




### CELEBRATE HBCU FOOTBALL IN ATLANTA

Celebration Bowl Trophy & Helmets  
A CHARM: SWAC champion Alcorn State and MEAC champion North Carolina A&T meet for third time Saturday in Celebration Bowl V.


2019 FINALE MATCHES A&T & ALCORN, AGAIN; COACHING LEGENDS, JOE TAYLOR HONORED

## CELEBRATION BOWL V




**NORTH CAROLINA A&T  
AGGIES (8-3)**

CHAMPION  
MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE




VS.



**ALCORN STATE  
BRAVES (9-3)**

CHAMPION  
SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION



**Head Coach  
SAM  
WASHINGTON**

**TEAM RECORD**

2019 Overall: 8-3  
2019 MEAC: 6-2  
2019 BCSP Ranking: T 1st  
All-Time vs. Alcorn: 2-1  
Last Time vs. Alcorn: 24-22 W, '18  
Celebration Bowl: 3-0, (Last '18)  
MEAC Championships: 9

**COACH'S RECORD**

Alma Mater: Miss. Valley State ('82)  
Record vs. Alcorn: 1-0  
Record at A&T: 17-5, .772 (2nd year)  
Career Record: Same

**2019 RESULTS**

**NC A&T 8-3**

24.....@ Elon.....21 W  
13.....@ Duke.....45 L  
27.....@ Charleston Southern.....21 W  
37.....@ Delaware State.....0 W  
58.....@ Norfolk State.....19 W  
31.....@ Florida A&M.....34, OT L  
64.....@ Howard.....6 W  
22.....@ South Carolina State.....20 W  
16.....@ Morgan State.....22 L  
47.....@ Bethune-Cookman.....17 W  
54.....@ North Carolina Central.....0 W

**2019 RESULTS**

**ALCORN STATE 9-3**


10.....@ Southern Mississippi.....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, OT L  
34.....@ Alabama A&M.....28 W  
41.....@ Jackson State.....6 W  
39.....@ Southern.....24 W

**TEAM RECORD**

2019 Overall: 9-3  
2019 SWAC: 7-1  
2019 BCSP Ranking: T 1st  
All-Time vs. NC A&T: 1-2  
Last Time vs. NC A&T: 24-22 L, '18  
Celebration Bowls: 0-2, (Last '18)  
SWAC Championships: 17

**COACH'S RECORD**

Alma Mater: Alcorn State ('92)  
Record vs. NC A&T: 0-1  
Record at ASU: 29-17, .630 (4th year)  
Career Record: Same



**Head Coach  
FRED  
MCNAIR**

SAT., DECEMBER 21, 2019 • ATLANTA, GA • MERCEDES BENZ STADIUM • 12 NOON • ABC

# A&T, Alcorn meet for third time in ATL

### LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) champion North Carolina A&T and Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) champion Alcorn State kick off the bowl season for the third time Saturday in the fifth edition of the season-ending *Celebration Bowl* at Atlanta's Mercedes Benz Stadium (12 noon, ABC).

Their previous two meetings in 2015 and 2018 have gone the way of the MEAC-champion Aggies, a 41-34 shootout in the inaugural game at the since demolished Georgia Dome and last season's 24-22 nail-biter in the second game at the new domed stadium in Atlanta.

Last season's Celebration Bowl was the first for former assistants Sam Washington of NC A&T and Fred McNair of Alcorn State as head coaches. Washington, in his second season, and McNair in his fourth, bring their teams back for a rematch.

The Aggies, in fact, making their third straight trip and fourth overall to Atlanta, own all three MEAC wins in the series including a 21-14 win over SWAC champion Grambling State in 2017. Grambling State has the only SWAC win, a 10-9 decision over North Carolina Central in 2016.

But the teams come into this year's game with different looks.

A year ago, A&T was led by a stingy, run-stopping defense, senior career passing leader Lamar Raynard and bruising back-to-back 1,000-yard rusher in senior Marquell Cartwright.

But it was the Braves who pounded out 328 rushing yards, led by 167 from junior running back DeShawn Waller and 107 and two TDs from junior quarterback Noah Johnson, while holding the Aggies to only 38 yards on the ground. Raynard's 286 passing yards and two TDs and a timely 79-yard kickoff return TD by Malik Wilson late in the third quarter, gave the Aggies a 24-16 lead.

The deciding play occurred on a controversial failed two-point conversion attempt by the Braves after Johnson brought them within 24-22 on a 59-yard scoring run in the first series of the fourth quarter. The Aggies milked the last five-plus minutes off the clock to secure the victory.

