FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 10 - 16, 2019

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE™

Alcorn State Sports Photo

FELIX HARPER: Alcorn State QB & SWAC POY, leads Braves to SWAC title, Celebration Bowl berth. To face NC A&T in Atlanta on Dec. 21

ALCORN REPEATS, HEADED TO BOWL GAME

PRINCE OUT AT HOWARD; BCFHOF FINALISTS NAMED; EARLY HBCU BASKETBALL RECORDS

BCFHOF Player of the Year finalists named

Atlanta, GA (December 6, 2019) – The Black College Football Hall of Fame (BCFHOF) has announced four finalists for the 2019 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 former **Bowie State** quarterback **Amir Hall** was selected as the recipient in 2017 and 2018.

The 2019 finalists include junior quarterback **Felix Harper** (**Alcorn State**), junior running back **Jah-Maine Martin** (North Carolina A&T State), senior wide receiver **Chris Rowland** (**Tennessee State**) and senior quarterback **Ryan Stanley** (**Florida A&M**).

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 Doug 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 2019 Black College Football Player of the Year Award will be announced on February 22, 2020 at the 11th 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 James "Shack" 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 21st, along with the BCFHOF Class of 2020, which will be televised on ABC.

FELIX HARPER
Quarterback … **Alcorn State University** … Junior … 2019 Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Offensive Player of the Year … 1st Team All-SWAC … Led SWAC in passing efficiency (162.7), and was second in yards (2,613) and touchdowns (30) despite starting the season as the backup QB … Rushed for 154 yards and an additional four touchdowns on the season, while only throwing eight interceptions … Named SWAC Offensive Player of the Week three times in 2019 … Threw six touchdowns in 45-19 victory over Mississippi Valley State … Led Alcorn State to the SWAC Championship and Celebration Bowl berth.

JAH-MAINE MARTIN
Running Back … **North Carolina A&T State University** … Junior … 1st Team All-Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) … Led MEAC in rushing yards (1,336) and touchdowns (21) … Broke **Tarik Cohen's** school record for rushing touchdowns in a season (21) … Led the Aggies to their third overall and second consecutive berth in the Celebration Bowl … Candidate for MEAC Offensive Player of the Year … Finalist for the ***Walter Payton Award*** as the Most Outstanding Offensive Player in FCS Football.

CHRIS ROWLAND
Wide Receiver and Return Specialist … **Tennessee State University** … Senior … 2019 Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) Offensive Player of the Year … 1st Team All-OVC as a WR and RS … Led OVC in receptions (104), receiving yards (1,437) and all-purpose yards (2,110) … Led FCS in receiving yards per game (119.8)... The 104 receptions in a season set a new HBCU record … Only Division I player (FBS or FCS) to score a touchdown via kick return, punt return, reception and rushing … Had six games with 200-plus all-purpose yards during the season … Selected to participate in the NFLPA Collegiate Bowl.

RYAN STANLEY
Quarterback … **Florida A&M University** … Senior … 1st Team All-MEAC … Just announced as MEAC Offensive Player of the Year … Led MEAC in passing efficiency (146.6), yards (2,566), touchdowns (23) and total offense per game (261.9) … Led the Rattlers to the best record in the MEAC (7-1) … Became Florida A&M's all-time leader in passing yards, touchdowns and completions this season … Finalist for the ***Walter Payton Award*** as the Most Outstanding Offensive Player in FCS Football.

ABOUT DEACON JONES
David "Deacon" Jones played defensive end for **South Carolina State University** and **Mississippi Valley State University** from 1958 to 1960. Blessed with speed, agility, and quickness, the "Deacon" became one of the finest pass rushers in the business. He won unanimous All-NFL honors six straight years from 1965 through 1970 and was selected to eight Pro Bowls. Jones is an inaugural BCFHOF inductee (2010) and is a member of the Pro Football HOF.

ABOUT THE BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME
The Black College Football Hall of Fame was established in October of 2009 by African-American pioneers and quarterbacks, Pro Bowl MVP James "Shack" Harris and Super Bowl MVP Doug Williams to preserve the history and honor the greatest football players, coaches and contributors from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). There have been 84 Inductees since inception, including Mel Blount, James Harris, Willie Lanier, Art Shell and Doug Williams, who serve as Trustees.

