

# BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS



BCSP Photo

## FOOTBALL FORECASTS CONTINUE

2019 FOOTBALL PREDICTIONS IN FOR CIAA, LANGSTON, HAMPTON AND TENNESSEE STATE

**GASTON COOPER:** New Bowie State QB could be key to Bulldogs repeating in the CIAA.

## UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

### HORNET LEGEND:

Alabama State head coach Houston Markham is carried off the field after his team completed an 11-0-1 1991 season with a 36-13 win over North Carolina A&T in the inaugural Alamo Heritage Bowl in Miami. Markham passed last week.



### HOUSTON MARKHAM PASSES:

MONTGOMERY, Ala. | Former **Alabama State** head football coach **Houston Markham, Jr.** passed away last week with loved ones by his side.

Markham, 75, the winningest head coach in Hornets' football history, leaves behind a legacy unmatched at Alabama State. He coached at the institution from 1987 until 1997, leaving the school with 68 victories which still stands as the highest total among any coach in school history.

His best season at the helm of the Hornets came in 1991 when the team finished 11-0-1, winning the **Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC)** championship. The only blemish on the record for the Hornets that season came against **Texas Southern** when the two teams tied at 14-all. The Hornets raced to the HBCU National Championship with a 36-13 victory over **North Carolina A&T** in the first *Alamo Heritage Bowl*.

Markham, who finished with a career record of 68-47-4 (.588), also had four players drafted in the National Football League (NFL) during his tenure including **Eddie Robinson** (LB, 2nd round, 1992) and current Virginia State head coach **Reggie Barlow** (WR, 4th round, 1996).

Markham was an offensive lineman for four years at **Alcorn State**, earning a bachelor of science degree with an endorsement in Health and Physical Education in 1965.

A Brookhaven, Mississippi native, he coached for 10 years at Vicksburg High School, working first as an assistant in 1966 and 1967. During his eight-year tenure as the head coach (1968-1975), the Gators posted a 65-16-3 record that included a 40-game winning streak.

Prior to coming to Alabama State, Markham spent 13 seasons as an assistant coach at **Jackson State**.

Markham is a member of the halls of fame at three SWAC schools (Alcorn State, ASU and JSU).

Because of his accomplishments as a head coach, the building that houses the Hornets football program bears his name.

### MARKLAND RECEIVES HONOR:

KANSAS CITY, Mo. -- **Lincoln (Pa) University** senior **Myles Markland** was among the 822 athletes named to this year's National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) Honors Court.



Markland

Markland holds the distinction of being the only men's basketball student-athlete from an HBCU in any division to be named to the 2018-19 Honors Court.

He is the first Lincoln player in the institution's Division II era to be named to the NABC Honors Court and one of two **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA)** players named along with **Chowan** basketball player **Ugljesa Portic**.

"As a coach, I am proud to see one of my players honored for their success in the classroom," said Lions Head Coach **Doug Overton**. "Myles put in a lot of hard work for us during his time here at Lincoln and truly struck a balance between success on the court and his success in the classroom and I am thrilled to see him being honored by our coaches association."

In order to be named to the Honors Court, a student-athlete must meet a high standard of academic criteria. The qualifications are as follows:

1. Academically a junior or senior and a varsity player.
2. Cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.2 or higher at the conclusion of the 2018-19 academic year.
3. Students must have matriculated at least one year at their current institution.
4. Member of a NCAA Division I, II, III, or NAIA Division I or II institution with a NABC member coach.

# Tight races predicted in CIAA football

## LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

Roanoke, VA – Head coaches and sports information directors expect defending division champs **Bowie State** (North) and **Fayetteville State** (South) to again meet in the November 2019 **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association** football championship game.

But indicators point to spirited races in both divisions this season following conversations with head coaches and key players last Thursday at the 2019 CIAA Football Media Day here at the Holiday Inn Valley View.

