

**BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS**



SWAC Title Game logo

**HUNTING SWAC TITLE & BOWL BID**

**FOOTBALL COACHES OUT AT BENEDICT AND CENTRAL STATE; ALBANY STATE GETS NEW AD**

**LAST CHANCE:** East champion Alcorn State hosts West champion Southern in SWAC Championship Game XXI at Alcorn State Saturday. Winner to face MEAC champ NC A&T in Celebration Bowl.

**SWAC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME XXI**



**SOUTHERN JAGUARS (8-4)**

WEST DIVISION CHAMPION  
SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION



Head Coach **DAWSON ODUMS**

**TEAM RECORD**  
2018 Overall: 8-4  
2018 SWAC: 6-1 W  
2018 BCSP Ranking: 7th  
All-Time vs. Alcorn: 27-39  
Last Time vs. Alcorn: 27-13 L, '19  
SWAC Title Games: 5, 4-2 (Last '18)  
SWAC Championships: 19 (Last '13)

**COACH'S RECORD**  
Alma Mater: N. C. Central ('97)  
Record vs. Alcorn: 1-8  
Record at BSU: 58-31, .651 (8th year)  
Career Record: Same

**2019 RESULTS SOUTHERN 8-4**  
28.....@ McNeese State.....34 L  
24.....@ Memphis.....55 L  
61.....Edward Waters.....0 W  
21.....@ Florida A&M.....27 L  
31.....@ Arkansas-Pine Bluff.....7 W  
34.....Prairie View A&M.....28 W  
28.....Texas Southern (Dallas).....21 W  
13.....@ Alcorn State.....27 L  
35.....Alabama A&M.....31 W  
58.....Virginia-Lynchburg.....7 W  
40.....Jackson State.....34 W  
30.....Grambling State.....28 W



**ALCORN STATE BRAVES (8-3)**

EAST DIVISION CHAMPION  
SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION



Head Coach **FRED MCNAIR**

**2019 RESULTS ALCORN STATE 8-3**  
10.....@ Southern Miss.....38 L  
45.....Mississippi College.....7 W  
14.....@ McNeese State.....17 L  
45.....Prairie View A&M.....41 W  
45.....Mississippi Valley State.....19 W  
35.....@ Alabama State.....7 W  
42.....Savannah State.....17 W  
27.....Southern.....13 W  
16.....@ Grambling State...19 L, OT  
34.....Alabama A&M.....28 W  
41.....Jackson State.....6 W

**TEAM RECORD**  
2018 Overall: 8-3  
2018 SWAC: 6-1 E  
2018 BCSP Ranking: T-1st  
All-Time vs. Southern: 39-27  
Last Time vs. Southern: 27-13 W, '19  
SWAC Title Games: 5, 3-2 (Last '18)  
SWAC Championships: 15 (Last '18)

**COACH'S RECORD**  
Alma Mater: Alcorn State ('92)  
Record vs. SU: 4-1  
Record at ASU: 27-17, .613 (4th year)  
Career Record: Same

SAT., DECEMBER 7, 2019 • LORMAN, MS • SPINKS-CASEM STADIUM • 4 P. M. CT • ESPN3

**Southern/Alcorn do it again for SWAC crown**

**LUT WILLIAMS**  
BCSP Editor

Down 21-3 in the second quarter, **Southern** fought back to get within 21-17 at the half and then blocked two fourth-quarter **Grambling State** field goals to come away with a dramatic 30-28 win at Saturday's *Bayou Classic*.

The win over their rivals gives the Jaguars (8-4, 6-1 W) their second straight West Division title and second straight shot at East Division champ **Alcorn State** (8-3, 6-1) at this week's SWAC Championship Game.

Southern went up on Grambling 24-20 late in the third quarter on quarterback **Ladarius Skelton's** 5-yard scoring pass to wideout **Hunter Register**. Grambling retook the lead at 30-24 as quarterback **Jeremy Hickbottom** scored on a 3-yard run on the first play of the fourth quarter.

The deciding score came on a 35-yard run by Southern RB **Jarod Sims** two plays after Grambling took its last lead.

The fourth-quarter Southern blocks of **Miguel Mendez** field goal attempts came with just over nine minutes left on a 50-yarder and on a 40-yarder after Grambling drove to the Southern 23 with :05 seconds left.