FOOTBALL SCORES

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7
SWAC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME
Alcorn State 39, Southern 24

CHAMPS, AGAIN: Alcorn State head coach Fred McNair (c.) raises the SWAC Championship trophy after his team's 39-24 win over Southern Saturday. Game MVP Juwan Taylor (#21), Alcorn President, Dr. Felecia M. Nave and SWAC Commissioner Dr. Charles McClelland, (both clapping) look on.

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME RECAP

SWAC

Alcorn State 39, Southern 24

LORMAN, MS – East Division champion **Alcorn State** (9-3) got six turnovers from West champ **Southern** (8-5), the final one a 53-yard pick six by cornerback **Taurence Wilson** with just over a minute left that sealed a 39-24 win and their second straight **SWAC** Championship Game victory.

The win also gives Alcorn State is second straight and third overall opportunity to play as the SWAC champion in the Dec. 21 *Celebration Bowl* at Atlanta's Mercedes Benz Stadium. The Braves will face the 8-3 **MEAC** co-champs, **North Carolina A&T**, the same team they have faced in their two other appearances in 2015 and 2018. NC A&T won both games 41-34 in 2015 and 24-22 last year.

The nip-and-tuck affair saw seven lead changes with Southern getting its final lead at 24-22 on an 8-yard scoring run by quarterback **Ladarius Skelton** with 8:43 left to play.

But Alcorn scored all the points from there, going back up 25-22 on **Corey McCullough's** 23-yard field goal with 5:07 left. The Braves then stopped the Jags in their own territory on 4th-and-1 with over three minutes left. Following a 31-yard run by Braves' running back **DeShawn Waller**, the Jags basically let Waller score on a 6-yard run so they could get the ball back with a chance to tie. McCullough's PAT put the Braves up 32-24 with just under two minutes to play.

But on the third play after the score, Wilson stepped in front of a Skelton pass in the right flat and scampered in for the game-clincher.

The back-and-forth began early as Southern went up 7-0 on a 32-yard run by halfback **Jarod Sims** and Alcorn answered as **Javen Morrison** took the ensuing kickoff back 89 yards to tie the game at 7. On the first play following that score, Southern was called for holding in the end zone resulting in a safety and a 9-7 Alcorn State lead.

The teams traded 3-yard second-quarter scoring runs to send the Braves into the break up 16-14. Southern retook the lead at 17-16 on **Cesar Barajas's** 41-yard field goal, the only third quarter score.

Wideout **LeCharles Pringle** hauled in a 56-yard scoring pass from QB **Felix Harper** early in the fourth quarter to put the Braves back up 22-17 after a missed 2-point conversion try setting up the final heroics.

For the game, quarterbacks Harper (12 of 26, 226 yards, 1 TD) and Skelton (18 of 30, 159 yards) both threw three picks. Harper threw two of his picks in the first quarter. Southern also lost three fumbles.

Sims, a freshman, was the game's top ground gainer rushing for 149 yards on 20 carries. Pringle had five receptions for 145 yards to lead the receivers.

Linebacker **Calvin Lunkins** led the Jaguars with 12 tackles, eight solos. **Juwan Taylor** topped Alcorn State with 11 stops. Alcorn State LB **Solomon Muhammad** recovered two of the Southern fumbles.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

PRINCE RESIGNS AT HOWARD:

Howard head football coach **Ron Prince** resigned Friday, follow` 'Coach Ron Prince has resigned as head coach of Howard's football program, effective immediately," Howard Athletic Director **Kery Davis** said Friday in a statement. "The university and Coach Prince have agreed to mutually part ways. A national search for a replacement will begin immediately.

Prince

Director of football operations **Aaron Kelton**, who led the Bison over their final three games, will continue interim responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the Bison football program. The Bison went 1-2 under Kelton's leadership.

Prince was hired in Dec. 2018 and coached only nine games for the Bison finished 1-8 in those games. He was placed on leave Nov. 6, after a parent accused him of being "threatening, hostile, abusive and disrespectful of young men and coaching staff." A group of former Howard players also issued an appeal for Prince to be terminated.

