams. They hold down the ninth spot.

Johnston C. Smith (CIAA) and Florida A&M (MEAC), both finished 7-4 and made huge strides towards respectability in their

FINAL BCSP TOP TEN

- 1. NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL (11-1) - Undeafated (11-0) regular season and second straight CIAA championship with its only loss coming in the second round of the NCAA Div II playoffs (to Delta State) gives Rod Broadway's troops a share of the top spot in the final BCSP rankings, a first for the Eagles. (TIE) HAMPTON (10-2) - Threepeated as MEAC champion and inched even closer to getting a first round I-AA (now Championship Division) win, losing a heart-breaker to New Hampshire. Joe Taylor's troops tie with NCCU as the best team in black college football. 3. ALABAMA A&M (9-3) - SWAC East Division champ Bulldogs under Anthony Jones grab their first SWAC championship game victory in four tries with 22-13 win over Arkansas-Pine Bluff. 4. ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF (8-4) - Seven-game winning streak propelled Mo Forte's squad to SWAC West Division title leaving perennial powers Grambling and Southern in its wake. Lost in SWAC title game. 5. ELIZABETH CITY STATE (9-3) - CIAA East Div champ and conference runner-up earned first-ever NCAA Div II playoff berth. Lost 17-10 to Delta State. All three losses were in Div II playoff teams. 6. ALBANY STATE (7-4) - The Golden Rams ran to their fourth straight SIAC title before falling to Newberry (34-28) in a first round Div II playoff game. 7. DELAWARE STATE (9-2) - Al Lavan's troops took some luster off an excellent regular season with a season-ending loss to Howard. Tied for second in MEAC. 8. SOUTH CAROLINA STATE (7-4) - Lost three of its first four games to send coach Buddy Pough back to drawing board and then won six of seven to finish tied for second in MEAC with Delaware State. 9. TUSKEGEE (9-3) - Shocking losses to Miles and Clark Atlanta with big wins over Albany State, Alabama State and JC Smith in Pioneer Bowl. Finished second in SIAC. 10. J.C. SMITH (7-4) - From winless 2005 campaign to Pioneer Bowl appearance, second place in CIAA West. (TIE) FLORIDA A&M (7-4) - Fought their way back to respectability with solo third place finish in MEAC.



TAYLOR: Three straight MEAC titles and three straight trips to the playoff floor.

THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS



JAVARRIS WILLIAMS RUBEN DUPREE JACOBY JONES ERIC WEEMS

FINAL INDIVIDUAL STATISTICAL LEADERS

Through all games

Table with columns: RUSHING YDS, TEAM, CL, G, Att, Yds, Avg, TD, Yds/G. Includes players like Javarris Williams, Nathaniel Queen, DeShawn Baker, Derrick Moss, Emmanuel Marc, Martell Mallett.

Table with columns: PASSING YDS, TEAM, CL, G, Att, Yds, Avg, TD, Yds/G. Includes players like Ruben Dupree, Sherard Ellis, Kendrick Dozier, Chas. McCollum, Stafford Brown, Kevin Huff.

Table with columns: TOTAL OFFENSE, TEAM, CL, G, Rush, Pass, Plays, Total, Yds/G. Includes players like Sherard Ellis, Kendrick Dozier, Lamar Little, Albert Chester, Ruben Dupree, Jimmy Oliver, Chas. McCollum, Stafford Brown, Kevin Huff.

Table with columns: REC. / GAME, TEAM, CL, G, Rec, Yds, Avg, TD, Yds/G. Includes players like Eric Weems, Jacoby Jones, Roosevelt Kiser, Dominique Curry, Ravenell Dupree, Davian Richards, Clyde Edwards, Shaheer McBride, Gerhard Landry.

Table with columns: REC. YARDS / GAME, TEAM, CL, G, Rec, Yds, TD, Avg, Yds/G. Includes players like Dominique Curry, Eric Weems, Jacoby Jones, Shaheer McBride, Charles Futrell.

Table with columns: ALL PURPOSE, TEAM, CL, G, Rush, Pass, Rec, KR, Yds, Avg. Includes players like Jacoby Jones, Roosevelt Kiser, Dedrick Poole, Tyrone Baisden, Javarris Williams, Eric Weems, Nathaniel Queen, Emmanuel Marc.

Table with columns: INTERCEPTIONS, TEAM, CL, G, Int, Yds, TD, Avg. Includes players like Andre George, Justin Hamilton, Leon Johnson, Leo Spears, Craig Amos, D. Cromaris-Rodgers, Pierre Marshall, Steward Francis, Frank Moore.

Table with columns: PUNT RETURNS, TEAM, CL, G, Ret, Yds, TD, Avg. Includes players like Nate Hughes, Eric Weems, Billy Weigars, Marcus Bellon, Jacoby Jones, Brandon Alston, Brandon Hudson.

Table with columns: KICK RETURNS, TEAM, CL, G, Ret, Yds, TD, Avg. Includes players like Kevin Teel, De'Audre Dix, Kadafi Tunali, Dedrick Poole, William Ford, Michael Hampton, Roosevelt Kiser.

