

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS



Bluefield State Sports Photo

HBCU HISTORY REVISITED

COAXUM: Former West Point player and NFL assistant to lead Bluefield State's return to the gridiron.

FOUR COACHES OUT AT CENTRAL STATE; COVID-19 WREAKING HAVOC AT FLA. MEMORIAL

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

NORFOLK STATE'S DANIELS RECOGNIZED BY NASCAR:

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla - In celebration of the sport's diversity and inclusion trailblazers, NASCAR virtually hosted its 13th Drive for Diversity Awards to honor industry members whose efforts were making a difference both on and off the racetrack. Norfolk State product **Brehanna Daniels** received the Crew Member Award as a pit crew Independent Contractor.

Daniels was one of 10 individuals recognized at this year's virtual awards ceremony held on Thursday. She was honored for her pioneer work in NASCAR after becoming the first African-American woman to pit in a national car racing series and then in one of NASCAR's top three series, both in 2017.

In 2018, Daniels made history as the first African-American woman to pit in NASCAR's top series. She did it again in 2019 when she became the first African-American woman and the first African-American graduate of the NASCAR Drive for Diversity Pit Crew Program to serve on a pit crew at the Daytona 500. That same race, she and her teammate Breanna O'Leary became the first two women teammates to pit at the Daytona 500.

When she isn't mentoring, Daniels works races as a tire changer for the #52 Xfinity car of Jimmy Means Racing.

The Drive for Diversity Awards are held each year to honor the motorsports industry's diversity leaders and recognize top achievements. Aside from Crew Member, other awards include Civic/Educational Institution, Diverse Driver, Industry Ambassador, Outstanding Intern, NASCAR Partner, Track, Team, Young Racer and National Series Driver awards.

"As we continue in our mission to enhance diversity across this great sport, we are inspired by the stories and efforts of so many leaders within the industry who are setting positive examples and driving meaningful change," NASCAR President Steve Phelps said.

COVID-19 SCHEDULE CHANGE:

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. - The Saturday, Oct. 10 football match-up between **Florida Memorial University** and **St. Thomas University** has been rescheduled for Nov. 21 due to COVID-19 related concerns, both institutions announced on Tuesday.

"These are challenging times and we have to remain flexible in our scheduling," Florida Memorial University Director of Athletics **Ernest T. Jones** said. "I am disappointed to lose our homecoming game against our Miami Gardens rival.

Homecoming will now be October 24 when the Lions host Ave Maria at Traz Powell Stadium. Kickoff is set for 1:30 p. m. FMU's next scheduled game is October 17 when they travel to Lake Wales, FL to face Warner University at 1:30pm.

Coaxum to lead Bluefield State football

BLUEFIELD - **Bluefield State** announced **Anthony Coaxum** as the new head football coach on Friday.

"I will be a champion for the community, for the athletic program, and I'll be a champion for the college," said Coaxum.

BSC Interim Athletic Director **Derrick Price** was thrilled to introduce Coaxum to the Big Blue Family.

"Hiring a head coach after 40 years means the world to me," said Price. "Being a part of bringing football back to Bluefield State College is historic. Who doesn't want to be a part of history? This is a major step for the athletic department. This means we are taking the meaningful steps to become a highly competitive NCAA Division II athletic department."

BSC President **Robin Capehart** is pleased Coaxum will lead the program to the next level.

"Expanding our athletics program is integral to the goals we set shortly after coming to Bluefield State," Capehart said.

Coaxum comes to BSC from the University of Northern-Colorado where he was the special teams coordinator and defensive backs coach.

Following his time as a student-athlete (a three-year starter as a defensive back) at the US Military Academy at West Point, Coaxum coached in the NFL for four seasons, including one season with the Baltimore Ravens in 2014 as an assistant special teams coach and later with Denver from 2015-17 as an assistant special teams coordinator, during which time the Broncos won the 2016 Super Bowl.

During Coaxum's time with Baltimore's special teams, the Ravens were the NFL's highest ranked kickoff return unit.



Coaxum

Bluefield State Football - Harry Jefferson and historical background

Bluefield State College fielded its first football team in 1914. In 1980, BSC discontinued football, several years after the closure of student housing on campus.

The college achieved national notoriety in the late 1920s under the leadership of head football coach **Harry Rupert "Big Jeff" Jefferson**. Coach "Jeff's" teams won national Black College football championships in 1927 and '28, outscoring opponents 516-53 over that two year period.

Jefferson also coached at **North Carolina A&T** (1930-31), **Virginia State** (1934-48), and **Hampton** (1949-59). He compiled a record of 173-92-25 during his head coaching career.

Jefferson was the first chairman and charter member of the National Athletic Steering Committee (NASC) in 1951, an organization that fought for the inclusion of HBCUs in the NAIA

and the NCAA.

In 1953, the NAIA finally admitted the HBCUs but put them all in one district, the infamous District 29. Jefferson and his esteemed colleague, **John McClendon**, eventually fought and ended this discrimination. Both McClendon and Jefferson were founders of the **CIAA** Basketball Tournament which debuted in 1946.

Later, Jefferson served as president of the NASC in 1957 and was honorary president in 1959. Jefferson was also honored by the NASC in 1958 for 35 years "contributed to the development of youth through athletic coaching and administration."

Jefferson was also the first commissioner of the **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association** (CIAA) in 1961.

During the 1960s and '70s, former BSC defensive back **Joe Fourqurean** played for 14 seasons in the Canadian Football League and was a multiple year selection as a CFL All-Pro DB. Former BSC football players **Preston Watkins** and **John Monroe** also played in the NFL.

