



Photo by Steven J. Gaitner, HBCU Gamemay

PUTTING A BOW ON 2021 FOOTBALL

SC STATE, BOWIE STATE FINAL NO. 1s; SANDERS, AVERETT LEAD "BAAD TEAM"

ATTENDANCE MATTERS: Deion and Jackson State packed the fans in this year like never before.

DIV. I

1. **SOUTH CAROLINA STATE (7-5)** - Buddy Pough's Bulldogs opened the season losing four of their first five games before winning six of their next seven. Those wins included going 5-0 to win the MEAC championship and his team's first trip to the Celebration Bowl. In a stunning defensive and offensive effort, SCSU pulled off a 31-10 upset win over consensus No. 1 and SWAC champion Jackson State in the bowl game to earn the BCSP national champion designation. Lost on the road at Alabama A&M 42-41, Clemson 49-3, New Mexico State 43-35, and Florida A&M 30-7 and at home to NC A&T 27-17.

2. **JACKSON STATE (11-2)** - Led by a ball-hawking relentless defense and superb play by an offense led by freshman QB Shedeur Sanders, the Tigers captured the HBCU world's attention during a scintillating 7-0 run through the SWAC that earned Deion Sanders' Tigers the East Division title. It was capped by a 27-10 win in the SWAC Championship Game over West Division champ Prairie View A&M. But JSU ran into a SC State team that outworked them in a 31-10 loss in the Celebration Bowl. The only other loss was to FBS member Louisiana-Monroe, 12-7.

3. **FLORIDA A&M (9-3)** - The only FCS HBCU squad Willie Simmons' Rattlers lost to was Jackson State in a 7-6 decision that opened the season. FAMU defeated all others including a decisive 30-7 win over MEAC and Celebration Bowl champ SC State. With a second-place finish in the SWAC East behind JSU, the Rattlers earned the first FCS playoff berth for a SWAC team in 22 years. They fell to SE Louisiana 38-14 in the first round. The other loss was to FBS South Florida, 38-17.

4. **PRAIRIE VIEW A&M (7-5)** - Eric Dooley's Panthers won seven of their first eight games riding a stingy defense and the arm of new QB Jawan Pass getting big wins over perennial SWAC West powers Grambling State (24-10) and Southern (48-21) to win the division and earn a shot at East champion Jackson State in the SWAC title game. They were game in a 27-10 loss to JSU. After clinching the West title, they dropped three straight games to end the regular season to Alcorn State (31-29), FBS Texas A&M (52-3) and Miss. Valley State (24-19). The other loss was to FCS playoff team Incarnate Word, 40-9.

5. **ALABAMA A&M (7-3)** - A string of three straight losses in the middle of the season to Grambling State (37-28), Jackson State (61-15) and Florida A&M (35-31) were the only blemishes on Connell Maynor's Bulldogs' re-



SC State Sports Photo

TOP DAWG: Stunning upset of No. 1 Jackson State earns Pough and Bulldogs final No. 1 ranking.

DIV. II

1. **BOWIE STATE (12-2)** - After opening with a 42-28 loss to MEAC member Delaware State, Damon Wilson's Bulldogs rode a dominating defense to 12 straight wins, taking the CIAA North Division title with a 6-0 mark and defeating South Division champ Fayetteville State (17-7) for the third straight time in the league's title game in the process. That was followed by an impressive and unprecedented two wins for the Bulldogs in the NCAA Div. II playoffs over Lenoir-Rhyne (31-10) in the first round and over Newberry (13-10) in the second round. BSU fell to eventual D2 runners-up Valdosta State 41-17 in the national quarterfinals.

2. **ALBANY STATE (10-2)** - Defense was also the calling card for Gabe Giardina's Golden Rams as they pitched six shutouts in running to the SIAC East Division and conference titles. They capped it with a 31-0 blitzing at West Division champion Miles in the SIAC title game. They fell to West Georgia 21-3 in a first round Div. II playoff game. The only other loss was to D2 national runners-up Valdosta State, 21-3 in the regular season.

3. **FAYETTEVILLE STATE (8-2)** - Richard Hayes's Broncos captured their third straight CIAA South Division title but for the third time could not get by N. Div. champ Bowie State in the CIAA title game. The only other defeat was to Wingate (40-21) in the second week of the season. Senior QB Khari Lane threw for 2,200 yards and 21 TDs with just five picks.

