



Alcorn State Sports Photo

## POSTSEASON FINALE SET

**BRAVE NEW LEADER:** Head coach Fred McNair cradles SWAC Championship Trophy after title game win over Southern.

**TSU, JSU GET NEW COACHES; HBCUs, COACHES TO BE HONORED ON ESPN; POY FINALISTS NAMED**

## SCORES

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1**  
**SWAC**  
 Championship Game XX  
 Alcorn State 37, Southern 28

**MEAC**  
 Liberty 52, Norfolk State 17

### SWAC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME RECAP

Alcorn State 37, Southern 28

East Division champion and BCSP No. 2 **Alcorn State** rushed for 370 yards and all five of its touchdowns in running past West Division champ and BCSP No. 1 **Southern** 37-28 in the **Southwest Athletic Conference** Championship Game Saturday on its home field in Lorman, Ms.

The win gives the Braves (9-3) their third SWAC title in the last five years, first for head coach **Fred McNair**, and earns the program its second berth in the Dec. 15 *Air Force Reserve Celebration Bowl* against **Mid Eastern Athletic Conference** champ **North Carolina A&T** at the Mercedes Benz Dome in Atlanta.



Waller

Junior running back **Deshawn Waller** ran 16 times for 177 yards with 13-, 83- and 14-yard touchdown runs while junior quarterback **Noah Johnson** totalled 147 rushing yards on 16 carries and had scoring runs of 44 and 1 yards to lead the ground attack. Johnson also completed 18 of 25 passes for 135 yards as the Braves rolled up 518 yards of total offense.

And they needed every one of those yards to keep the Jaguars (7-4) at bay. Southern, who put up 347 yards of total offense, stayed close behind the play of junior quarterback **Ladarius Skelton**, who had three scoring runs on the day. After trailing 21-14 at the half and going down 27-14 early in the third quarter, Johnson scored on 1- and 2-yard scoring jaunts to put the Jags up 28-27 late in the third quarter.

But Alcorn retook the lead at 30-28 lead on **Corey McCullough's** 41-yard field goal with 11:31 left and clinched it when Waller ran in from 14 yards with 3:47 left at the end of a nine-play, 68-yard drive.

In addition to his three rushing touchdowns, Skelton (13-22-1) passed for 194 yards and one TD and ran for 65 yards. Southern running back **Devon Benn** totalled 60 yards on 10 carries. **Trey Smith** hauled in seven passes for 120 yards including 22-yard first quarter scoring catch.

## UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

### HAYWOOD OUT, MCKINNEY IN AT TSU:

HOUSTON - Less than a week after the resignation of head coach **Michael Haywood**, **Texas Southern University** announced **Clarence McKinney** as the Tigers new head man.



McKinney

McKinney, who has served as Associate Head Coach and Running Backs Coach at the University of Arizona in 2018, has an extensive history in the Houston and 3rd Ward area. He was an award-winning Head Coach at Jack Yates High School prior to joining Kevin Sumlin's staff at the University of Houston in 2008.

Haywood who recently completed his third season at the helm of the program compiled an overall record of 8-25 including a 7-16 mark in **Southwestern Athletic Conference** play.

McKinney coached running backs for four seasons under Coach Sumlin at the University of Houston and also served as recruiting coordinator. He then joined Sumlin at Texas A&M, where he was the running backs coach for six years and offensive coordinator.

### HENDRICK EARNS JSU JOB:

JACKSON - **Jackson State University's** Division of Athletics removed the interim tag from **John Hendrick's** title last week, making him the 20th head football coach in school history.



Hendrick

Hendrick was named to the interim role on Oct. 28 and guided the Tigers to a 2-1 **Southwestern Athletic Conference** record and was one win away from earning a berth in the SWAC championship game. He led the Tigers to a 34-28 win over **Prairie View A&M** and a dominating 20-2 effort over **Alabama State**.

"John Hendrick is a veteran who has proven his ability to provide the type of leadership that is required for our football program," said **Ashley Robinson**, JSU Vice President and Director of Athletics.

No stranger to the SWAC, Hendrick has more than 30 years of coaching and playing experience. He has served in assistant roles at **Alabama State**, **University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff** and **Southern** in the SWAC and at **South Carolina State** and **Delaware State** in the MEAC. Hendrick was the head coach at **Benedict** from 2003-06.

The University of Pittsburgh graduate began his coaching career as the outside linebacker's coach at Delaware State in 1983. He then went on to spend two seasons (1984-85) at his alma mater coaching the offensive line before serving in the same capacity at Southern in 1986

# Finalists named for Black College Football Hall of Fame Player of the Year award

Atlanta, GA (November 29, 2018) - The Black College Football Hall of Fame (BCFHOF) announced last week four finalists for the Black College Football Player of the Year Award.

The Award is presented annually to the most outstanding football player from a Historically Black College & University (HBCU) that embodies the rich tradition of athletic excellence and integrity associated with HBCUs.