In 2010, the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) posthumously presented its "Trailblazer Award" to Coach Jefferson in recognition for his excellence as a coach and leader during the decade of the 1920s.

Other sports

Bluefield State College announced in August 2020 the addition of 12 new sports to its athletics department for the 2021-2022 school year. These will join the ten existing sports to become a robust program for more than 400 student-athletes.

BCSP Notes

Central State to replace head coaches in five sports

The *Dayton Daily News* is reporting that **Central State University** (OH) will be replacing four of its five head coaches.

Contracts were not renewed for **Joseph Price** of men's basketball, women's basketball's **LaTonya McDole**, **James Rollins**, who headed both the cross country and track and field programs, and **Christina Coleman** of women's volleyball.

The only "holdover" will be football coach **Bobby Rome** who left **Virginia University at Lynchburg** to become CSU's head coach in February.



Price



McDole



Rollins



Coleman

Florida Memorial cancels two sports

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. - **Florida Memorial University** Athletics announced it has canceled the remainder of the season for women's volleyball and soccer programs, effective immediately on Tuesday, October 13, 2020. As a result of feedback from a university survey and conversation with members of both teams, University leaders honored their request not to continue the season.

The well-being of our student-athletes, coaches, and athletics staff is our priority. Currently enrolled student-athletes will retain their scholarships through the completion of the academic year if they choose to remain at FMU.

"Based on results from a survey administered to student-athletes and coaches, we feel it is in the best interest of the University to cancel the remainder of the women's volleyball and soccer season," Director of Athletics **Ernest T. Jones** said. "This action allows student-athletes to continue to focus on their academics."

Xavier tops GCAC men's basketball preseason poll

NEW ORLEANS, La. - After claiming its first conference title in 24 years, **Xavier University** of Louisiana has been picked to repeat the feat in the spring as voted on by the GCAC's head coaches and announced by the conference office Monday afternoon.

XULA captured both the regular season and tournament crowns, defeating #2-seeded **Tougaloo** in the championship game (78-75) in front of



GOLD RUSH: Xavier (La.) head coach Alfred Williams (c.) flanked by returning scoring leader (16.5 ppg.) Rayshawn Mart (#3). The Gold Rush are picked to repeat as GCAC champions.

a raucous home crowd inside the Xavier University Convocation Center.

XULA returns seven of its top 10 scorers from last season's team, which was 27-6 and ranked 10th in NAIA Division I and set a XULA season record with 254 made 3-pointers. Xavier head coach **Alfred Williams** includes among his returnees, **Rayshawn Mart** who tied for the team lead averaging 16.5 points per game.

XULA will open its 83rd and final season in the GCAC at home Oct. 21 - one week from Wednesday - in a 7:30 p.m. match up at the Convocation Center with first-time opponent Southeastern Baptist of Laurel, Miss. After this season, Xavier will be moving to the Red River Conference.

Xavier earned the majority of the first-place votes with four but **Talladega** (2) and **Dillard** (1) were also represented atop the poll.

Xavier, Talladega and Dillard placed first through third respectively, followed by **Edward Waters**, **Tougaloo**, **Philander Smith** and **Rust**.

GCAC MEN'S BASKETBALL COACHES POLL:

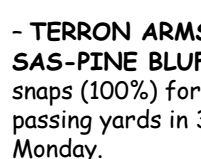
PROJECTED ORDER OF FINISH	
#1 Xavier Gold Rush (4)	#2 Talladega Tornados (2)
#3 Dillard Bleu Devils (1)	#4 Edward Waters Tigers
#5 Tougaloo Bulldogs	#6 Philander Smith Panthers
#7 Rust Bearcats	

BCSP NFL PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

For games of October 8 - 12, 2020



OFFENSE
- **TYTUS HOWARD**, RT, Houston (2nd season, **ALABAMA STATE**) - Started at right tackle and played all 58 offensive snaps (100%) for the Texans who passed for 329 yards and two TDs and rushed for 159 yards in 30-14 win over Jacksonville. Also played on six (6) special teams plays (25%).



- **TERRON ARMSTEAD**, LT, New Orleans (8th season, **ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF**) - Started at left tackle and played 76 offensive snaps (100%) for the Saints who totalled 95 rushing yards and 325 passing yards in 30-27 overtime win vs. the Los Angeles Chargers Monday.



DEFENSE
- **JOE THOMAS**, LB, Dallas (6th season, **SOUTH CAROLINA STATE**) - Started at middle linebacker for the Cowboys and had seven combined tackles, five solos, one for a loss, two assists and a pass break-up in 37-34 win over the New York Giants. Played 46 defensive snaps (68%) and six (6) snaps on special teams (18%).



dallascowboys.com Photo

SPECIAL TEAMS

- **JAMIE GILLAN**, P, Cleveland (2nd season, **ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF**) - Two punts for 91 yards (45.5 avg.), both downed inside the 20 with a long punt of 51 yards in 32-23 win over Indianapolis. Got in on eight special teams plays (29%).



neworleanssaints.com Photo

CHILLIN':

New Orleans starting left offensive tackle **TERRON ARMSTEAD** (#72, **ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF**) looks up at the scoreboard during Monday's game vs. the Los Angeles Chargers. Armstead and his offensive line cohorts blocked for 420 yards of offense as the Saints prevailed in overtime, 37-34.

ALMOST!:

Dallas middle linebacker **JOE THOMAS** (#48, **SOUTH CAROLINA STATE**) kicks the turf after breaking up a pass intended for the Giants' Evan Engram (#88). Thomas had a clear path for a TD if he had picked off the pass. He had seven tackles, the pass break-up and a tackle for loss in the 37-34 Cowboys' win.