4. **SAVANNAH STATE (8-2)** - The SSU Tigers kept pace with Albany State in the SIAC East, only falling to Valdosta State (53-7) before facing the Golden Rams in a showdown for the division title. Like others, they couldn't penetrate the ASU defense and fell 30-0. The Tigers featured a punishing ground attack that accounted for 27 of their 39 TDs.

5. **VIRGINIA UNION (6-4)** - After weathering a preseason tragedy, the Panthers under Dr. Alvin Parker made a run at Bowie State in the CIAA East. They lost at Hampton of the FCS Big South (42-28) and to HBCU nemesis Valdosta State (51-7) to open the season and fell to CIAA S. Div. contender Shaw (27-7) along the way. In the showdown with BSU, VUU only mustered a kickoff return TD to open the game in a 27-7 loss.



Bowie State Sports Photo

TOP DAWG: Third straight CIAA title and two D2 playoff wins earns Wilson's Bulldogs the Div. II crown.

STAT CORNER I

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

HIGHEST ATTENDANCE AT 2021 BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL GAMES

1) JACKSON STATE HOME GAME - Nov. 20, Veterans Stadium, Jackson, MS	Alcorn State at Jackson State	58,892
2) BAYOU CLASSIC - Nov. 27, Caesars Superdome, New Orleans, LA	Southern vs. Grambling State	55,791
3) FLORIDA CLASSIC - Nov. 20, Camping World Stadium, Orlando, FL	Florida A&M vs. Bethune-Cookman	54,198
4) JACKSON STATE HOMECOMING - Oct. 16, Veterans Stadium, Jackson, MS	Jackson State vs. Alabama State	53,578
5) SWAC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME - Dec. 4, Veterans Stadium, Jackson, MS	Jackson State vs. Prairie View A&M	50,128
6) CELEBRATION BOWL - Dec. 18, Mercedes Benz Dome, Atlanta, GA	Jackson State vs. South Carolina State	48,653
7) SOUTHERN HERITAGE CLASSIC - Sept. 11, Liberty Bowl, Memphis, TN	Jackson State vs. Tennessee State	46,171
8) ORANGE BLOSSOM CLASSIC - Sept. 5, Hard Rock Stadium, Miami	Jackson State vs. Florida A&M	36,000
9) FLORIDA A&M HOMECOMING - Oct. 30, Bragg Stadium, Tallahassee, FL	Grambling State at Florida A&M	31,887
10) JACKSON STATE HOME GAME - Nov. 6, Veterans Stadium, Jackson, MS	Texas Southern at Jackson State	31,078
11) MAGIC CITY CLASSIC - Oct. 30, Legion Field, Birmingham, AL	Alabama A&M vs. Alabama State	28,096
12) JACKSON STATE HOME GAME - Oct. 23 - Veterans Stadium, Jackson, MS	Bethune-Cookman at Jackson State	26,428
13) STATE FAIR CLASSIC - Sept. 25 - Cotton Bowl - Dallas	Grambling State vs. Prairie View A&M	26,198
14) SOUTHERN HOME GAME - Nov. 13, Mumfords Stadium, Baton Rouge, LA	Jackson State at Southern	25,379
15) SOUTHERN HOMECOMING - Oct. 23, Mumford Stadium, Baton Rouge, LA	Prairie View A&M at Southern	24,580
16) ALABAMA A&M HOMECOMING - Oct. 8, Crews Stadium, Huntsville, AL	Jackson State at Alabama A&M	21,835
17) FLORIDA A&M HOME GAME - Oct. 2 - Bragg Stadium, Tallahassee, FL	Alabama State at Florida A&M	21,087
TOTAL		608,881
	(17 games over 20,000)	35,816 average

