

# BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS



Alcorn Sports Photo

## FOOTBALL EDGES CLOSER

**WALLER:** Alcorn State RB garners preseason FCS and HBCU All-American honors after sparkling 2018 campaign.

**FLORIDA MEMORIAL RE-STARTING FOOTBALL; HOWARD'S NEWTON SLIGHTED ON A-A TEAM**

## UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

### HBCU STARS ON STATS FCS A-A TEAM:

Ten players from the HBCU FCS ranks were named recently to the 2019 STATS Preseason All-American team.

While no players from the **Mid Eastern Athletic Conference**, **Southwestern Athletic Conference**, **Tennessee State** or **Hampton** were named to the first team, three are second team selections: **Alcorn State's** 1,000-yard senior running back **DeShawn Waller** and the **North Carolina A&T** duo of senior offensive lineman **Marcus Pettiford** and junior defensive back **Franklin "Mac" McCain**.

Another seven were named to the third team. They are prolific **Howard** senior wide receiver **Jequez Ezzard**, **Alcorn State** senior linebacker **Solomon Muhammad**, **Prairie View A&M** senior defensive back **JuAnthony Parker**, **Florida A&M** junior punter **Chris Faddoul**, **Bethune-Cookman** senior kick returner **Jimmie Robinson**, **Tennessee State** senior punt returner **Chris Rowland** and **Howard** junior quarterback Caylin Newton as an athlete (see related story).

North Carolina A&T was the HBCU only team to get into the STATS FCS Preseason Top 25. The Aggies, two-time defending champions of the MEAC, are ranked 20th. A&T finished 2018 with a 10-2 record and were ranked 12th in the final STATS national poll.

Alcorn State, last year's **Southwestern Athletic Conference** champion, was the only other HBCU program to receive votes. The Braves finished 9-4 last season and lost to A&T in the Celebration Bowl. They received 85 votes, 36th in the preseason voting.

### McKNIGHT INVITED TO G-LEAGUE CAMP:

**PINE BLUFF, Ark.** – Former **University of Arkansas At Pine Bluff** men's basketball standout **Martaveous McKnight** has been invited to the NBA G League Player Invitational Camp in Chicago.



McKnight

In two seasons as a Golden Lion, McKnight scored exactly 1,300 points as a two-time first-team **All-Southwest Athletic Conference** selection, earning both SWAC Player of the Year and Newcomer of the Year in 2017-18.

This past season, the Walls, Miss. native averaged 20.8 points, 5.0 rebounds and just under three assists per contests. McKnight had a pair of 40-point scoring games, with a career-high 41 at Colorado State and 40 vs. Cal Baptist.

McKnight capped his career by being one of four players representing the SWAC in the 3-on-3 National Championship Tournament during NCAA Final Four Weekend.

"It's a great honor and opportunity for him to be invited to the tryouts," said UAPB Men's Basketball Coach **George Ivory**. "McKnight is an exceptional talent and person and I'm very excited for him."

Seven-foot center **Trayvon Reed** from **Texas Southern** is the only other HBCU player invited to the camp. McKnight, Reed and other NBA G League hopefuls are scheduled to participate Friday.

## BoxToRow HBCU Preseason Football All-America team

### OFFENSE

QB: Noah Johnson, Alcorn State, r-Sr.  
RB: DeShawn Waller, Alcorn State, Sr.  
RB: Taeyler Porter, Ark.-Pine Bluff, Sr.  
RB: Tabynus Taylor, Virginia Union, Jr.  
OL: Jean Cyriaque, Morehouse, Sr.  
OL: Jodeci Harris, Southern, r-Sr.  
OL: Kevin Hall, ASU, Alcorn State, r-Sr.  
OL: Mustafa Ibrahim, Alcorn State, Sr.  
OL: Marcus Pettiford, N. Carolina A&T, Sr.  
TE: Kendrick Johnson, Alabama A&M, Jr.  
WR: Jequez Ezzard, Howard, Sr.  
WR: Kevin Greenhow, Central State, Sr.,  
WR: Chris Rowland, Tenn. State, Sr. \*

### DEFENSE

DL: Marques Ford, Bethune-Cookman, Sr.  
DL: Joshua Pryor, Bowie State, r-Soph.  
DL: Jordan Lewis, Southern, Soph.  
DL: Justin Cates, North Carolina A&T, Sr.  
DL: Darius Royster, N. C. Central, r-Sr.\*  
LB: Austin Stephens, Miles, Sr.  
LB: Devon Hunt, Shaw, Sr.  
LB: Amari Holloway, Alabama A&M, Sr.  
LB: Solomon Muhammad, Alcorn State, Sr.  
DB: Sterling Hammond, Virginia Union, Sr.  
DB: Joseph McWilliams, Grambling, r-Sr.  
DB: Qwynnterio Cole, Alcorn State, Jr.,  
DB: JuAnthony Parker, Prairie View A&M, Sr.