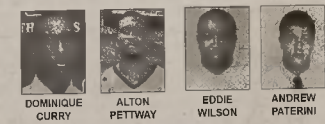
Table with columns: PUNTING, TEAM, CL, G, P, Yds, Avg. Includes players like Brent Aodley, Tim Manuel, Andrew Bergeron, Wesley Taylor, Kevin Dodson, Christopher Khan, Randy Allen.

Table with columns: SCORING, TEAM, CL, G, Pts, Pct, Pts/G. Includes players like Jimmy Scates, Martell Mallett, Andrew Paterini, Marcus McDaniel, Brandon Gilbert, Roni Robinson, Lamar Little.

Table with columns: FIELD GOALS, TEAM, CL, G, FG, Pct, Pts/G. Includes players like Andrew Paterini, Wesley Taylor, Ricos, Echeverry, Jake Grubbs, Brandon Gilbert, Eric Benson.

Table with columns: TACKLES, TEAM, CL, G, Solo, Ast, Tot, Avg. Includes players like Eddie Wilson, Kevin Jones, Mark Stolle, Stacy Thomas.

Table with columns: SACKS, TEAM, CL, G, S, Yds, Avg. Includes players like Alton Pettway, Alex Hall, Endor Cooper, Lee Robinson, Hens. Campbell, Vincent Davis, Rudolph Hardie, Aaron Knight.



DOMINIQUE CURRY ALTON PETTWAY EDDIE WILSON ANDREW PATERINI

BCSP Notes

THE STAT CORNER 2

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

LARGEST ATTENDED GAMES IN 2006 BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Table listing largest attended games in 2006 Black College Football, including Florida Classic, Magic City Classic, Alabama A&M, Morgan State, etc.

Attendance Matters

The Florida Classic is on a roll. The annual big season-ending game at the Citrus Bowl in Orlando, Florida pitting in-state MEAC rivals Bethune-Cookman and Florida A&M tops the list of the best attended black college football games for the sixth consecutive year.

The 2006 edition drew 71,216 rabid fans that watched FAMU take down the BC Wildcats for the second year in a row. That number topped attendance figures for the last two years which had been 70,112 last season and 71,153 in 2004.

The Florida turnout allowed the Classic to easily outdraw the 70th Magic City Classic in Birmingham which drew 66,233 fans to historic Legion Field for the Oct. 28th date between rivals Alabama State and Alabama A&M.

The Bulldogs of AA&M prevailed 21-13 and went on to win their first football title at the Dec. 16 SWAC Championship Game back at Legion Field on Dec. 16. The SWAC title game (30,213) made the list of the 28 games that drew over 20,000 fans this season at No. 14.

The MCC was the only other game to top the 60,000 mark this year. The Atlanta Classic matchup at the Georgia Dome between FAMU and Tennessee State stayed at No. 3 on the list. This year's game drew 57,885 fans, a little below the 56,297 that showed up in 2005.

The Bayou Classic returned to New Orleans this year after moving to Houston's Reliant Stadium last year because of Hurricane Katrina. Despite a triumphant return to the Super Dome, the Southern vs. Grambling State matchup lost some of its luster as neither team was in the running for the SWAC title.

As a result, the BC, which drew 47,136 for this year's game, fell from No. 4 to No. 7 on the list. The game drew 53,214 last year in Houston. It flip-flopped on the list with the New York Urban League Classic held at the New Jersey Meadowlands that attracted 53,588 fans for the matchup of MEAC rivals Morgan State and Hampton.

Thirty-one (31) games drew over 20,000 fans last season, with an average of 33,451 per game. The 28 games this year that topped the 20,000-mark averaged 35,289 fans per contest.

Benedict picks A&M's Connor Benedict College President David H. Swinton and Athletics Director Willie Washington officially introduced former Alabama A&M offensive coordinator Stan Conner as its next head football coach at a press conference last week at the school's new football stadium.

Conner just completed his 11th season with AAMU and helped lead them to their first Southwestern Athletic Conference Championship with a 22-13 victory over the University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff in SWAC Championship Game VIII.

"I am excited and eager to get started at Benedict," said Conner. "Dr. Swinton and Mr. Washington have provided me with the opportunity to build on top of the legacy and program in which they have set. They have provided me with the opportunity to win football games. It's my task to win football games."

During his tenure at Alabama A&M, he has coached the secondary, running backs, and served as assistant head coach. He spent three seasons with the Bulldogs before heading to Lanett High School as the head coach. In 1998, he returned to Alabama A&M as the assistant head coach.

Conner played at Jackson State, where he was a four year letterman from 1980-1983. During his stay, the Tigers won three SWAC Championships and advanced to the NCAA Division I-AA playoffs in 1981 and 1982. After completing his college playing career in 1983, he joined the New Orleans Breakers of the USFL in 1984. After a brief stay in New Orleans, Conner moved on to join the Ottawa Rough Riders of the CFL. In 1986, Conner began his coaching career at Alabama State as the wide receivers coach. After three seasons, he returned to Theodore High School in 1990 as an assistant and later became head coach position at Mobile's LeFlore High School.