HIGHEST ATTENDANCE AT 2021 BLACK COLLEGE HOMECOMING GAMES

JACKSON STATE vs. Alabama State - October 16	53,578
FLORIDA A&M vs. Grambling State - October 30	31,887
SOUTHERN vs. Prairie View A&M - October 23	24,580
ALABAMA A&M vs. Jackson State - October 16	21,835
N. C A&T vs. Monmouth - October 30	21,500
NORFOLK STATE vs. Virginia Lynchburg, October 16	16,716
ALCORN STATE vs. Grambling State - October 9	14,500
VIRGINIA STATE vs. Lincoln (PA) - October 23	13,054
SC STATE vs. Morgan State - October 16	11,000
HOWARD vs. Norfolk State - October 23	10,437
NC CENTRAL vs. Norfolk State - November 6	10,027
TOTAL	229,114
	(11 Homecoming Games over 10,000) 20,828 average

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

PORTER BACK IN SIAC AT CENTRAL STATE:

WILBERFORCE, Ohio - **Central State University** has selected former NFL player **Kevin Porter** as the University's next head football coach.



Porter

Porter who won a **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference** title 2016 at **Fort Valley State** and returned the Wildcats to the league's championship game in 2017 during a four-year stint as head coach there, returns to the conference to lead the Marauders. He earned SIAC Coach of the Year honors once and developed 19 All-SIAC student-athletes while at FVSSU.

A veteran coach as well as a former collegiate and professional football player, he comes to CSU with nearly two decades of coaching experience which include head coaching stints at Avila University and Point University.

Porter will make his CSU coaching debut in September against **Winston Salem State University** at the *Black College Football Hall of Fame Classic* in Canton, Ohio.

"It is an honor to be selected to lead the football program at Central State University," said Porter. "CSU has tremendous history and tradition. I look forward to leading our student-athletes as we move forward into a new era of Marauder football."

Porter played collegiately at Auburn University earning All-SEC honors twice. He played six years in the NFL. He earned a bachelor's degree from Avila University and holds a master's degree from Concordia University-Irvine.

LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

It's written somewhere (in the Bible) that "a young man will lead them." Well, that certainly is the case for the 2021 **Black College Sports Page** "BAAD TEAM" of HBCU all-stars.

That's because **Jackson State** freshman quarterback **Shedeur Sanders** is the BCSP's pick as the top offensive player for the 2021 season and the first team signal-caller on our all-star squad.

Sanders came to Jackson State following his father, legendary Pro Football Hall of Famer **Deion "Coach Prime" Sanders** who took over the Tigers program last fall. The father-son combination proved to be a winner as the younger Sanders deftly engineered the storied JSU program an overall 11-2 record and to the Tigers' first **Southwestern Athletic Conference** title since 2007.

While his father drew headlines with his flair for the dramatic, Shedeur Sanders played with poise beyond his years. He threw for 3,231 yards and for 30 touchdowns with only eight interceptions.

He is the first freshman to win the BCSP's top offensive award and the first first-year player to be named the first-team quarterback.

Alabama A&M senior quarterback **Aqeel Glass**, last season's top passer and BCSP offensive MVP, had another outstanding season. Glass topped the HBCU passing charts with 3,568 yards for 36 TDs and just seven interceptions. Glass won the SWAC's offensive player of the year award.

But it was Sanders who perhaps laid down the gauntlet in his team's vs. Glass's Bulldogs at the Alabama A&M homecoming. Sanders threw for 249 yards and four TDs without a pick to lead his team to a dominating 61-15 win.

Before subpar performances in the SWAC Championship Game vs. **Prairie View A&M** and at the season-ending *Celebration Bowl*, Sanders had not thrown for under 200 yards in any game.

Joining him in the first team backfield are two outstanding rushers -

FIRST TEAM - OFFENSE

QB - Shedeur Sanders, Fr., Jackson State; **RB** - Calil Wilkins, Sr. Bowie State; Brett Sylve, Sr., Kentucky State; **WR** - Abdul-Fattai Ibrahim, Jr., ALA&M; Imeek Watkins, Sr., Chowan; **TE** - Kemari Averett, Sr., Bethune-Cookman **OL** - Keenan Forbes, Sr., Florida A&M; Miquail Harvey, Sr., Albany State; Dallas Black, So., Southern; Quinton Bobo, Jr., Bowie State; Justin Redd, Jr., Norfolk State; **PK** - Jose Romo-Martinez, Fr., Florida A&M; **KR** - Brandon Codrington, So., NC Central

