



FOX Sports Photo

MUCH TO CELEBRATE

LAND LANDS BUCHANAN AWARD; BOWIE STATE'S WILSON LAUDED; MEAC COMMISH TO COLLEGE HOF

COMING HOME: Howard alum and FOX Sports play-by-play man Gus Johnson will call special MLK game at Howard vs. Notre Dame.

CIAA

Table with columns: CONF, ALL, W, L for North and South Divisions.

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Terrence Hunter-Whitfield, 6-5, Jr., F, VIRGINIA STATE - Averaged 29.5 points and 10.0 rebounds in the 1-1 week.

MEAC

Table with columns: CONF, ALL, W, L for MEAC members.

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Tyree Corbett, 6-7, Jr., F, COPPIN STATE - Had double-double of 23 points and 22 rebounds in win over SC State.

SIAC

Table with columns: CONF, ALL, W, L for SIAC members.

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Tahj Green, 6-8, Sr., F, BENEDICT - Averaged 19.0 points and 11 rebounds in two wins.

SWAC

Table with columns: CONF, ALL, W, L for SWAC members.

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Jayden Saddler, 6-1, Sr., G, SOUTHERN - In back-to-back wins over FAMU and B-CU, averaged 17.0 points, 8.0 rebounds, 4.5 assists and 2.5 steals.

INDEPENDENTS

Table with columns: CONF, ALL, W, L for Independent members.

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Demetric Horton, 6-5, Jr., G, NC A&T - In two wins, averaged 19.5 points while hitting 15 of 20 shots (.750) from the field and 5 of 7 3s (.701) from 3-point range.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

FAMU'S LAND WINS BUCHANAN AWARD:

FRISCO, Texas — Florida A&M linebacker Isaiah Land received the Buck Buchanan Award, topping fellow linebackers Troy Andersen of Montana State and Patrick O'Connell of Montana.

The 27th annual Buchanan Award, given to the best defensive player in the Football Championship Subdivision, was announced during the FCS Awards Banquet on Friday night at Embassy Suites Hotel & Convention Center.

Andersen received the most first-place votes at 15, while Land and O'Connell both got 11. Land finished with nine second-place, eight third-place, four fourth-place and two fifth-place votes.

Land, a junior from Buffalo, led the FCS with 25 1/2 tackles for loss and 19 sacks. The Southwestern Athletic Conference defensive player of the year also had 43 tackles.

This is the second Buchanan Award in as many years for a player out of the SWAC.

BOWIE STATE'S WILSON WINS NATIONAL COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD:

SAN ANTONIO, Tex. — The American Football Coaches Association announced Bowie State head football coach Damon Wilson as the AFCA National Coach of the Year for the NCAA Division II on Monday morning at the Centennial AFCA Convention.

"This is the ultimate team award," said Wilson. "I appreciate the recognition but it's impossible to win this award without great coaches, players and alum's buying in.

Wilson, in his 12th year as head coach of the Bulldogs football program, guided Bowie State to a 12-2 record, BSU's third-straight Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Northern Division title and championship with a 7-0 league record.

He was the CIAA Coach of the Year and AFCA Super Region II Coach of the Year. Wilson has an 89-45 overall record with a total of four NCAA playoff appearances, a total of seven CIAA Northern Division titles and three CIAA championships.

The award is the first for not only Bowie State but for the CIAA conference as Wilson becomes the first CIAA coach to win the prestigious award.

THOMAS TO COLLEGE FOOTBALL HOF:

NORFOLK, Va., — Former Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Commissioner Dr. Dennis E. Thomas will be inducted as part of the 2022 College Football Hall of Fame class, which was officially unveiled on Monday.

As an offensive lineman at Alcorn State, Thomas was a two-time Pittsburgh Courier All-American (1972, 1973), and he was named the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Offensive Player of the Year in 1973 — the first and only offensive lineman to win the award.

Following his playing career, Thomas embarked on an athletics administration career that saw him serve as an assistant coach at his alma mater, a head coach at South Carolina State from 1986-88, Director of Athletics at Hampton University and Commissioner of the MEAC from 2002-21.

The 2022 College Football Hall of Fame Class will be officially inducted during the 64th NFF Annual Awards Dinner on Dec. 6, 2022.

COVID-19 still disrupting hoops schedules

LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

The biggest headline maker in black college basketball over the last two weeks has been COVID-19. Individuals and teams testing positive have caused disruptions in the schedules of every HBCU league.

Only the SWAC men and women on Monday (Jan. 10) were able to get in a full slate of games without a postponement or cancellation.

The MEAC has had the most cancellations or postponements with 16 of the last 18 men's games involving conference schools not hitting the court.

That means it's hard to get a bead on the top prospects or teams in the young season.

MEAC

On the Div. I level — men's teams in the MEAC or SWAC — only the 9-4 Norfolk State men under Robert Jones entered the new year and conference play with an above .500 record.

The Spartans have been led by 6-1 senior guard Joe Bryant's 14.2 points per game. Six-nine redshirt senior forward Kris Bankston (11.2 ppg.) and 6-2 junior guard Christian Ings (10.5 ppg.) are other double-figure scorers.

They hope to get in their first MEAC game Saturday (4 p.m.) at Howard (6-6), who has the next best non-conference slate. It will also be the first conference game for Howard.

Head coach Kenny Blakeney's Bison have six players scoring in double-digits led by 6-10 sophomore forward Steve Settles' 13.1 points per game and senior sharpshooter Kyle Foster's 14.6 ppg. off the bench.

