



Florida A&M Sports photo

## LET'S GET IT ON

**BOWIE STATE ADVANCES IN D2 PLAYOFFS, FLORIDA A&M BEGINS IN FCS PLAYOFFS**

**SIMMONS:** Florida A&M head coach and his Rattlers have tough date in first round FCS playoffs at SE Louisiana.

# MEN'S 2021-22 BLACK COLLEGE BASKETBALL (Standings and Weekly Honors)

| CIAA   |          |          |          |          | MEAC                            |   |     |   |      | SIAC   |     |   |      |   | SWAC  |   |      |   |     | INDEPENDENTS        |   |   |   |   |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------------------------------|---|-----|---|------|--|-----|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|-----|---------------------|---|---|---|---|
| CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION |          |          |          |          | MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE |   |     |   |      | SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE |     |   |      |   | SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE  |   |      |   |     |                     |   |   |   |   |
| NORTH DIVISION                               |          | CONF     | ALL      |          | CONF                            |   | ALL |   | CONF |  | ALL |   | CONF |   | ALL   |   | CONF |   | ALL |                     |   |   |   |   |
| W  | L        | W        | L        | W        | L                               | W | L   | W | L    | W  | L   | W | L    | W | L   | W | L    | W | L   | W                   | L |   |   |   |
| Virginia State                               | 0        | 0        | 3        | 1        | Howard                          | 1 | 0   | 4 | 2    | Edward Waters                                | 1   | 0 | 2    | 1 | Florida A&M   | 0 | 0    | 1 | 4   | Hampton             | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| Virginia Union                               | 0        | 0        | 1        | 1        | Norfolk State                   | 0 | 0   | 5 | 1    | Allen  | 0   | 0 | 0    | 2 | Alabama State   | 0 | 0    | 1 | 5   | NC A&T              | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| Lincoln (PA)                                 | 0        | 0        | 2        | 2        | Md. E-Shore                     | 0 | 0   | 2 | 2    | <b>EAST</b>                                  |     |   |      |   | Miss. Valley State  | 0 | 0    | 0 | 2   | West Virginia State | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Shaw   | 0        | 0        | 2        | 2        | Morgan State                    | 0 | 0   | 2 | 3    | Albany State                                 | 1   | 0 | 2    | 1 | Grambling State   | 0 | 0    | 0 | 4   | Lincoln (Mo.)       | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Elizabeth City State                         | 0        | 0        | 1        | 2        | Delaware State                  | 0 | 0   | 2 | 3    | Benedict                                     | 0   | 0 | 2    | 2 | Jackson State   | 0 | 0    | 0 | 4   | Langston            | 0 | 2 | 0 | 5 |
| Bowie State                                  | 0        | 0        | 0        | 4        | S. C. State                     | 0 | 0   | 1 | 5    | Morehouse                                    | 0   | 0 | 1    | 2 | Alcorn State  | 0 | 0    | 0 | 4   | Tennessee State     | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| <b>SOUTH DIVISION</b>                        | <b>W</b> | <b>L</b> | <b>W</b> | <b>L</b> | Coppin State                    | 0 | 0   | 1 | 7    | Clark Atlanta                                | 0   | 0 | 0    | 0 | Arkansas-Pine Bluff   | 0 | 0    | 0 | 5   | Florida Memorial    | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| Winston-Salem State                          | 0        | 0        | 4        | 1        | N. C. Central                   | 0 | 0   | 0 | 4    | Fort Valley State                            | 0   | 0 | 0    | 0 | Texas Southern  | 0 | 0    | 0 | 5   |                     |   |   |   |   |
| Johnson C. Smith                             | 0        | 0        | 2        | 2        |                                 |   |     |   |      | Savannah State                               | 0   | 0 | 0    | 2 | Prairie View A&M  | 0 | 0    | 0 | 6   |                     |   |   |   |   |
| Livingstone                                  | 0        | 0        | 2        | 2        |                                 |   |     |   |      | <b>WEST</b>                                  |     |   |      |   |   |   |      |   |     |                     |   |   |   |   |
| Fayetteville State                           | 0        | 0        | 2        | 3        |                                 |   |     |   |      | Central State                                | 0   | 0 | 2    | 1 |   |   |      |   |     |                     |   |   |   |   |
| St. Augustine's                              | 0        | 0        | 1        | 4        |                                 |   |     |   |      | LeMoyne-Owen                                 | 0   | 0 | 1    | 1 | <b>PLAYERS OF THE WEEK</b>  |   |      |   |     |                     |   |   |   |   |
| Claflin                                      | 0        | 0        | 0        | 2        |                                 |   |     |   |      | Lane   | 0   | 0 | 1    | 2 | <b>Gerald Liddell</b> , 6-8, Jr., F, <b>ALABAMA STATE</b> - Texas transfer had six points in win over Tuskegee after getting team-highs of 22 points and 11 rebounds in win over NC Central. Also had four blocks, four steals and four assists vs. NCCU. |   |      |   |     |                     |   |   |   |   |
|  |          |          |          |          |                                 |   |     |   |      | Tuskegee                                     | 0   | 1 | 2    | 4 |   |   |      |   |     |                     |   |   |   |   |
|  |          |          |          |          |                                 |   |     |   |      | Kentucky State                               | 0   | 0 | 0    | 0 |   |   |      |   |     |                     |   |   |   |   |
|  |          |          |          |          |                                 |   |     |   |      | Miles  | 0   | 0 | 0    | 0 |   |   |      |   |     |                     |   |   |   |   |
|  |          |          |          |          |                                 |   |     |   |      | Spring Hill                                  | 0   | 0 | 0    | 3 |   |   |      |   |     |                     |   |   |   |   |

### PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

**Francis "BJ" Fitzgerald, Jr.**, G, **VSU** - Averaged 25 points and six rebounds in two games.

### DEFENSIVE PLAYER

**Zahrian Blue, Jr.**, G, **LINCP** - Had 12 defensive rebounds (20 total), four steals and one block over two games.

### ROOKIE

**Jayden Belati, Fr.**, G, **ECSU** - 18 points, 8 of 11 FGs with three rebounds in win over Charleston (WV).

### PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

**Tahj Green**, 6-8, Sr., F, **BENEDICT** - Threw in 29 points on 10 of 14 shooting and made 3 of 6 3s and also had game-high 13 rebounds in win over Clinton. Green also had three assists and two steals. He had 15 points and 7 rebounds in a win over Shaw.

## SCORES

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2021

#### NCAA DIV. II PLAYOFFS

#2 Bowie State 31, #7 Lenoir-Rhyne 10  
#5 West Georgia 23, #4 Albany State 7

Alabama State 24, Texas Southern 21  
Florida A&M 46, Bethune-Cookman 21  
Jackson State 24, Alcorn State 10  
Texas A&M 52, Prairie View A&M 3

### MEAC

Howard 56, Va. University of Lynchburg 6  
Morgan State 28, Georgetown 21  
NC Central 34, Delaware State 28, OT  
SC State 31, Norfolk State 21

### OVC

Mississippi State 55, Tennessee State 10

### BIG SOUTH

Gardner-Webb 35, NC A&T 27  
North Alabama 35, Hampton 27

### SWAC

Alabama A&M 52, Arkansas-Pine Bluff 24



**OFF & RUNNING:** Bowie State quarterback Ja'rome Johnson gets loose on one of his long touchdown runs vs. Lenoir-Rhyne. The Bulldogs downed LRU 31-10 in a first round D2 playoff game as Johnson rushed for 147 yards.

## NCAA DIV II PLAYOFF GAME RECAPS

### Bowie State 31, Lenoir-Rhyne 10

CIAA champion **Bowie State** capitalized off of four turnovers and got 147 rushing yards and TD runs of 65 and 48 yards from QB **Ja'rome Johnson** and another 101 rushing yards and a 15-yard TD run from **Calil Wilkins** in downing Lenoir-Rhyne 31-10 at home in a first round NCAA Div. II playoff game in Super Region II.

Johnson scored his 65-yarder two plays into BSU's first possession after stopping LRU on the game's opening possession. LRU scored on a 40-yard field goal midway thru the second quarter before BSU DB **Tevin Singleton** hauled in a deflection of a pass by LRU QB Grayson Willingham and brought it back 70 yards for score. LRU fumbled the ensuing kickoff leading to a 34-yard field goal by **Alen Omerhodzic** and a 17-3 second-quarter lead that stood until halftime.

Johnson scored on his 48-yarder after the Bulldogs stopped LRU on 4th-and-6 at the BSU 32. That score came with 3:01 left in the third quarter and put BSU up 24-3.

After LRU's sole TD in the final seconds of the third period, Wilkins capped the scoring with his 15-yard scoring run.

The Bulldogs (11-1), seeded second in Super Region II, did their damage on the ground as they rushed for 247 yards and only passed for 76. Conversely, LRU, the seventh-seed, passed for 343 yards but only gained 103 yards on the ground.

Bowie State will host No. 6 Newberry Saturday (Nov. 27) in a second round playoff game. Newberry (10-2) beat defending Div. II champion and No. 3 West Florida Saturday 33-30 in overtime.

### SIAC

#### West Georgia 23, Albany State 7

Fairfield, AL – **SIAC** champion **Albany State** opened the game on a promising 12-play, 60-yard drive only to have RB **Isaiah McCray** fumble and West Georgia return the miscue 76 yards for a touchdown.