SECOND TEAM - OFFENSE

QB - Aqeel Glass, Sr., ALA&M; **RB** - Gary Quarles, Sr., ALA&M; Sidney Gibbs, Jr., SHAW; **WR** - Odieu Hilaire, Jr., ALA&M; Charles Hall, Jr., VUU; **TE** - Anthony Williams, r-Sr., Norfolk State; **OL** - Jonathan Bishop, Sr., Southern; Greg Brooks, Gr., Fayetteville State; Coby Byrd, Jr., Norfolk State;; Connor Vasher, So., Savannah State; David Keck, Jr., Chowan **PK** - Garrett Urban, Jr., Grambling; **KR** - Isaiah Bolden, Jr., Jackson State

THIRD TEAM - OFFENSE

QB - Bryce Witt, Sr., CHOW; **RB** - Donte Edwards, Sr., MILES; J. J. Davis, Fr., NSU; **WR** - Ke'Lenn Davis, So., TXSOU; Jadakiss Bonds, Jr., HAMP; **TE** - Jyrin Johnson, Fr., TXSU; **OL** - Katray Pringle, So., Albany State; Tyrece Bobbit, Jr., Shaw; Jalen Powell, Sr., Norfolk State; Drake Centers, Jr., Texas Southern; Mark Evans II, Jr., Arkansas-Pine Bluff; **PK** - Adrian Olivo, So., NC Central **KR** - Imeek Watkins, Sr., Chowan



Sanders

Averett

Bowie State senior **Calil Wilkins** and **Kentucky State** senior **Brett Sylve**.

Wilkins led all black college rushers this season with 1,322 rushing yards. He was the backbone and spark-plug for the BSU offense that averaged 177 rushing yards per game. Wilkins accounted for more than half of those yards. He averaged 5.1 yards per carry and scored nine rushing TDs.

Sylve has been churning out big numbers for the KSU Thorobreds for three years now and capped his career with another outstanding season. Sylve, a compact 5-8, 210-pound fire-plug, ground out 933 yards this season in KSU's vaulted ground attack. He averaged 6.4 yards per carry and reached paydirt and HBCU-best 13 times. He also racked up another 400 yards in kick returns to be among the leaders in all-purpose yards.

Alabama A&M wideout **Abdul-Fattai Ibrahim** and **Chowan** wideout **Imeek Watkins** were the most prolific receivers this season. Ibrahim and his cohort for the Bulldogs **Odieu Hilaire** were Glass's top targets and combined for 139 receptions and for nearly 2,000 yards and 17 touchdowns.

Watkins was just as prolific with the Indians grabbing 68 passes for 886 yards and 10 TDs. Watkins piled up nearly another 550 yards in kick returns. Hilaire was a second team receiver while Watkins was the second team returner.

Bethune-Cookman tight end **Kemari Averett** may be the top HBCU pro prospect. At 6-6, 260-pounds, Averett has the speed and agility that makes the scouts salivate. He was the leading receiver for the Wildcats this season hauling in 52 catches for 888 yards and 10 TDs.

NEXT WEEK: Baad Team Defenders

cord. They rode the arm and big passing numbers of senior QB Aqeel Glass to seven wins.

STAT CORNER II

WHO ARE THE BEST PERFORMERS IN BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL STAT LEADERS - OFFENSE

RUSHING YARDS	CL	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	LONG	AVG/G
1) Emmanuel Wilson, FVSU	FR	7	147	835	5.7	7	32	119.3
2) Gary Quarles, ALA&M	SR	10	205	955	4.7	10	44	95.5
3) Sidney Gibbs, SHAW	SO	10	166	948	5.7	6	58	94.8
4) Calil Wilkins, BOWST	SO	14	260	1322	5.1	9	47	94.4
5) Brett Sylve, KSU	SR	10	145	933	6.4	13	59	93.3
6) Caleb Johnson, MVSU	SO	11	235	1018	4.3	8	33	92.5
7) Donte Edwards, MILES	JR	11	189	1003	5.3	8	45	91.2
8) Jada Byers, VAUN	FR	10	169	910	5.4	12	52	91.0
9) J. J. Davis, NORFST	FR	11	123	887	7.2	10	88	80.6
10) Kobe Dillon, SOU	FR	8	79	628	8.0	4	75	78.6