#### HOW DID THEY GET HERE

This season, A&T has been led on offense by steady longtime back-up, graduate QB Kyll Carter (1,865 passing yards, 12 TDs, 3 ints.) and junior star running back Jah-Maine Martin (1,421 rushing yards). Whereas Cartwright was a grinder, Martin is a home run hitter, a la Tarik






**CELEBRATION BOWL YARDSTICK**

N. C. A&T	TEAM STATS	ALCORN STATE
35.7 ppg. (1st)	<b>SCORING OFFENSE</b>	32.8 ppg. (4th)
18.6 ppg. (1st)	<b>SCORING DEFENSE</b>	19.7 ppg. (1st)
430.8 ypg. (1st)	<b>TOTAL OFFENSE</b>	402.8 ypg. (7th)
270.4 ypg. (1st)	<b>TOTAL DEFENSE</b>	336.0 ypg. (1st)
237.0 ypg. (1st)	<b>RUSHING OFFENSE</b>	158.3 ypg. (6th)
76.4 ypg. (1st)	<b>RUSHING DEFENSE</b>	137.8 ypg. (2nd)
193.8 ypg. (5th)	<b>PASSING OFFENSE</b>	244.5 ypg. (5th)
194.0 ypg. (2nd)	<b>PASSING DEFENSE</b>	198.3 ypg. (3rd)

INDIVIDUAL STATS		
Jah-Maine Martin	<b>RUSHING</b>	Niko Duffey
1,412 yds., 121.5 ypg., 7.8 ypc. 21 TDs	790 yds., 71.8 ypg., 5.2 ypc. 6 TDs	
Kyll Carter	<b>PASSING</b>	Felix Harper
137-254-3, 53.9%, 1,856 yds., 12 TDs	179-296-8, 60.5, 2,613 yds., 30 TDs	
Elijah Bell	<b>RECEIVING</b>	Lecharles Pringle
53 rec., 782 yds., 6 TDs	42 rec., 762 yds., 14 TDs	
Kyin Howard (LB)	<b>TACKLES</b>	Solomon Muhammad
70 tackles, 6.4 tpg.	81 tackles, 6.7 tpg.	
Devin Harrell (DE)	<b>SACKS</b>	Malik Holbert
7.0, -40 yds.	3.5, -15 yds.	
Chris Mosley (S)	<b>INTERCEPTIONS</b>	Taurence Wilson
3, 0 TD	4, 1 TD	
Noel Ruiz	<b>PLACEKICKING</b>	Corey McCullough
39-44 PATs, 21-25 FGs, 102 pts.	42-44 PATs, 10-18 FGs, 72 pts.	
Korey Banks	<b>KICK RETURNS</b>	Javen Morrison
21, 456 yds., 21.7 ypr., 0 TDs	19, 423 yds., 22.2 ypr., 1 TD	
Korey Banks	<b>PUNT RETURNS</b>	Lecharles Pringle
18, 184 yds., 10.2 ypr., 0 TD	7, 98 yds., 14.0 ypr., 0 TD	

BSCSP FOOTBALL TOP TEN			
1. ALCORN STATE (9-3)	6. BOWIE STATE (11-1)		
1. NORTH CAROLINA A&T (8-3)	7. SOUTHERN (8-5)		
3. FLORIDA A&M (9-2)	8. VIRGINIA STATE (8-2)		
4. SOUTH CAROLINA STATE (8-3)	9. SAVANNAH STATE (7-3)		
5. BETHUNE-COOKMAN (7-4)	10. MILES (9-3)		

The Aggies finished at 6-2 in the MEAC, tied with South Carolina State behind 7-1 Florida A&M, who was ineligible for the title and postseason play because of NCAA penalties. The Aggies head-to-head win over SC State gave them the bowl berth.

The change in the Braves is also obvious. Instead of the consummate runner Johnson, last year's SWAC offensive player of the year, McNair turned to left-hander Felix Harper after Johnson was hurt in the third game of the season. All Harper has done is pass for over 2,600 yards and 30 TDs en route to winning this year's SWAC Offensive POY award.

The Braves have a tall, talented and productive wide-receiving corps that includes Chris Blair (6-3, 200 - 37 rec., 6 TDs), Lecharles Pringle (6-0, 185 - 42 rec., 762 yds., 14 TDs), Juan Anthony Jr. (6-0, 185 - 36 rec., 380 yds., 3 TDs) and Raidarious Anderson (6-5, 196 - 19 rec., 377 yds., 3 TDs). Freshman Niko Duffey (790 yards, 6 TDs) has filled in admirably for Waller, who topped 1,000 yards last season but has been limited by injury most of the season.