**Winston-Salem State's** interim head coach **Robert Massey** was the only new face on the coach's roster.

### NORTH DIVISION

Despite losing record-setting quarterback **Amir Hall** to graduation, the conference defending champion Bulldogs of Bowie State were picked to repeat in the North Division.

BSU head coach **Damon Wilson** brought new starting quarterback, redshirt junior **Gaston Cooper**, to the event. Cooper was an outstanding high school quarterback who comes to BSU after undergoing several position changes while enrolled at Duquesne.

"You'll going to like him," BSU Sports Information Director **Greg Goings** said of Cooper after the event.

**Virginia Union**, in its second year under head coach **Dr. Alvin Parker**, features the pre-season Offensive Player of the Year in running back **Tabyus Taylor** (1,546 rushing yards, 21 TDs). Taylor (6-foot, 228 pounds) led the nation in 2018 with 196.2 total yards per game and ranked second nationally with 13.8 points scored per contest The Panthers, with five others on the preseason team, were picked to finish behind BSU in the North.

**Chowan** and head coach **Tim Place** have quarterback **Bryce Witt** (2,700 passing yards, 27 TDs) and running back **Tyrell Freeman** (1,292 rushing yards, 14 TDs) on the preseason all-CIAA squad. The Indians are picked third in the North.



Taylor



Hunt

Prolific dual-threat quarterback **Cordelral Cook** (663 rushing yards, 10 TDs, 1,723 passing yards, 15 TDs) leads **Virginia State** and head coach **Reggie Barlow**, the fourth pick in the North.

**Elizabeth City State** looks to be much improved in its second year under head coach **Anthony Jones**. Ditto for **Lincoln** in its second campaign led by head coach **Josh Dean**.

### SOUTHERN DIVISION

Two-time defending South Division champ Fayetteville State enters its fourth year under head coach **Richard Hayes** and features the 2018 Special Teams Player of the Year in kick returner/wide receiver **Brandon Smith**. The Broncos also have the first team punt returner in **Tyeous Sharpe**. Notably absent from the first team is prolific workhorse senior running back **Stevie Green** (948 rushing yards, 10 TDs).

**Winston-Salem State** will enter 2019 with Massey leading the charge. Interestingly, the Rams placed only one player, defensive back **Daryus Skinner** (11 interceptions) on the preseason all-CIAA team. WSSU was the second pick in the South.

**Shaw** and head coach **Adrian Jones**, returns the 2018 Defensive Player of the Year in linebacker **Devon Hunt** (98 tackles). The Bears are picked third.

"We want to prove the CIAA that we're a lot better than where they predicted us," said Jones.

**Saint Augustine's** and head coach **Tim Chavous** is picked fourth. **Livingstone** under head coach **Daryl Williams** and **Johnson C.**

**Smith** under head coach **Kermit Blount** hold down the last two spots in the South.

### 2019 CIAA FOOTBALL PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH (Overall)

Bowie State  
Fayetteville State  
Virginia Union  
Chowan  
Virginia State  
Winston-Salem State  
Shaw  
Elizabeth City State  
Saint Augustine's  
Livingstone  
Johnson C. Smith  
Lincoln (PA)

### NORTHERN DIVISION

Bowie State  
Virginia Union  
Chowan  
Virginia State  
Elizabeth City State  
Lincoln (PA)

### SOUTHERN DIVISION

Fayetteville State  
Winston-Salem State  
Shaw  
Saint Augustine's  
Livingstone  
Johnson C. Smith

### 2019 ALL-CIAA PRESEASON FOOTBALL TEAM

#### OFFENSE

**TE** - Kevonta Moses, Shaw \*; **OL** - Keanu Gonzales, Shaw \*; Donald Boone, Chowan \*; Frank Ball, Virginia State \*; Tyrese Bobbitt, Shaw; Justin Smith, Virginia Union; **WR** - Montez Clay, Bowie State \*; Daniel Bender, Shaw; **QB** - Bryce Witt, Chowan \*; **RB** - Tabyus Taylor, Virginia Union \*; Tyrell Freeman, Chowan \*; **KR** - Brandon Smith, Fayetteville State \* #; **PK** - Jefferson Souza, Virginia Union \*

