

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



Grambling Media Bureau

DRAFT LEADER: Happy Grambling wide receiver Chad Williams after being chosen by Arizona in the third round of the NFL Draft.

THE PICKS ARE IN!

NFL DRAFTEES & FREE AGENTS; RESULTS, SCHEDULES IN SPRING SPORTS; CLARK ATLANTA HOOPS COACH

HBCU NFL UNRAFTED ROOKE FREE AGENTS

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

Extra Robinson, CB, Tennessee State

ARIZONA CARDINALS

Javancy Jones, LB, Jackson State

DETROIT LIONS

Brandon Barnes, TE, Alabama State

NEW YORK GIANTS

Jessamen Dunker, OL, Tennessee State

NEW YORK JETS

Javarius Leamon, OT, South Carolina State

TENNESSEE TITANS

Roderick Henderson, DT, Alabama State

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Verlan Hunter, WR, Grambling State

- TRYOUTS -

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Derrick Griffin, WR, Texas Southern

BALTIMORE RAVENS

Xavian Bingham, DB, Jackson State

NEW YORK JETS

Kevin Kinton, OL, Tennessee State

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

Moore to lead Clark Atlanta women's hoops:

ATLANTA, Ga. - **Clark Atlanta** has named two-time WNBA champion **Yolanda Moore** as the next head coach for women's basketball. Moore had a standout career at Ole Miss before playing professionally.

Moore spent one season at LSU Eunice (NJCAA) and led the Lady Bengals to a 26-4 mark - including winning 16 straight - after the prior two seasons totaled just 17 victories. She moved to Southeastern Louisiana to lead the Lady Lions for two seasons where she won 15 games while developing a trio of All-Southland Conference players.

She played professionally in the WNBA, Europe and Asia over six seasons. She was a two-time All-SEC performer at Ole Miss and was inducted into the school's Sports Hall of Fame in 2010. In 2012 she was also named a Southeastern Conference Great.

Moore succeeds **Vanessa Moore** who compiled a 181-243 record in 12 years as head coach. She had seven winning seasons and her teams produced three seasons of 20 or more wins. Last year's squad finished 10-17.

THE STAT CORNER

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

THIS WEEK'S SPRING SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULES

CIAA

BASEBALL

May 4-6

Whaley Colbert Field - VSU
Ettrick, VA

SIAC

SOFTBALL

May 4-6

Diamond Lakes Regional Park
Hephzibah, GA

SOFTBALL

May 4-6

Petersburg Sports Complex - VSU
Petersburg, VA

BASEBALL

May 4-7

Lake Olmstead Stadium
Augusta, GA

MEAC

OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD

(M&W)

May 4-6

Belk Track @ NC A&T
Greensboro, NC

OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD

(M&W)

May 4-6

Hugh Mills Stadium (Track)
Albany State Univ. (Field)
Albany, GA

SWAC

OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD

(M&W)

May 5-7

Louis Crews Stadium
Normal, AL

2017 BLACK COLLEGE BASEBALL (Results, Standings and Weekly Honors)

CIAA

CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

FINAL	CONF	ALL	
		W	L
Winston-Salem State	14	2	31
Chowan	13	3	25
Virginia State	6	10	19
St. Augustine's	5	11	18
Lincoln	2	14	6

MEAC

MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

NORTHERN	CONF	ALL	
		W	L
Norfolk State	15	5	22
Delaware State	12	9	17
Coppin State	7	12	10
Maryland-E. Shore	6	14	10
SOUTHERN			
Florida A&M	11	7	23
NC A&T	11	7	21
Bethune-Cookman	12	8	25
NC Central	10	10	20
Savannah State	3	15	12

SIAC

SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

FINAL	CONF	ALL	
		W	L
EAST	15	6	17
Albany State	14	7	25
Benedict	12	8	20
Paine	9	11	15
Claffin	7	13	13
Clark Atlanta	5	13	8
Morehouse	5	13	29
WEST			
Spring Hill	17	4	29
Miles	15	5	27
Kentucky State	12	9	17
Tuskegee	8	13	23
LeMoyne-Owen	4	11	6
Lane	3	16	9

SWAC

SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

EASTERN	DIV	ALL	
		W	L
Jackson State	17	4	32
Alabama State	15	6	23
Alabama A&M	9	12	12
Alcorn State	7	14	11
Miss. Valley State	6	18	7
WESTERN			
Texas Southern	14	9	16
Grambling State	12	9	19
Prairie View	11	10	18
Arkansas Pine Bluff	9	12	14
Southern	7	13	13

Quartet goes off NFL draft boards

LUT WILLIAMS
BCSP Editor

The prospect of as many as ten former black college standouts finding their way into the 2017 NFL Draft did not materialize last week as only four names went off the boards when the league held its annual 7-round confab last week in Philadelphia.