Alcorn State had just one hiccup in league play while claiming its sixth straight SWAC East Division title, falling in overtime on the road to Grambling State. The Braves beat SWAC West Division winner Southern twice including a 39-24 win two weeks ago in the league's championship game.

#### WHAT TO EXPECT

What do the previous four *Celebration Bowls* have in common? They have all been decided by single digits. Don't be surprised if *Celebration Bowl V* has a similar outcome.

The MEAC teams that beat A&T - Florida A&M, 34-31 in OT, and Morgan State, 22-16 - held Martin to under 100 yards. For Alcorn State to shut down A&T, limiting Martin will be key. The most lethal part of Alcorn's offense has been its passing attack, likely the weakest or most underperforming part of the A&T defense.

The game could be a high-scoring shootout, like their first game, or a back-and-forth defensive slugfest like the last game.

Either way, it should be exciting.

## UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

### HILL-ELEY COMPLETES DOCTORATE:

We won't be referring to Alabama State University Head Football Coach Donald Hill-Eley anymore as just Coach Hill-Eley.



Dr. Hill-Eley

Not after he finished his Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from Morgan State University this month.

Dr. Hill-Eley, as he will now be known, received his undergraduate degree from Virginia Union where he played for (1987-90) and later coached (1991) under Hall of Fame coach Joe Taylor. He also was a grad assistant under Taylor in 1992-93 after his mentor

moved on to Hampton University and later served as the offensive coordinator for the Pirates under Taylor from 1997-2000.

He earned a Master's degree in Counseling during the mid-90s at Hampton.

He became head coach at Morgan State University from 2002-2013 where he began pursuit of his doctoral degree. He currently ranks third all-time with 56 wins for the Bears.

He took over as interim head coach at Alabama State during the 2017 season and was named to the permanent position following that season. He has compiled a 14-14 record during his time leading the Hornets, who finished 5-6 this season. He has an overall record of 73-90.

### COLLEGE HOF WELCOMES JOE TAYLOR:

Legendary head football coach Joe Taylor was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame last week.

The ceremony took place Tuesday evening at the 62nd National Football Foundation Annual Awards Dinner presented by ETT. This gathering was held in the Grand Ballroom at the New York Hilton Midtown.

Taylor, now director of intercollegiate athletics at Virginia Union University, compiled an impressive 233

wins overall during his standout 30-year career, and his remarkable 70.6 winning percentage ranks in the top 10 in FCS coaching history.

"The College Football Hall of Fame is an extraordinary honor," Taylor said. "When you start in life, you can't have this as a goal because you'll be out of focus."

"Bo Schembechler from Michigan said hard work does not go unnoticed. To get to this pinnacle in life, it simply said hard work was involved. You were involved, and you were around a lot of great people. You were able to gleam off them and the rest is history."

After one season as the head coach at Howard, Taylor took over the program at Virginia Union, where he won 60 games in eight seasons (1984-91). His best season with the Panthers was in 1986 when he guided the team to the CIAA title, an 11-1 record and a trip to the NCAA Division II Playoffs. Taylor also guided Virginia Union to the playoffs during a 10-2 season in 1990 and an 8-3 season in 1991.

Taylor shined during his tenure as Hampton's head coach from 1992-2007, posting a school record 136 wins while leading the Pirates to four SBN Black College National Championships. Hampton played at the NCAA Division II level his first three seasons, earning two Division II playoff appearances, including the school's first-ever NCAA playoff win. Taylor guided the Pirates to CIAA titles in all three of those seasons and the first of his four Black College National Championships in 1994.

After moving to the FCS in 1995, his Hampton teams would win three more Black College National Championships and five MEAC titles while making five FCS Playoff appearances. The four-time MEAC Coach of the Year owns eight of the top 10 winningest seasons in Pirate history, including the top six. Taylor also guided Hampton to a win in the 1999 *Heritage Bowl* over Southern.

Taylor concluded his stellar coaching career at

CONTINUED, See TAYLOR

### UNDER THE BANNER, Continued



Florida A&M from 2008-12, where he became the first coach in school history to win 25 games in his first three seasons. Arguably, his best season with the Rattlers came in 2010 when the team went 8-3 and claimed a share of the MEAC title.

A former president of the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA),

Taylor also served on the FCS All-American Selection Committee and the advisory board of the Black Coaches Association. He has received lifetime achievement awards from the AFCA/FCA and the All-American Football Foundation, and he is enshrined in the Virginia Union Athletics, Western Illinois Athletics, CIAA and MEAC

halls of fame.

A graduate of Western Illinois University, Taylor played offensive line for the Leathernecks under College Football Hall of Fame Coach Darrell Mudra. He began his coaching career as an assistant at Howard D. Woodson High School in his hometown of Washington, D.C., from 1972-77.