Both Southern and Alcorn State enter the championship game with 6-1 SWAC records but Alcorn State will host the 4 p.m. game based on its 27-13 win over Southern on Oct. 26. The game will be carried live on ESPN3.

The winner will meet **Mid Eastern Athletic Conference** co-champion **North Carolina A&T** (8-3) in *Celebration Bowl V* in Atlanta's Mercedes Benz Stadium on Dec. 21.

Alcorn has dominated the series with Southern over their last ten meetings coming away with victories in nine of those games, all while the Jaguars were being led by eighth-year head coach **Dawson Odums**.

Southern, under Odums, has only been able to get by Alcorn State in 2016, a 41-33 Jaguar victory in Braves' head coach **Fred McNair's** first year on the job.

Alcorn State has a three-game winning streak in the series including a 37-28 win in last

**FOOTBALL THIS WEEK**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2019  
SWAC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME - ESPN3  
Southern vs. Alcorn State in Lorman, MS 3:30p

**BCSP FOOTBALL TOP TEN**

- FLORIDA A&M** (9-2) - Best MEAC record at 7-1 but ineligible for conference title or postseason. Season over (TIE).
- SOUTH CAROLINA STATE** (8-3) - Earned a share of MEAC title at 6-2. Season over.
- ALCORN STATE** (8-3) - SWAC East. NEXT: Faces West Div. champ Southern Saturday for SWAC Championship.
- NORTH CAROLINA A&T** (8-3) - Shared MEAC title and received third straight Celebration Bowl berth. NEXT: Dec. 21 Celebration Bowl vs. SWAC champion.
- BETHUNE-COOKMAN** (7-4) - Finished third in MEAC at 5-3. Season over.
- BOWIE STATE** (11-1) - C-IAA champ lost in first round of Div. II playoffs. Season over.
- SOUTHERN** (7-4) - Defeated Grambling State 30-28 to take SWAC W. Div. crown. NEXT: At Alcorn State in SWAC Championship Game.
- VIRGINIA STATE** (8-2) - Finished second in C-IAA North to Bowie State. Season over.
- SAVANNAH STATE** (7-3) - Had best SIAC record at 5-0 but ineligible for conference title or postseason.
- MILES** (9-3) - SIAC champion lost in first round of NCAA Div. II playoffs. Season over.

year's SWAC title game.

In their earlier meeting this season, Alcorn State quarterback **Felix Harper** threw for 277 yards and two touchdowns without an interception while Braves' defenders picked off two Southern passes and held Southern to 75 rushing

yards on 27 carries in the 27-13 win. Southern won its final four games after that loss.

Alcorn State comes in with a decided advantage in the passing game. Harper, who replaced injured 2018 starter **Noah Johnson** after three games, has passed for 2,387 yards and 29 TDs with just five interceptions. His 167.9 efficiency rating tops the conference. Skelton has passed for 1,483 yards and 13 TDs with six picks.

Skelton is also the top ground gainer for a squad that leads the SWAC averaging 226.8 rushing yards per game. Skelton has run for 824 yards and 12 scores, just ahead of running back **Devon Benn's** 793 yards and seven TDs.

Freshman **Niko Duffey** leads the Alcorn ground attack with 727 yards (72.7 ypg.) and six TDs.

The receiving corps for Alcorn State is led by **Chris Blair** with 36 catches for 776 yards and six TDs and **LeCharles Pringle** with 37 catches for 617 yards and a league-best 13 TDs. **Juan Anthony Jr.** has 35 receptions for 367 yards and three scores while **Raidarious Anderson** has chipped in 18 receptions for 349 yards and three TDs. All four Alcorn State receivers are in the top 20 in the conference in receiving yards. **Hunter Register's** 42 grabs for 608 yards and 11 TDs is the only Southern receiver in the top 20.

Alcorn State's defense is tops in the league giving up 328.5 yards per game including a rushing defense that leads giving up just 127.5 ypg. Southern is second in rushing defense (128.7 ypg.).

**MEN'S BASKETBALL PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**

- CIAA**
- PLAYER - Terrell Leach**, 6-0, Sr., G, **VUU**  
Had 28 points, two assists, steals and rebounds in win over Clafflin.
- DEFENSE - Jordan Peebles**, 6-7, G., **VUU**  
Had 11 defensive rebounds, three steals, and two blocks to go with 15 points and 17 boards in win over Clafflin.
- ROOKIE - Micah Campbell**, 6-8, Fr., C, **VUU**  
Eight points, five rebounds, and blocked three shots vs. Clafflin.