Somewhat surprisingly, **Grambling State** wide receiver **Chad Williams** was the first HBCU product selected as the Arizona Cardinals took him with the 34th pick in Friday's third round. He was the 98th overall selection.

Diminutive record-setting **North Carolina A&T** running back **Tarik Cohen** was next, going early Saturday to the Chicago Bears with the 13th pick of the fourth round and 119th overall.

Later in the same round, **Albany State** defensive tackle **Grover Stewart** was taken by the Indianapolis Colts with the 38th pick, 144th overall.

No more HBCU players came off the boards until **Alabama State** offensive tackle **Jylan Ware** was selected by the Oakland (soon to be Las Vegas) Raiders with the 13th pick of the seventh and final round. Ware was the 231st overall selection.

The four selections continues a trend that has not seen HBCU products reach double-digits in the draft since 2000. Another ten HBCU products, many considered draftable, were quickly gobbled up by teams with free agent contracts (see list elsewhere on the BCSP).

THE PICKS

The selection of Williams (6-1, 204), the top black college receiver last year with 90 receptions for 1,337 yards and 11 TDs for the HBCU national champion Tigers, was not a surprise in the sense that most had projected him to be taken. The surprise was that he went first.

He was suspended for Grambling's season opener after his arrest for a series of charges last year. The charges were later dropped but the arrest, with NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell's recent focus on players' off-field issues, prevented him from participating in the Combine. And, he was a late addition to the Senior Bowl after turning heads with an outstanding showing at the NFLPA all-star game in California.

But his personal interviews, the 4.43 40-time at his Pro Day and what some considered a dominating performance against Div. I corners at Senior Bowl practices convinced the Cardinals that he was worth the pick.

Cardinals' officials said after speaking with Williams at Grambling that they believed his arrest was a 'wrong place, wrong time' incident.

Williams, who finished his 47-game career at

BLACK COLLEGE PLAYERS IN 2017 NFL DRAFT



ARIZONA
Chad Williams
6-1, 204, Wide Receiver
Grambling State
3rd Round - 34th pick
98th overall



CHICAGO
Tarik Cohen
5-6, 179, Running Back
North Carolina A&T
4th Round - 13th pick
119th overall



INDIANAPOLIS
Grover Stewart
6-5, 334, Defensive Tackle
Albany State
4th Round - 38th pick
144th overall



OAKLAND
Jylan Ware
6-8, 295, Offensive Tackle
Alabama State
7th Round - 13th pick
231st overall

Grambling with 210 receptions for 3,062 yards and 29 TDs, is the type of big-bodied receiver that Cardinals' head coach Bruce Arians covets. According to the Arizona website, Arians has been fantastic at identifying impact pass-catchers in the third round, helping nab NFL standouts Mike Wallace, Emmanuel Sanders, T.Y. Hilton and John Brown over the past nine years. Williams hopes to be the next one.

"I'm just going to come in and be me, and I know for a fact I can live up to that third-round hype," Williams said.

Cohen, who finished his A&T career with an MEAC-record 5,619 rushing yards, is seen as a 'change of pace' back by the Bears. He had nine touchdowns on runs of over 70 yards in his career and is expected to be used also as a receiver out of the backfield like Philadelphia's Darren Sproles. Six-foot, 222-pound rookie running back Jordan Howard out of Indiana was the Bears' feature back in 2016 running for 1,313 yards and six TDs.

"He had a chip on his shoulder and I like that," said Chicago head coach John Fox on the Bears' website of his visit with Cohen when the

scatback came to Chicago. "He always wants to prove people wrong. He has a confidence to him."

"When we get these guys in the building, a lot of time is spent with our coaches, really gathering their football intelligence. He (Cohen) has a really high football IQ, which is important for that position because you're going to be moving him around a lot and doing a lot of different things with him. I think the thing that stood out was the energy that he has and he has a chip on his shoulder and I really like that about him."

Cohen, at his draft celebration on the A&T campus Saturday, said, "I'm ready to make plays. I'm ready to play."

Stewart said coming from NCAA Div. II Albany State will not be a problem as he steps up to face NFL competition. "I don't see any difference between it. I'm going to play like I play, and dominate like I always do," he said.

At 6-5, Stewart grew from 295 to 334 while at Albany State with no dropoff in production. He was an all-SIAC selection in all four years he played.

And dominate is just what he did registering 27 sacks and 48.5 tackles for losses while starting all four years. The Colts and others liked his power and explosiveness, footwork and ability to collapse the pocket. He was on the radar for a lot of teams and was one of the fastest movers up the draft boards. "I can play anywhere from nose (tackle) to three-technique," he said online at coltswire.usatoday.