Former **North Carolina A&T State University**, and current Chicago Bears running back **Tarik Cohen** was the inaugural recipient of the Award in 2016, and **Bowie State** quarterback **Amir Hall** was selected as the recipient in 2017.

The 2018 Finalists include Hall (Bowie State), defensive lineman **Darryl Johnson** of North Carolina A&T, quarterback **Noah Johnson** of Alcorn State and quarterback **Caylin Newton** of Howard.

The finalists were chosen by a five-member Selection Committee, which is composed of Black College Football Hall of Fame founders **James "Shack" Harris** and **Doug Williams**, longtime SBN Broadcaster and Director of News and Sports for the Power News Radio Network **Ty Miller**, former USA Today sports writer **Roscoe**

**Nance**, and ESPN College Football Analyst **Jay Walker**.

"The Black College Football Player of the Year Award showcases the immense talent of our HBCU student-athletes today," said Williams, BCFHOF Co-Founder and 2011 Inductee. "Each finalist has had an incredible season and we are excited to celebrate their success."

The winner of the 2018 Black College Football Player of the Year Award will be announced on February 16, 2019 at the 10th Annual Black College Football Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, Presented by the Atlanta Falcons in Atlanta, Georgia. He will be presented with the *Deacon Jones Trophy*, named in honor of the football legend and inaugural BCFHOF inductee.

"On behalf of the Black College Football Hall of Fame Trustees, we congratulate the Black College Football Player of the Year Finalists," said Harris, Co-Founder and 2012 Inductee. "These student-athletes represent the very best of HBCU football."

The Finalists will also be recognized at the *Celebration Bowl* in Atlanta on December 15th, along with the BCFHOF Class of 2019, which will be televised on ABC.



### 2018 Finalists

**AMIR HALL, Sr., QB, Bowie State**  
 2018 CIAA Offensive Player of the Year ... Three-time 1st Team All-CIAA ... Led conference in passing yards (4,152), passing touchdowns (31) and total offense (4,597) ... Also had 445 rushing yards and seven rushing touchdowns ... The CIAA's all-time career passing touchdown leader (102) and all-time career passing yards leader (11,358) ... Candidate for The Harlon Hill Award (Division II College Football Player of the Year) ... 2017 Black College Football Player of the Year (Deacon Jones Trophy).

**DARRYL JOHNSON, JR., DE, North Carolina A&T**  
 Two-time 1st Team All-Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) ... Led MEAC in sacks (10.5) and tackles-for-loss (18.5) ... Had 47 total tackles and three pass breakups in 2018 ... His 18.5 TFL ranked #10 nationally in FCS Football ... In season-opening upset victory over nationally ranked Jacksonville State, Johnson's strip sack sealed the game for the Aggies ... Finalist the Buck Buchanan Award for FCS Defensive Player of the Year ... Named to 2017 AFCA and Box-ToRow All-American Teams.

**NOAH JOHNSON, So., QB, Alcorn State**  
 Led the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) in passing efficiency (137.7) and completion percentage (63.4), and #2 in total offense (2,757) ... Ranked #5 in SWAC in rushing yards (813) and touchdowns (7) ... Led Alcorn State to East Division title and the SWAC Championship game ... Led Alcorn's offense to #1 in the SWAC in yards per game (471.3) ... Finalist the Walter Payton Award for FCS Offensive Player of the Year ... Finalist for the Cspire Conerly Award as the top collegiate player in Mississippi.

**CAYLIN NEWTON, So., QB, Howard**  
 1st Team All-Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) ... Led MEAC in passing yards (2,629), passing touchdowns (22) and total offense (3,133 yards), and ranked #2 in efficiency (136.7) ... Ranked #7 nationally in FCS Football in total offense ... Added 504 rushing yards and four rushing touchdowns ... Led Howard's offense to #1 in the MEAC in points per game (33.6) and yards per game (470.8) ... Finalist the Walter Payton Award for FCS Offensive Player of the Year.

## Alcorn State top 2018 SWAC football awardees

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. - The **Southwestern Athletic Conference** released its 2018 All-Conference Teams last week with 12 players from SWAC East Division champion and eventual SWAC champion **Alcorn State** being tabbed for the most individual honors.

The teams were announced two days prior to Saturday's 2018 Toyota SWAC Football Championship at Jack Spinks-Marino Casem Stadium on the campus of Alcorn State University in Lorman, Miss., after ballots were cast by the league's head coaches and sports information directors.

Alcorn State won the championship game, 37-28 over West Division champ **Southern** (see SWAC Championship Game Recap).

Forty-eight (48) players were named to this year's All-Conference teams. Players were ranked in their position based upon the number of votes received. Ballots required voters to rank their selections in order.

Alcorn State quarterback **Noah Johnson** was the voters' choice for the SWAC Offensive Player of the Year award. Johnson, a redshirt junior, completed a conference best 63.4 percent of his passes (168-of-265) and threw for 1,944 yards with 15 touchdowns against eight interceptions. Johnson also had the fifth highest total of rushing yards in the conference with 813 yards on the ground and seven touchdowns. He was second in the SWAC in total yards of offense with 2,757.