- SWAC**
- PLAYER - Tyrik Armstrong**, 6-0, Sr., G, **TSU**  
Averaged 20 points, five rebounds, 4.5 assists and 3 steals in two games as TSU went 1-1. He led TSU in scoring at Arkansas and hit the game-winning basket in double overtime at Northern Kentucky.
- Armstrong scored a season-high 25 points and also had season highs in steals and rebounds while also connecting on the final two free throws in the first OT to force the second overtime at Northern Kentucky.

**FOOTBALL SCORES**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28 SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23  
Prairie View A&M 20, Alabama State 17 Southern 30, Grambling State 28

**UNDER THE BANNER**

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

**TWO MORE SIAC COACHES OUT:**

**Benedict College** announced last week that it has parted ways with head football coach **Mike White** after six years. The Tigers are "immediately starting a national search for his replacement," the school said.



White

White, who spent 15 very successful years as head coach at his alma mater, **Albany State**, before taking over at Benedict in 2014, compiled a 19-30 record during his tenure leading the Tigers.

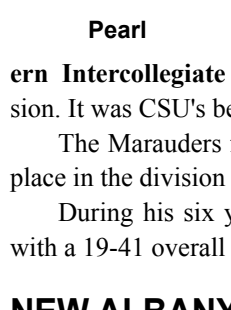
He was hired in early 2014 to replace **James Woody**. He steadily built the program into a **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference** contender coming close in 2017 and 2018 when the Tigers finished 7-2 and 6-3. This year, behind a struggling offense, Benedict finished 1-9.

"They just said they were going in another direction," White told *The State* newspaper in Columbia, S. C. "It's just a result-type business, and I appreciate the opportunity that I had there."

White coached at Albany State, his alma mater, for 30 years before joining Benedict. As head coach of the Rams from 2000-2014, he posted 13 straight winning seasons, and has an overall coaching record of 130-72.

With Benedict, White went 0-10 in 2015, then posted a 5-6 record in 2016. The Tigers won the last five games of the season in 2017 to finish 7-2 and 5-1 in the SIAC, Benedict's best season since an 8-3 run in 2009 and the Tigers' second-best finish since the football program was restarted in 1995.

**Central State** also announced that it was dismissing head football coach **Cedric Pearl** after six years.



Pearl

Pearl joined CSU in 2014 after 13 seasons as an assistant at **Alabama A&M** and appeared to be turning the program around after several down years.

His Marauders won nine games over the first two seasons equal to the amount of wins for the program in the previous five seasons. CSU was 5-5 in 2018 and finished second in the **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference's** West Division. It was CSU's best finish since joining the SIAC.

The Marauders finished 3-7 this season, tied for last place in the division at 2-4. During his six years at Central State, Pearl finished with a 19-41 overall record.

**NEW ALBANY STATE AD:**

**Albany State University** now has a new person to lead their athletics department starting in 2020. ASU President **Marion Ross Fedrick** has announced the selection of **Tony Duckworth** as Athletics Director/Chief Athletics Administrator. The appointment is effective January 2, 2020. Duckworth takes over for **Jackie Nicholson**, who has served as interim athletic director after the departure of **Sherie Gordon** in June 2019.

Prior to his appointment, Duckworth served as Director of Athletics and Chief Athletics Officer at North-eastern State University (NSU) in Tahlequah, Oklahoma since 2011. He led the final year of transition into the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association. Additionally, he has served as Director of Athletics at Maryville University, where he led Maryville through a significant transition as the university reclassified from Division III to Division II. He has also served as Head Men's Basketball Coach and Associate Athletics Director at Huntingdon College, Head Basketball Coach at Belhaven College, and Assistant Men's Basketball Coach and Recruiting Coordinator at Covenant College. Mr. Duckworth also has international head coaching experience, having led two American All-Star teams to compete overseas in Costa Rica.

**Alabama State to face Florida in NCAA first round**

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — For the third time in four seasons, **Alabama State** will travel to Gainesville, Fla., and take on Florida in the first round of the NCAA Division I Women's Volleyball Tournament on Thursday at 6 p.m. CT, as announced by the Division I Women's Volleyball Selection Committee on Sunday night.