#### DEFENSE

**DL** - Solomon Bassett, Lincoln (PA) \*; Oluwaleke Ajenufuja, Bowie State \*; Joshua Pryor, Bowie State \*; Rafiq Abdul-Wahid, Chowan \*; **LB** - Devon Hunt, Shaw \* #; Joseph Harris, Saint Augustine's \*; Taj Conway, Virginia Union \*; **DB** - Sterling Hammond, Virginia Union \* Elvin De La Rosa, Fayetteville State \*; Daryus Skinner, Winston-Salem State \*; Quantaye Battle, Virginia Union \*; **PR** - Tyeous Sharpe, Fayetteville State \*; **P** - John Kight, Chowan \*

\* - Returning All-CIAA First Team selection

+ - Returning All-CIAA Second Team selection

# - Returning CIAA Special Teams Player of the Year

\$ - Returning CIAA Defensive Player of the Year

# BCSP Notes

## Langston picked to repeat as Sooner Athletic Conference football champs

OKLAHOMA CITY – **Langston University** has been favored to repeat as Sooner Athletic Conference football champion according to a pre-season poll of the league's coaches.

Langston posted a 9-2 mark while notching the first SAC championship ever with an 8-0 SAC record and a berth in the NAIA Championship Series last year.

Langston snared five first-place votes and 61 points in the preseason poll. The Lions entered 2018 as the preseason favorite as well. Langston has a 21-game winning streak in conference play dating back to 2016.

Langston returns 2018 SAC athlete of the year **Cameron Booty**, a senior running back from Dallas who picked up 1,054 all-purpose yards.

## Tennessee State tied for fifth in OVC preseason football rankings

NASHVILLE - For the sixth-straight year and eighth time in the past 10 years, Jackson State has been picked the preseason football favorite in the Ohio Valley Conference for 2019.

**Tennessee State** picked up 61 votes to tie Murray State for fifth in the rankings.

TSU had four preseason selections. On offense; senior wide receiver **Chris Rowland** (57 catches, 727 yards, 5 touchdowns), senior center **Thomas Burton** and senior guard **Raekwon Allen** were selected. Senior defensive back **Dajour Nesbeth** (58 tackles, 2.5 TFL, 4 INT, 7 PBU) was picked on the preseason defensive team.

This season head coach **Rod Reed** returns 51 letterwinners including eight offensive and seven defensive starters. Among the offensive returners is senior wide receiver and return specialist Rowland, who was named an All-American by HERO Sports a season ago. He ranked 11th nationally in receptions/game (7.1) and 20th in receiving yards/game (90.9).

He also ranked sixth nationally in punt returns, averaging 13.0 yards on 14 returns.

### 2019 OVC FOOTBALL PRESEASON POLL

1. Jacksonville State (14) – 126 points; 2. SE Missouri (4) - 115; 3. Eastern Kentucky - 98; 4. Austin Peay - 70; 5. Murray State - 61; (TIE) **Tennessee State** - 61; 7. UT Martin - 60; 8. Eastern Illinois - 35; 9. Tennessee Tech - 22

## Hampton pegged for 6th-place finish at Big South Football Media Day

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Big South Conference welcomed the **Hampton University** football team on Tuesday to its first full season playing a conference schedule at the league's 2019 Media Day at the Renaissance Charlotte Suites Hotel.

The Pirates, represented at the event by head coach **Robert Prunty**, wide receiver **Ronald Bell** and defensive back **Oral Varcciann**, both redshirt seniors, were picked to finish sixth in the seven-team league just ahead of Presbyterian.

Two-time defending conference champion Kennesaw State was tabbed the favorite for the 2019 season.