The Golden Rams' then drove 64 yards in nine plays to the UWG 14 only to be stopped when QB **Dionte Bonneau's** pass was intercepted in the UWG end zone. Seven plays later, UWG scored on a 2-yard run for a 14-0 lead.

UWG added another TD in the second quarter to lead 20-0 en route to a 23-7 win over the Golden Rams (10-2).

UWG added a third-quarter field goal before Albany State scored on a 21-yard pass from Bonneau to **Kristian Grant**. It was too little too late.

McCray finished with 98 rushing yards on 20 carries. Bonneau finished 15 of 36 for 133 yards, one TD and the one interception.

The vaunted ASU defense that came into the game giving up just 4.8 points per game couldn't overcome the early miscues.

## LUT WILLIAMS

### BCSP Editor

Here's where we are right now.

**Bowie State** plays in the second round of the NCAA Div. II playoffs this week while **Florida A&M** gets started in the FCS playoffs.

One half of the Dec. 18 *Celebration Bowl* is in as **South Carolina State** has clinched the **Mid Eastern Athletic Conference** title and berth in the game vs. the **SWAC** champion.

East Division champ **Jackson State** and West champ **Prairie View A&M** are in for the SWAC Championship Game next week (Sat., Dec. 4.) in Jackson, Ms.

That game's winner will head to Atlanta to meet S. C. State in the season-ending bowl game.

### Bowie State in second round of NCAA Div. II playoffs

CIAA champion **Bowie State** prevailed in its first round NCAA Div. II playoff game while **SIAC** champ **Albany State** did not (see NCAA Div. II Playoff Game Recaps).

BSU's dominating 31-10 win at home over Lenoir-Rhyne was impressive. The Bulldogs not only forced four turnovers but shutdown LRU's South Atlantic Conference Player of the Year, freshman running back Wayne McGhee.

McGhee had posted nine games of over 100 rushing yards and two with over 200 rushing yards. The Bulldogs' defense held him to 71 yards on 23 carries. LRU put up over 400 yards of offense including 343 passing yards but only reached paydirt once.

Bowie State (11-1), the No. 2 seed in Super Region II, will now face SAC champion Newberry (10-2) in the Super Region II semifinal. The Wolves are seeded sixth in the region and knocked off third-seed West Florida in the first round, 33-30 in overtime. West Florida (9-2) was the defending Div. II national champion.

BSU and Newberry have one common opponent, Lenoir-Rhyne. Newberry beat LRU 28-21 on Sept. 18 in their head-to-head match up.

This will be Bowie State and 11th-year head coach **Damon Wilson's** second time in the region semifinals. They reached the semis in 2018 after beating West Alabama 41-35 in the first round but were knocked off 66-16 by eventual Div. II national champion Valdosta State.

Newberry will feature sophomore running back Marlo Anderson who has rushed for 1,158 yards and 11 TDs. Senior quarterback Dre Harris has passed for 2,272 yards and 18 TDs with eight interceptions. Harris is also the team's second leading rusher having piled up 420 yards on the ground and seven TDs. When he takes to the air, Harris has a talented tandem in senior

## TOP PERFORMANCES

| PASSING                | ATT-COMP-INT | YDS | TDs (YDS)                |
|------------------------|--------------|-----|--------------------------|
| Aqeel Glass, ALA&M     | 26-33-0      | 450 | 6 (4, 7, 62, 16, 19, 53) |
| Shedeur Sanders, JSU   | 28-39-0      | 297 | 3 (3, 31, 2)             |
| Corey Fields Jr., SCSU | 21-34-1      | 250 | 3 (21, 14, 20)           |
| Jett Duffey, HAMP      | 15-24-2      | 242 | 0                        |
| Juwan Carter, NSU      | 17-28-1      | 240 | 2 (18, 38)               |
| Devin Black, B-CU      | 10-13-1      | 231 | 3 (82, 9, 4)             |

### RUSHING

|                        | CAR | YDS | TDs (YDS)  |
|------------------------|-----|-----|------------|
| Kendrell Flowers, SCSU | 32  | 172 | 1 (1)      |
| Alfonzo Graham, MSU    | 9   | 160 | 2 (40, 86) |
| Ja'rome Johnson, BSU   | 12  | 147 | 2 (65, 48) |
| Kierre Crossley, ARKPB | 22  | 138 | 1 (2)      |
| Andrew Body, TXSU      | 9   | 137 | 1 (4)      |
| Bishop Bennett, FAMU   | 19  | 128 | 1 (38)     |