Since Prince's arrival, 17 total players entered the transfer portal, including **Caylin Newton**, the brother of Carolina Panthers quarterback Cam Newton, and the 2018 **MEAC** Offensive Player of the Year.

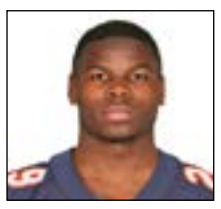
Before his time at Howard, Prince had an extensive coaching resume. Among other roles, he was previously the head coach at Kansas State from 2006-08 and the assistant head coach at the Detroit Lions from 2014-2017.

BCSP FOOTBALL TOP TEN

1. **FLORIDA A&M** (9-2) - Best MEAC record at 7-1 but ineligible for conference title or postseason because of NCAA violations. Season over
(TIE). **SOUTH CAROLINA STATE** (8-3) - Earned a share of MEAC title at 6-2. Season over.
(TIE) **ALCORN STATE** (9-3) - SWAC East champ defeated West champ Southern, 39-24 in league title game. **NEXT**: Faces MEAC co-champ NC A&T in Dec. 21 Celebration Bowl in Atlanta.
(TIE) **NORTH CAROLINA A&T** (8-3) - Shared MEAC title with SC State and earned third straight Celebration Bowl berth. **NEXT**: Dec. 21 Celebration Bowl vs. SWAC champion Alcorn State.
5. **BETHUNE-COOKMAN** (7-4) - Finished third in MEAC at 5-3. Season over.
6. **BOWIE STATE** (11-1) - CIAA champ lost in first round of Div. II playoffs. Season over.
7. **SOUTHERN** (8-5) - W. Div. champ fell to E. champ Alcorn State in SWAC Championship game. **NEXT**: Season over.
8. **VIRGINIA STATE** (8-2) - Finished second in CIAA North to Bowie State. Season over
9. **SAVANNAH STATE** (7-3) - Had best SIAC record at 5-0 but ineligible for conference title or postseason.
10. **MILES** (9-3) - SIAC champion lost in first round of NCAA Div. II playoffs. Season over.

BCSP NFL PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

For games of December 5-9, 2019



OFFENSE

– **TARIK COHEN**, RB/KR, Chicago (3rd season, **NORTH CAROLINA A&T**) - Three carries for 7 yards, six catches for 24 yards, one kickoff return for 7 yards and six punt returns for 33 yards with a long return of 13 yards in 31-24 win over Dallas on Thursday. Fumbled twice but didn't lose possession. Cohen is 17th in punt returns in the NFL averaging 9.1 yards per return.

DEFENSE

– **DARIUS LEONARD**, ILB, Indianapolis (2nd season, **SOUTH CAROLINA STATE) –** Nine total tackles, three solos, one tackle for loss, two interceptions returned for 91 yards, one returned 85 yards for a TD in 38-35 loss to Tampa Bay. Leonard, last year's NFL leader, is tied for 30th in the league with 92 tackles.
– **ANTOINE BETHEA**, S, NY Giants (14th season, **HOWARD**) - Led Giants with 13 tackles, 10 solos and one tackle for loss in 23-17 loss in overtime to Philadelphia. Bethea is tied for 27th in the NFL with 93 tackles.

SPECIAL TEAMS

– **JAMIE GILLAN**, P, Cleveland (1st season, **ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF**) - Two punts for 83 yards with a long punt of 54 yards in 27-19 win over Cincinnati. Gillan is ninth in the NFL averaging 46.2 yards per punt. His net average of 40.7 yards is tied for 25th.

MEN'S & WOMEN'S 2019-20 BLACK COLLEGE BASKETBALL (Standings)

CIAA
Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association

MEN	CONF W	CONF L	ALL W	ALL L
NORTH DIVISION				
Virginia Union	1	0	5	4
Virginia State	2	1	5	4
Eliz. City State	0	0	6	3
Bowie State	0	2	5	5
Lincoln	0	3	1	8
SOUTH DIVISION				
Fayetteville State	2	0	9	0
Livingstone	3	1	7	3
Winston-Salem State	2	1	4	3
J. C. Smith	1	1	5	2
Claflin	1	2	3	5
Shaw	0	1	3	4
St. Augustine's	0	0	2	4