PASSING AVG. GAME	CL	G	CM - AT - INT	PCT	YDS	TDS	LONG	AVG/G
Aqeel Glass, ALA&M	SR	10	259-414-7	62.6	3,568	36	81	356.8
Bryce Witt, CHOW	SR	10	220-332-4	66.3	2,864	31	79	286.4
David Wright, ALLEN	FR	8	177-292-9	60.6	2,259	27	77	282.4
Eric Phoenix, BEN	JR	7	137-198-9	69.2	1,891	12	70	270.1
Shedeur Sanders, JSU	FR	13	272-413-8	65.9	3,231	30	74	248.5
Jeff Duffey, HAMP	SO	11	174-296-12	58.8	2,547	15	95	231.5
Khari Lane, FAYVST	SR	9	145-221-5	65.6	2,081	20	63	231.2
Felix Harper, ALCST	SR	11	191-310-5	61.6	2,489	20	69	226.3
Juan Carter, NORFST	SR	11	199-312-5	63.8	2,511	21	86	228.3
Quinton Williams, HOW	JR	10	166-287-7	57.8	2,177	13	97	217.7

PASS EFFICIENCY	CL	G	CM - AT - INT	PCT	YDS	TDS	EFF
Khari Lane, FAYVST	SR	9	145-221-5	65.6	2,081	20	170.0
Bryce Witt, CHOW	SR	10	220-332-4	66.3	2,854	31	167.1
Aqeel Glass, ALA&M	SR	10	259-414-7	62.6	3,568	36	160.3
Eric Phoenix, BEN	FR	7	137-198-9	69.2	1,891	12	160.3
Shedeur Sanders, JSU	FR	13	272-413-8	65.9	3,231	30	151.7
Juan Carter, NORFST	SR	11	199-312-5	63.8	2,511	21	150.4
Felix Harper, ALCST	SR	11	191-310-5	61.6	2,489	20	147.1

TOTAL OFFENSE	CL	G	RUSH	PASS	PLAY	YDS	YDS/G
Aqeel Glass, ALA&M	SR	10	-85	3568	464	3483	348.3
David Wright, ALLEN	FR	8	375	2,259	397	2,634	329.4
Bryce Witt, CHOW	SR	10	154	2,864	440	3,018	301.8
Eric Phoenix, BEN	JR	7	126	1,891	257	2,017	288.1
Jeff Duffey, HAMP	SO	11	439	2,547	412	2,986	271.5
Andrew Body, TXSOU	FR	10	642	2017	335	2,859	265.9
Juan Carter, NORFST	SR	11	390	2,511	402	2,901	263.7
Felix Harper, ALCST	SR	11	242	2,489	412	2,731	248.3
Shedeur Sanders, JSU	FR	15	-17	3,231	516	3,214	247.2
Jawan Pass, PVA&M	JR	12	272	2635	420	2,907	242.3

RECEPTIONS PER GAME	CL	G	REC	YDS	TD	LONG	YPC	RIG
Odieu Hilaire, ALA&M	JR	10	71	918	9	66	12.9	91.8
Imeek Watkins, CHOW	SR	10	68	886	10	79	13.0	88.6
A-F, Ibrahim, ALA&M	JR	10	67	1008	8	81	15.9	100.8
Reggie Bryant, JCSU	SO	8	49	693	7	50	14.1	86.6
Laurence King, CHOW	JR	9	51	658	8	55	12.9	73.1
Jadakiss Bonds, HAMP	JR	10	54	773	6	49	14.3	77.3

RECEIVING YARDS	CL	G	REC	YDS	TD	LONG	RPG	YPC	YG
A-F, Ibrahim, ALA&M	JR	10	67	1008	8	81	6.7	15.9	100.8
Odieu Hilaire, ALA&M	JR	10	71	918	9	66	7.1	12.9	91.8
Charles Hall, VAUN	SR	9	33	813	6	83	3.7	24.6	90.3
Ke'Lenn Davis, TXSOU	GR	10	47	893	2	68	4.7	19.0	89.3
Imeek Watkins, CHOW	SR	10	68	886	10	79	6.8	13.0	88.6
Reggie Bryant, JCSU	SO	8	49	693	7	50	6		