Hampton finished 7-3 a year ago, getting five of those wins vs. teams below the FCS level, but was 1-2 against Big South teams.

The Pirates had one player, redshirt senior offensive lineman **Gibril Ghee**, voted preseason all-Big South. Bell received honorable mention.

Before starting Big South play on Oct. 5 hosting new conference member North Alabama, Hampton opens the season at home vs. **Elizabeth City State** (Aug. 31) and vs. **Virginia Union** (Sept. 7) before traveling to Chicago to face **Howard** (Sept. 14) and to Liberty (Sept. 21). North Alabama joins the conference this year but is not eligible for the championship and its results will not count in conference standings.

### 2019 BIG SOUTH FOOTBALL PRESEASON POLL

1. Kennesaw State (14) – 134 points; 2. Monmouth (5) - 122; 3. Charleston Southern (1) - 79; 4. Campbell - 73; 5. Gardner-Webb - 67; 6. **Hampton** - 64; 7. Presbyterian - 21



## Albany State to discontinue men's golf and cross country

As part of a continuing realignment of resources following the merger with Darton State, **Albany State University (ASU)** has announced the discontinuation of two sports.

In a statement on the ASU Athletics website: "The University has implemented a plan to strategically realign resources to build a sustainable athletics program. Reductions across multiple sports included decreases in scholarships, operational expenses and personnel. One of these unfortunate but necessary reductions will include the discontinuation of ASU's men's cross country and men's golf programs. These programs will be discontinued at the conclusion of the 2019-20 academic year."

Going forward, Albany State will sponsor 11 sports programs and continue to be a member of NCAA Division II, the **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC)** and the Peach Belt Conference. These programs include football, baseball, men's track and field, women's track and field, women's cross country, men's basketball, women's basketball, volleyball, softball, tennis, soccer.

## CIAA Tourney brings in \$43 million for Charlotte

The Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority (CRVA) has released the results of an economic impact study surrounding a "basketball trifecta" in the Queen City between February 15 and March 16 this year.

The NBA All-Star Weekend (Feb. 15 -17), **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA)** Men's and Women's Tournament (Feb. 25 through March 2) and the 2019 New York Life Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) Tournament (March 12-16) contributed a combined \$167 million in economic impact to the region, including \$93.5 million in direct visitor spending.

Of that total, the CIAA generated \$43.7 million in economic impact outproducing the Division I ACC event two weeks later by \$7.1 million.

"The hospitality and tourism industry is one of the major drivers of economic benefits to the region, and these figures underscore the value of the visitor economy" said Tom Murray, CEO of the CRVA.

From the survey:

The (CIAA) tournament created \$25.6 million in direct visitor spending in the region, with expenditures on lodging, food and beverages producing an estimated \$2.96 million in state and local sales tax revenue.

The tournament remained a consistent draw with close to 76,000 fans and visitors attending the games over a six-day period.

Over 81 percent of surveyed attendees said they were likely to visit Charlotte for a future leisure trip and would recommend visiting Charlotte to friends and relatives.

Of the ancillary official tournament events, the Toyota Fan Fest, Lowe's Super Saturday and CIAA Career Expo at the Charlotte Convention Center, were among the top attended.

The CIAA community-focused events engaged the local community, drawing 200 entrepreneurs and business leaders to the Minority Business Symposium and more than 6,000 area high school and middle school students to the STEM Day initiatives.

In a post-event survey, nearly 4 in 5 visitors were satisfied with their 2019 tournament experience, citing "an overall positive experience," "socializing with friends," and "Charlotte is a great location" as the top three attributes.

"The numbers reinforce the impact of the CIAA Men's and Women's Basketball Tournament in the community," said CIAA Commissioner **Jacqie McWilliams**. "Our tournament brings an amazing influx of fans to the city and our community-based activities create a memorable experience for all, with the game of basketball at the center."

The CIAA's Men's and Women's Basketball Tournament will again be held in Charlotte in February 2020 before moving to Baltimore in 2021.