Johnson

**De'Arius Christmas** was tabbed as the SWAC Defensive Player of the Year for a second consecutive season after he racked up 55 tackles, 11 tackles for a loss, 5.5 sacks, two interceptions with one returned for a touchdown and two forced fumbles.

Alcorn State redshirt junior **De'Shawn Waller**, a transfer from Hutchinson Community College, was named the SWAC Newcomer of the Year after rushing for 871 and nine touchdowns averaging 108.9 yards per game.

**Arkansas-Pine Bluff** wide receiver **Dejuan Miller** was named the SWAC Freshman of the Year after ranking tied for first in the conference in receptions with 56, third in receiving yardage with 801, and was tied for second in receiving touchdowns with six.

Third-year Alcorn State head coach **Fred McNair** was dubbed the SWAC Coach of the Year after leading the Braves to a fifth straight SWAC East Division crown and first SWAC title during his tenure.

### INDIVIDUAL HONORS

**OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:**  
 Noah Johnson (QB) - Alcorn State  
**DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:**  
 De'Arius Christmas (LB) - Grambling State  
**NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR:**  
 De'Shawn Waller (RB) - Alcorn State  
**FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR:**  
 Dejuan Miller (WR) - Arkansas-Pine Bluff  
**COACH OF THE YEAR:**  
 Fred McNair (HC) Alcorn State

## HBCUs, coaching luminaries to honored during Thursday's College Football Awards Show on ESPN

This year's NCFAA Contributions to College Football Award - given during The Home Depot College Football Awards - will recognize the impact of **Historically Black Colleges and Universities** (HBCU) throughout college football's nearly 150-year history. The annual awards show will be live from the Chick-Fil-A College Football Hall of Fame in Atlanta on ESPN, Thursday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. ET.

"It is a great honor to recognize Historically Black College and University football, specifically the conferences, schools, coaches and players that have built this tremendous legacy," said Mark Wolpert, president of the NCFAA. "Their impact is realized not only on the football field but equally so in the communities surrounding these fine institutions. The list of leaders developed at the HBCU schools is extensive and impressive and the pageantry surrounding these players, coaches and programs depicts college football in its purest sense."

ESPN college football analyst **Jay Walker**, former quarterback for **Howard University** and member of the **Mid Eastern Athletic Conference's** and university's Athletics Hall of Fame, will present the honorees during Thursday night's show.

ESPN's The Undefeated will be live on the Red Capet covering The Home Depot College Football Awards. Follow along - and join the conversation - on their social platforms on Facebook and Instagram (@undefeatedespn), and all related HBCU content will be available on The Undefeated, ESPN's platform focusing on the intersections of sports, race and culture.

The presentation of the award will include a feature showcasing interviews with prominent coaches, athletes and writers as they reflect on the impact of HBCU schools as well as an appearance by the **Florida A&M University** marching band.

Accepting the award on behalf of the HBCU community are:  
**ROD BROADWAY:** Most recently, Broadway was the head coach at **North Carolina A&T State** before retiring in 2017. He is the only coach to win a Black College National Championship at three different schools - North Carolina A&T, **Grambling State** and **North Carolina Central**.  
**MARINO CASEM:** Known as "The Godfather," Casem won seven **Southwestern Athletic Conference** championships as head coach at **Alcorn State**. He



Casem Cooley Jeffries Hayes Broadway

is a four-time Black College National Champion ('68, '69, '74, '84) and was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2003.

**ARCHIE COOLEY:** Known as "The Gunslinger," Cooley served as head football coach at **Mississippi Valley State University**, **University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff**, **Norfolk State**, and **Paul Quinn College**. He was inducted into the SWAC Hall of Fame in 2007.

**BILL HAYES:** Hayes is the winningest coach ever at both **Winston-Salem State** and **NC A&T**, compiling nearly 200 wins over 27 seasons, and winning the Black College National Championship in 1990 and '99. He was named the 1997 National Small College Coach of the Year and inducted into the North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame in 2018.

**WILLIE JEFFRIES:** Jeffries served as head football coach at **South Carolina State** (1943-78, 1989-01), **Wichita State** (1973-83), and **Howard University** (1984-88). His tenure at Wichita State made Jeffries the first African American head coach of a Division I-A program at a predominately white school. He led three South Carolina State teams to Black College National Championships ('76, '77, '94) and was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2010.

Interviewees include:  
**TARIK COHEN:** Chicago Bears running back and **North Carolina A&T** alumnus  
**ROSCOE NANCE:** Current chairman of the Black College Football Hall of Fame selection committee and former writer for USA Today  
**JAY WALKER:** ESPN football analyst and former quarterback for Howard University.  
**JOHN X. MILLER:** Senior editor of ESPN's The Undefeated, the premier platform for exploring the intersection of race, sports and culture  
**DOUG WILLIAMS:** Senior vice president of player personnel, and Super Bowl XXII MVP, for the Washington Redskins; former Grambling State quarterback.