### SPECIALISTS

P: Chris Faddoul, Florida A&M, Jr.  
PK: Gabriel Ballinas, Albany State, Jr.  
PR: Tyeous Sharpe, Fayetteville State, Jr.  
KR: Brandon Smith, Fayetteville State, Jr.

# Florida Memorial re-enters the football fray

## Names new head coach to restart the program

MIAMI GARDENS, Fl. — **Timothy S. Harris Sr.** has been tasked with leading the re-birth of the **Florida Memorial Lions** football program.

Harris was officially announced as the head football coach during a press conference held at the FMU Wellness Center on Monday.

"I'm so excited about being the new football coach at Florida Memorial University," said Harris. "This has been something that I've worked for my whole career and I'm so excited and so committed to making sure that I do an awesome job here."

Football is a part of the university's long-standing history, having been introduced in 1929 when the team played in the **South Atlantic Intercollegiate Association**. After 61 years without the sport, the university has reintroduced the game to Lion Country and it begins with the hiring of the new coach.

A well-known figure in South Florida football, Harris has over 22 years of coaching experience all within the South Florida communities. He spent the last three years as the Head Coach at Booker T. Washington Senior High School in Miami where they finished as the 2016 State runners up.

In total he spent 11 years with the Tornados between 2003-2018. He had two stints with the University of Miami Hurricanes as the Assistant Director of Football Operations from 2008-11 and then as the running backs coach from 2014-16.

As a coach with the Tornados Harris has a 99-11 record during his two periods there from 2003-2014. Harris also has experience coaching at Miami Northwestern, Miami Central and Miami Senior High School.

He has an overall record of 114-21 over nine seasons, three FHSAA Class 4A State Champi-



Harris

onships, and has been named Coach over the Year 14 times by entities such as the Miami Dolphins, USA Today and the Miami Herald.

The last football game played by the Lions was a 14-8 win over **Albany State** in 1958 under then head coach **Lloyd Howell**.

The University, then called **Florida Normal and Industrial Institute**, competed in the Southeastern Athletic Confer-

ence. From 1945-58 the team finished with an all-time record of 41 wins, 25 losses and six ties with a break in the 1949 season.

Coach Harris said, "When this press conference is over, the recruiting process will start."

Currently the Lions compete in the Sun Conference as members of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. The inaugural season is set for Fall 2020.

# BCSP Notes

## Washington out, Pete in as Prairie View A&M Athletics Director

**Prairie View A&M** Vice President/Athletics Director **Fred Washington** has resigned. The resignation was confirmed by school President **Dr. Ruth Simmons** and reported on Twitter by Mark Berman, sports director at local TV station Fox 26.

"I met with him late yesterday (Thursday) and he informed me he was going to resign and he's really retiring. I think it was a combination of factors, mostly related to family," Simmons said. "He and his wife had discussed this long before. This is a little earlier than what he had anticipated."

Washington was named AD last October following the departure of **Ashley Robinson** to become AD at **Jackson State**.

All total, Washington has served PVAM for 27 years. He is also retired as a Major in the United States Army Reserve and served twenty-three years in that regard.

"I'm going to name (associate director of athletics) **Alicia Pete** to step in again on an interim basis, but we will be conducting a national search," said Simmons.

Pete, who is also a PVAM alum, served as interim AD during the

period between Robinson's departure and Washington's appointment. As Senior Woman Administrator, she now returns to leading the department until the vacancy is filled.



Washington



Pete

## BoxToRow releases preseason HBCU All-American football team

The 2019 college football season is right around the corner and media members from around the country have selected the 2019 BOXTOROW HBCU Preseason All-America Team.

Twenty members of last year's postseason All-America Team are included on the preseason team including nine players that were freshmen or sophomores in 2018.

Defending **SWAC** champion **Alcorn State** leads the way with six selections. **Virginia Union**, **Fayetteville State**, **North Carolina A&T**, **Southern**, and **Alabama A&M** each had two selections.

This is the 13th year BOXTOROW has released the preseason All-America Team. The team is listed on the left side of the BCSP.

## Opinion

# STATS recognizes Newton, or do they?

by **Lut Williams**  
BCSP Editor

The headline from a STATS press release two weeks ago read, "Talent widespread on STATS FCS Preseason All-America Team."

The **Howard University** press release related to that announcement was proudly headlined "Howard Football's Ezzard, Newton Receive STATS FCS Preseason All-America Honors," referencing how talented Bison senior wide receiver **Jequez Ezzard** and prolific junior quarterback **Caylin Newton** made the All-American list, both as third team selectees.

But what was interesting, overlooked and perhaps troubling was that Newton (6-0, 195), the younger and smaller brother of Carolina Panthers quarterback Cam Newton, who has literally helped put Howard back on the football map winning Freshman and Player of the Year honors in the **Mid Eastern Athletic Conference** in his two seasons leading the Bison, was designated as an 'athlete' rather than at the position that he plays, quarterback.

That designation triggered a conversation between longtime sports reporter **Roscoe Nance** and me about whether this was a slight given the young man's accomplishments. We concluded that it was.