Ware is about as tall, at 6-7, 317, as Stewart is wide. The Raiders liked his long arms and NFL frame. Because of those attributes, Ware also moved steadily up the draft boards late.

Online at raiderswire.usatoday.com, Spencer Hall of CBS Sports said of Ware that he, "possesses superb run blocking abilities and this likely enticed Raiders general manager Reggie McKenzie as the team has brought in former Seahawks running back Marshawn Lynch."

Seven players signed free agent contracts and three others were given tryouts. Among the latter group was former **Texas Southern** basketball and football standout **Derrick Griffin** who was granted a tryout by Minnesota. "All I've asked for is a chance to prove myself," Griffin said.

There's a modest amount of guaranteed money invested in an undrafted free agent, while a tryout player isn't guaranteed anything, one agent explained. "The main difference is if you're an undrafted free agent, you sign your contract immediately. If you're getting invited for a tryout, you're basically going out there with a two- or three-day tryout and then they decide out of this pool of 15 or 20 guys, 'OK, we're going to sign this one or that one.'"

BCSP Notes

Chowan advances in D2 men's tennis

MURFREESBORO, NC - The CIAA champion **Chowan** men's tennis team picked up a 5-1 victory over West Virginia Wesleyan in the preliminary round of the NCAA Div. II Atlantic Region II Tournament.

Head Coach **Christian Stambaugh** stated "This was a magnificent accomplishment, this took a lot of work. This is the hardest working team I've ever coached."

With the win, Chowan (16-7) advances to the Div. II Sweet 16 at Sanlando Park in Altamonte Springs, Florida on May 9-13.

Benedict in South, UDC in East fall in NCAA Div. II men's tennis

PENSACOLA, Fla. - West Florida, the nation's top-ranked NCAA Div. II men's tennis team, defeated **SIAC** champ **Benedict** 5-0 in the first round of the NCAA Division II South Regional on Saturday morning.

West Florida improved to 27-1.

PHILADELPHIA - The No. 6 seeded **University of the District of Columbia** men's tennis team was defeated, 5-1 by No. 3 seed New York Institute of Technology in the first round of the NCAA Division II East Region tournament hosted by Chestnut Hill College.

Shaw women fall to Mercyhurst in Div. II women's tennis

ERIE, Pa. - The CIAA champion **Shaw** women's tennis team fell to Mercyhurst, 6-0 in the first round of the NCAA Women's Tennis Tournament Monday afternoon at the Pennbriar Athletic Club.

This contest marked the seventh time Shaw has made an appearance in the tournament in program history.

Augusta takes third consecutive MEAC men's golf title

SAVANNAH, Ga., - **Augusta University** won its third straight **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC)** Men's Golf Championship on Friday at Crosswinds Golf Club, finishing the three-day event with a score of 821 (277-277-267).

The Jaguars have swept the men's golf title every year since joining the MEAC in 2014 and they've earned the conference's automatic bid to the NCAA Div. I Men's Golf Championships once again.

The NCAA Div. I Men's Golf Selection Show airs on Thursday, May 4 at 12 p.m. on Golf Channel.

2017 BLACK COLLEGE SOFTBALL (Results, Standings and Weekly Honors)

CIAA

CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

FINAL	DIV	CONF		ALL	
		W	L	W	L
NORTH	9	1	14	2	32
Chowan	9	1	14	2	18
Bowie State	5	5	7	9	10
Virginia Union	5	5	7	9	12
Elizabeth City State	2	9	3	13	4
Lincoln	0	10	1	14	6
SOUTH					
Fayetteville State	9	1	14	2	15
St. Augustine's	7	3	11	4	15
J. C. Smith	6	4	10	6	16
Winston-Salem State	6	4	10	6	14
Shaw	2	8	4	12	6
Livingstone	0	10	0	16	2

MEAC

MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

NORTHERN	CONF	ALL	
		W	L
Hampton	14	1	19
Morgan State	12	3	23
Delaware State	13	5	17
Coppin State	7	11	10
Norfolk State	5	13	12
Elizabeth City State	5	13	11
Howard	4	14	4
SOUTHERN			
Florida A&M	13	2	18
Bethune-Cookman	11	4	21
NC A&T	8	7	16
NC Central	6	8	11
Savannah State	4	11	4
S. C. State	2	12	2

SIAC

SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

FINAL	CONF	ALL	
		W	L
EAST	17	2	29
Claffin	17	3	23
Albany State	12	8	18
Clark Atlanta	10	10	24
Benedict	3	16	4
Fort Valley State	0	20	2
Paine	0	20	2
WEST			
Spring Hill	17	2	33
Miles	13	4	14
Kentucky State	10	7	14
Lane	10	9	18
Tuskegee	3	16	3
LeMoyne-Owen	3	16	6