WOMEN	CONF W	CONF L	ALL W	ALL L
NORTH DIVISION				
Bowie State	2	0	7	0
Lincoln	3	0	8	1
Virginia Union	1	0	5	1
Virginia State	2	1	5	5
Eliz. City State	0	1	2	5
SOUTH DIVISION				
Fayetteville State	2	0	3	5
Winston-Salem State	2	2	5	4
Livingstone	1	3	3	5
St. Augustine's	0	0	4	3
J. C. Smith	0	2	4	3
Shaw	0	1	3	4
Claflin	0	3	0	7

MEAC
Mid Eastern Athletic Conference

MEN	CONF W	CONF L	ALL W	ALL L
Bethune-Cookman	0	0	5	5
Coppin State	0	0	4	6
SC State	0	0	3	5
Morgan State	0	0	4	7
North Carolina A&T	0	0	3	7
Norfolk State	0	0	3	8
North Carolina Central	0	0	2	8
Delaware State	0	0	1	9
Howard	0	0	1	9
Md. E. Shore	0	0	1	10
# Florida A&M	0	0	0	7

Ineligible

WOMEN	CONF W	CONF L	ALL W	ALL L
Bethune-Cookman	0	0	6	1
Norfolk State	0	0	6	3
North Carolina A&T	0	0	5	3
Howard	0	0	5	4
Delaware State	0	0	4	5
Morgan State	0	0	3	6
Md. E. Shore	0	0	2	6
SC State	0	0	1	7
North Carolina Central	0	0	1	8
Coppin State	0	0	0	9
# Florida A&M	0	0	2	6

Ineligible

SIAC
Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

MEN	CONF W	CONF L	ALL W	ALL L
EAST DIVISION				
Morehouse	2	0	5	3
Albany State	1	0	4	7
Clark Atlanta	1	0	1	8
Benedict	1	1	4	5
Fort Valley State	1	1	3	6
Savannah State	1	1	1	4
Paine	0	2	0	4
WEST DIVISION				
Miles	3	0	8	2
Central State	1	1	4	3
Lane	1	1	3	3
LeMoyne-Owen	1	1	1	3
Tuskegee	0	1	3	4
Kentucky State	0	1	3	5
Spring Hill	0	2	1	8

WIOMEN	CONF W	CONF L	ALL W	ALL L
EAST DIVISION				
Paine	2	0	3	3
Fort Valley State	2	0	5	5
Clark Atlanta	1	0	2	7
Savannah State	1	1	4	1
Benedict	1	1	6	2
Albany State	0	1	1	5
WEST DIVISION				
Kentucky State	1	0	4	4
Spring Hill	1	0	2	7
Miles	1	1	5	3
Tuskegee	0	0	3	2
LeMoyne-Owen	0	2	1	3
Central State	0	2	2	8
Lane	0	2	0	7

SWAC
Southwestern Athletic Conference

MEN	CONF W	CONF L	ALL W	ALL L
Grambling State	0	0	4	5
Prairie View A&M	0	0	3	5
Alcorn State	0	0	3	5
Southern	0	0	3	5
Texas Southern	0	0	3	6
Alabama A&M	0	0	2	5
Alabama State	0	0	1	7
Ark. Pine Bluff	0	0	1	7
Jackson State	0	0	1	8
Miss. Valley State	0	0	1	8

WOMEN	CONF W	CONF L	ALL W	ALL L
Alabama State	0	0	3	4
Texas Southern	0	0	3	4
Alcorn State	0	0	4	6
Alabama A&M	0	0	2	4
Southern	0	0	2	4
Prairie View A&M	0	0	2	6
Grambling State	0	0	1	6
Jackson State	0	0	1	6
Miss. Valley State	0	0	1	6
Ark. Pine Bluff	0	0	0	7

INDEPENDENTS

MEN	W	L
Tennessee State	6	3
W. Va. State	5	2
UDC	4	6
Hampton	4	5
Lincoln (Mo.)	3	5

WOMEN	W	L
UDC	3	7
Hampton	2	3
W. Va. State	2	5
Tennessee State	1	6
Lincoln (Mo.)	1	8

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