Florida earned the No. 10 overall seed and the hosting right for the first and second rounds of the NCAA Tournament. Joining Alabama State at Florida are Florida State and UCF.

Alabama State earned its way into the NCAA Tournament with a dominating 3-0 (25-15, 25-20, 25-20) win over **Prairie View A&M** on Nov. 24 to collect its fourth consecutive **Southwestern Athletic Conference** volleyball championship.

**Howard to take on Pitt in NCAA Tourney**

**Howard**, the 2019 and five-time defending **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** (MEAC) champion, will face national No. 6 seed Pittsburgh on Friday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. in the Petersen Events Center in the first round of the 2019 NCAA Women's Volleyball Championship.

Cincinnati and VCU will also be in Pittsburgh. Howard (20-12) defeated **Morgan State** in five sets on Sunday, Nov. 24 in the championship match of the MEAC tournament to give the Bison their fifth straight title and 12th overall.

**TOP PERFORMANCES** - From HBCU Football Games This Week

PASSING		
Kha'Darris Davis, ALST	25-46-2	207 yards
Ladarius Skelton, SOU	18-25-0	181 yards
Jeremy Hickbottom, GRAM	15-28-0	155 yards
Trazon Connley, PVA&M	15-31-1	149 yards
RUSHING		
Trazon Connley, PVA&M	20 carries	202 yards
Keilon Elder, GRAM	19 carries	112 yards
Jarod Sims, SOU	7 carries	89 yards
RECEIVING		
Hunter Register, SOU	7 receptions	75 yards
Michael Jefferson, ALST	7 receptions	67 yards
Ezra Gray, ALST	4 receptions	62 yards
Jordan Jones, PVA&M	3 receptions	58 yards
TACKLES		
11	Calvin Lunkins, SOU; DeAndre Hughes, GRAM;	
10	Joshua Hill, ALST;	
9	Montavius Gaines, Caleb Carter, SOU; Marreo Thomas, ALST;	
SACKS		
2.0	Brandon Wiggs, GRAM;	
1.0	Caleb Carter, SOU; DeAndre McCarthy, GRAM;	
INTERCEPTIONS		
1	Jaylen Harris, Drake Cheatum, PVA&M; Naytron Culpepper, ALST;	

**Volleyball Round-up**

No. 2 in the latest American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) Top 25 poll.

**Fayetteville State, Seton Hill in D2 playoffs**

CIAA champion **Fayetteville State** is seeded 8th and will travel to top seed Wheeling (31-3) in the Div. II Atlantic Regional.

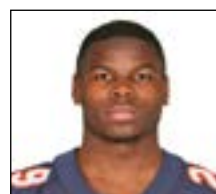
The winner of that match will face the winner of the match between No. 4 Shippensburg and No. 5 Millersville in the semifinals on Friday night.

SIAC champion **Seton Hill** is seeded 8th in the NCAA Div. II South Region and will face top-seed Lynn (27-4) in the playoffs. The tournament is being held at Wingate University.

The winner of the that match will face the winner of the match between No. 4 Augusta and No. 5 South Carolina-Aiken.

**BCSP NFL PLAYERS OF THE WEEK**

For games of November 21-25, 2019



**OFFENSE**  
- **TARIQ COHEN**, RB/KR, Chicago (3rd season, **NORTH CAROLINA A&T**) - Three carries for 9 yards, four catches for 26 yards and two punt returns for -4 yards in 24-20 win over Detroit on Thursday.



**DEFENSE**  
- **JAVON HARGRAVE**, DT, Pittsburgh (4th season, **SOUTH CAROLINA STATE**) - Six total tackles, three solos, a half-sack and 1.5 tackles for losses in 20-13 win over Cleveland.



- **DARIUS LEONARD**, ILB, Indianapolis (2nd season, **SOUTH CAROLINA STATE**)  
- Eleven total tackles, five solos, two sacks in 31-17 loss to Tennessee.



**SPECIAL TEAMS**  
- **JAMIE GILLAN**, P, Cleveland (1st season, **ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF**) - Three punts for 144 yards (48.0-yard average) with one downed inside the 20 in 20-13 loss to Pittsburgh.