Norfolk State plays at Maryland-Eastern Shore on Monday (4 p.m.).

MLK Special on FOX

After the Norfolk State game, the Bison are set to host Notre Dame Monday (Jan. 17) at 2:30 p.m. in a special game on FOX Sports honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on the day of his national holiday.

The matchup marks the first time in its history that Notre Dame will visit and play at an HBCU campus. The coaches, Notre Dame head coach Mike Brey and Howard's Blakeney, have a lot in common.

Both began their hoop careers playing under late legendary head coach Morgan Wooten at local DeMatha High School, one of the top prep programs in the nation.

Blakeney played under Mike Kryzyzewski collegiately at Duke. Both Brey and Blakeney also worked as assistants under Coach K. Blakeney was also on Brey's staff at Delaware before he became head coach at Notre Dame.



GAMES TO WATCH: Norfolk State's Robert Jones (l.) and Howard's Kenny Blakeney's (c.) teams have the best records in the MEAC and will square off Saturday.

Two of Howard's best players - Settles and freshman point guard Elijah Hawkins (12.6 ppg., league-best 7.0 assists per game) are DeMatha products.

The game was originally scheduled for MLK Day in 2021 but was cancelled as the teams battled COVID-19 issues.

Howard alum Gus Johnson, now a play-by-play announcer for FOX College Hoops, will call the game with NBA vet and College Hall of Famer Jim Jackson providing analysis.

Host Mike Hill and analysts Steve Lavin and Donny Marshall will provide pregame, halftime and postgame coverage on-site from Howard's Burr Gymnasium.

Other games to watch Southern out of the SWAC posted the best non-conference mark in that league at 5-7.

Alcorn State (4-12, 3-0) won just one of 13 non-conference games but head coach Landon Bussie has the Braves off to a 3-0 start in league action.

A traditional MLK weekend game in the CIAA will pit Virginia Union and Virginia State Saturday in Ettrick, Va. (4 p.m.).

Fayetteville State (8-5, 3-0 S) and Lincoln (10-4, 3-0 N) are the early CIAA division leaders.

BASKETBALL THIS WEEK

SAT., DEC. 15

Schedule for Saturday, Dec 15: Fayetteville State @ JC Smith, Lincoln @ Bowie State, etc.

MEAC

Schedule for MEAC: NC Central @ SC State, Norfolk State @ Howard, etc.

SIAC

Schedule for SIAC: Allen @ Albany State, Savannah State @ Ft. Valley State, etc.

SWAC

Schedule for SWAC: Texas Southern @ Alcorn State, Florida A&M @ Arkansas-Pine Bluff, etc.

BIG SOUTH

Schedule for BIG SOUTH: Presbyterian @ Hampton, NC A&T @ High Point, etc.

OVC

Schedule for OVC: Morehead State @ Tennessee State

OTHERS

Schedule for OTHERS: Central Oklahoma @ Lincoln (MO), W. Va. State @ Alderson Broaddus, etc.

MON., DEC. 17

Schedule for Monday, Dec 17: Virginia Union @ St. Augustine's

MEAC

Schedule for MEAC: Notre Dame @ Howard, Norfolk State @ Md.-E. Shore, etc.

SIAC

Schedule for SIAC: Benedict @ Albany State, Allen @ Morehouse, etc.

SWAC

Schedule for SWAC: Prairie View A&M @ Alcorn State, Texas Southern @ Jackson State, etc.

OVC

Schedule for OVC: Tennessee Tech @ Tennessee State

TUES., JAN. 18

Schedule for Tuesday, Jan 18: Spring Hill @ Fort Valley State

WED., JAN. 19

Schedule for Wednesday, Jan 19: JC Smith @ St. Augustine's, Shaw @ Winston-Salem State, etc.

SIAC

Schedule for SIAC: Albany State @ Allen

BIG SOUTH

Schedule for BIG SOUTH: Hampton @ Radford, NC A&T @ UNC-Asheville

OTHERS

Schedule for OTHERS: W. Va. State @ Glenville State

CIAA

Table with columns: CONF, ALL, W, L for North and South Divisions.

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Amaya Tucker, 5-6, So., G, WSSU - Averaged 16.5 points, 5.5 assists and 6.0 rebounds in two wins. Had 15 points, five assists, five rebounds and four steals in win over Shaw.

MEAC

Table with columns: CONF, ALL, W, L for MEAC members.

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Camille Downs, 5-10, Sr., G, NORFOLK STATE - Tallied game-high 28 points with 8 rebounds and 3 steals in win over NC Central Monday. Hit 11 of 18 shots, 4 of 3s and 2 of 5 FTs.

SIAC

Table with columns: CONF, ALL, W, L for SIAC members.

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Le'Andre Gillis, 5-10, Jr., G, SAVANNAH STATE - Averaged 26.0 points and 6.0 rebounds in two wins. Tallied 27 points on 9 of 15 shooting, 4 of 7 3s and 5 of 6 FTs.

SWAC

Table with columns: CONF, ALL, W, L for SWAC members.

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Amesha Williams-Holiday, 6-4, Sr., C, JACKSON STATE - Averaged 21.6 points, 13.0 rebounds and 3.0 blocks in three wins. Had 20 points, 13 rebounds and 3 blocks in win over Alabama A&M.

INDEPENDENTS

Table with columns: CONF, ALL, W, L for Independent members.

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Saniah Parker, 5-9, Fr., G, TENNESSEE STATE - Averaged 16.0 points in two wins. Led Lady Tigers with 18 points and five assists with 1 block and 2 steals in win over SE Missouri.