Nance, a **Tuskegee** graduate and veteran sportswriter who has toured the circuit covering everything from the **Southwestern Athletic Conference** during its 1970s and 1980s heyday for the **Jackson Clarion-Ledger** to international soccer and the NBA for **USA Today** over a more than 40-year distinguished career, decided to pen a story about the troubling designation of Newton as 'athlete.' (see link below).

Perhaps a little perspective and history is needed to understand the problem with such a designation.

Prior to the early 1970s, nearly every black quarterback was labelled an 'athlete.' No matter how good he was, how much his team won or what kind of numbers he put up, that designation was used like a sledge hammer to deny that he could man the most important position on a football team, quarterback, particularly at the professional (NFL) level.

A few quotes from the Introduction (p. 3 and 4) of noted journalist and **Morgan State** graduate **William C. Rhoden's** 2007 book on the subject entitled, *Third and a Mile*, subtitled *The Trials and Triumphs of the Black Quarterback*, sums it up.

"More than on physical prowess, a quarterback succeeds – or fails – on his core intelligence, mental agility, and football judgment. He's constantly being tested on his ability to make sense of the scrambled information he picks up in the eight of ten seconds between barking, "Break" in the

huddle, receiving the snap, and getting rid of the football . . ."

Critics – ok, *white* critics – allow that African-American athletes have 'soul,' that black folks can get out there and "make things happen," that we are "athletic." But capable of rational thought under pressure? Split-second judgments? The ability to take command and deliver the goods?

Not so fast.

Somehow, all the leadership traits embodied by a great quarterback are perceived to be beyond the reach of a quarterback with a black face."

Later in his Introduction, Rhoden then quotes Hall of Fame quarterback Fran Tarkenton who in 1971, in the book entitled *Opening Doors: Perspectives in Race Relations in Contemporary America*, said the following:

*As for quarterback, it doesn't take more than a few seconds of glancing at the NFL roster to figure out that the vast majority of them are Anglo-Saxons . . . By tradition, Anglo-Saxons have been prideful, explorative, curious men with a powerful strain of self-confidence. These characteristics have been developed over centuries of family life and schooling, and Anglo-Saxons seem to be ethnically well-equipped to operate as leaders. On the other hand, the hatred and cultural isolation meted out to the black man over the past centuries seem to have provided an environment far removed from that in which cocky quarterback types are fostered. Therefore, as the black community gains confidence in itself (which is happening at an ever-accelerating rate), it should begin to raise the fund of whip-cracking personalities who can ramrod a collection of diverse personalities like a football team. So far, for better or worse, the Anglo-Saxon seems best equipped – culturally, not physically, for this job."*

What, an AI Campanis precursor? Understand that history and thinking?

Newton, Howard and the MEAC are likely glad that he received any kind of all-American designation. It gives the player, the school and the league much needed exposure and headlines as they head into the 2019 season and compete for recognition in the vast world of college football. Newton was one of ten HBCU players named to one of the three teams.

It's likely that STATS Senior FCS Editor Craig Haley and his staff that picks the all-American team intended no slight to Newton. And it also likely that there was no intended racial overtone to the selection.

Likely.

Here's the deal.

Newton passed for 2,432 yards and 13 TDs in his freshman campaign (2017) while rushing for 753 yards and 12 scores en route to being named MEAC Freshman of the Year. A stunning



Howard Sports Photo

**CAYLIN NEWTON:** On course to break MEAC passing and total offense records but designated a STATS FCS all-American as an athlete? What gives?

43-40 upset of UNLV in his college debut where he accounted for 330 yards of offense and three touchdowns cast him on the national stage. Howard, with Newton at the controls, pulled off what many have labelled the biggest upset in college football history. The Bison were 45-point underdogs.

Last season, a perhaps wiser Newton passed for 2,629 yards and 22 touchdowns while rushing for 514 yards and four scores and was voted the conference's Offensive Player of the Year. He was 25th in the FCS in *passing* yards, tied for 16th in *passing* touchdowns, 33rd in *passing* efficiency, 15th in *passing* yards per game (262.9 ypg.). He freaking led the FCS in *passing* yards per completion (16.85-yard average).

How this merits a designation as an 'athlete' is beyond me!

His numbers and totals of 5,061 passing yards and 35 touchdowns, 1,275 rushing yards and another 16 scores are certainly worth noting and considering for all-American status. But as an 'athlete'? I don't think so.

Newton is past halfway to breaking former Howard quarterback **Ted White's** school and MEAC record of 9,808 career *passing* yards.

His 6,336 yards of total offense (3,168 yards per year) are nearly two-thirds of the way to breaking former Howard quarterback **Greg McGhee's** school and MEAC career record of 10,168 yards. And Newton has two years left to do it.

Those are not the numbers of an athlete. They are the numbers of a quarterback.

Roscoe Nance's column on the same subject entitled *Caylin Newton is a QB: Enough Said* with a history of black college quarterback slights can be found on Onnidan.com at: <https://onnidan.com/newsroom/july-sept-2019/6661-opinion-newton-is-a-qb-enough-said>