### RECEIVING

|                            | REC | YDS | TDs                |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|--------------------|
| Darryl Powell, B-CU        | 3   | 164 | 1 (82)             |
| Odieu Hilaire, ALA&M       | 8   | 162 | 1 (62)             |
| Trey Gross, DSU            | 12  | 142 | 4 (15, 21, 37, 16) |
| Shaq Davis, SCSU           | 9   | 141 | 3 (21, 14, 20)     |
| Romon Copeland, HAMP       | 6   | 129 | 0                  |
| Abdul-Fatai Ibrahim, ALA&M | 7   | 115 | 2 (7, 19)          |

### TACKLES

|    |                                    |
|----|------------------------------------|
| 14 | B. J. Davis, SCSU;                 |
| 13 | Joseph Stuckey, NCA&T;             |
| 12 | Tyler Long, NSU; Tim Walton, TXSU; |
|    | Drake Cheatum, PVA&M;              |
|    | Jaden Taylor, NCCU;                |
| 11 |                                    |

### SACKS

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| 3.0 | Darrell Brown, SCSU;                                   |
| 2.5 | KeShaun Moore, HAMP;                                   |
| 2.0 | James Houston, JSU; Isaiah Land, Mentor Stanley, FAMU; |

### INTERCEPTIONS

|   |    |
|---|----|
| 1 | 15 |
|---|----|

# Playoff battles for Bowie State, FAMU



Bowie State Sports photo



Florida A&M Sports photo

**PLAYOFF WARS:** Bowie State RB Calil Wilkins (l) will lead the Bulldogs into battle with SAC champ Newberry while Florida A&M defensive end Isaiah Land (r), the FCS sack leader, and the Rattlers will have their hands full trying to slow down SE Louisiana QB Cole Kelley, the FCS passing and total offense leader.

Bryson Woodruff (60 rec., 893 yds., 9 TDs) and grad Bobby Irby (43 rec., 696 yds., 7 TDs).

The Newberry defense, led by linebacker junior linebacker A. J. Valentine (56 tackles, 2.5 sacks) and 6-3, 310-pound graduate lineman Tyran Dixon (53 tackles, 2 sacks) gives up 17.8 points per game.

BSU quarterback **Ja'rome Johnson** rushed for 147 yards on just 12 carries vs. LRU. For the season he has passed for 1,826 yards and 20 TDs with just eight interceptions. RB **Calil Wilkins** has rushed for 1,257 yards and nine scores. Johnson has added 448 yards on the ground and eight TDs. **Keshan Hinckley** and **Darius Bowman** have topped the receivers with 24 catches and two TDs each.

The BSU defense that gives up just 12.9 points per game is led by linemen **Jonathan Ross** and **Joshua Pryor** who have combined for 167 tackles and 15 sacks.

### Florida A&M in first round of FCS playoffs

Head coach **Willie Simmons** Rattlers of **Florida A&M**, in their first year in the **Southwestern Athletic Conference** (SWAC), got the league's first at-large berth in the FCS playoffs since the league went to its championship game format in 1999.

The 9-2 Rattlers earned the bid by virtue of only losing on the FCS level to SWAC East Division champion **Jackson State** 7-6 to open the season. JSU (10-1), under the leadership of head coach **Deion "Coach Prime" Sanders**, was 14th in the last AFCA Coaches poll. FAMU was 22nd. FAMU's other loss was 38-17 to FBS member South Florida.

The Rattlers will have a tough task on the road Saturday in the first round in Hammond, La. (6 p.m. CT) facing Southeastern Louisiana (8-3). The high-scoring Lions under fourth-year

## BCSP NFL PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

For games of November 18 - 22, 2021



### THE BIG MAN!!

Indianapolis defensive tackle **GROVER STEWART** (#90, **ALBANY STATE**) stands tall during the Colts' 41-15 win over Buffalo. Stewart had five tackles, three solos and batted down a pass in the win. Stewart played on 34 plays on defense and ten on special teams.

### DEFENSE

- **#90 GROVER STEWART**, DT, Indianapolis (5th season, **ALBANY STATE**) - In Colts' 41-15 win over Buffalo, Stewart had five total tackles, three solos, and one batted down pass. while getting in on 34 defensive plays (61%) and 10 on special teams (43%).

### OFFENSE

- **#80 CHESTER ROGERS**, WR, Tennessee (5th season, **GRAMBLING STATE**) - In 22-13 loss to Houston, Rogers had four receptions in six targets for 41 yards with a long catch of 12 yards. He also had four punt returns for 20 yards with two fair catches. He also was charged with one fumble when a punt hit his foot and was recovered by Houston. Rogers was in on 56 plays on offense (69%) and seven plays on special teams (28%).

### SPECIAL TEAMS

- **#49 TRENTON CANNON**, RB/KR, San Francisco (4th season, **VIRGINIA STATE**) - Two kickoff returns for 26 yards including a long return of 21 yards in 30-10 win over Jacksonville. Cannon got in on 14 plays on special teams (61%).