

BLACK COLLEGE
SPORTS
PAGE

TBT photo

**MAKING
SOME
NOISE**

ALL FOR ONE: Members of the HBCUnited squad competing in the TBT Tournament regional at New York's Rucker Park huddle during Sunday's win over YGC.

HBCU UNITED ROLLING AT TBT; SIAC, OVC PREDICTIONS; A&T'S ROSS OUT AT WORLDS

2022 SIAC FOOTBALL PRESEASON PREDICTIONS

SIAC 2022 PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH		2022 PRESEASON AWARDS	
EAST DIVISION		OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR Dionte Bonneau, Jr., QB, Albany State	
Preseason Ranking	Last Season (2021) Finish	DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR Andrew Farmer, Sr., DT, Lane	
Albany State	1st		
Benedict	5th	Bonneau	Farmer
Savannah State	2nd	FIRST TEAM	
Morehouse	3rd	OFFENSE	
Fort Valley State	4th	OL - Emmanuel Boone, Jr. FVSU; Tyler Lowry, Jr., MILES; Terrence Jordan, So., LANE; Waylin Bell, Sr. FVSU; KaTray Pringle, Jr., ALB; TE - Tyree Taylor, So., ALB; WR - Anthony Evelyn, Sr. LANE; Marcus Lodge, R-Jr., MILES; RB - Ike	
Edward Waters ^A	n/a ^A	DEFENSE	
Clark Atlanta	6th	OL - Jajuan Gordon, So., ALB; Genesis Hartley, Sr., CSU; Josh Simon, Jr., ALB; Kyle Frazier, So., SSU; Nathan Harri-	
Allen ^A	n/a ^A	SECOND TEAM	
WEST DIVISION		OFFENSE	
Miles	1st	OL - Jackson Spradlin, Sr., MILES; P - Jose Chaires, So., CSU; PR - Hakeem Ellington, R-Jr., FVSU; KR - Marquez Pride, Jr., MHS	
Lane	3rd	DEFENSE	
Tuskegee	4th	DL - Anthony Harvey, So., ALB; Josh Hill, So., ALB; Tim Alderman, So., FVSU; Loobert Denelus, Jr., BEN; LB - Mackenzie Howard, Gr., LANE; Gary Bourrage, Jr., ALLEN; Darrell Dorris Jr., So., KSU; DB - James Hawkins, Jr., ALB; Brandarious Rawlings, Sr., ALB; Christian Maddox, Sr., FVSU; Jeffery Johnson, R-Sr., LANE	
Kentucky State	2nd	SPECIAL TEAMS	
Central State	5th	PK & P - Kenneth Lockhart, So., SSU; PR - Marquez Pride, Jr., MHS; KR - Anthony Evelyn, Sr., LANE	
*Not eligible for SIAC Championship game during NCAA membership transition.			

Seven new coaches in 2022 SIAC football

LUT WILLIAMS
BCSP Editor

ATLANTA, GA — Perhaps the top story at last Wednesday's 2022 SIAC Media Day at the College Football Hall of Fame was the crop of new head coaches that will grace the sidelines this season.

Seven new head men were among the coaches that made their way to the stage in downtown Atlanta to be interviewed by host James Verett after sitting down with the various media outlets in attendance.

That likely overshadowed the fact that the conference has not named a replacement for longtime Commissioner **Greg Moore**, who announced in late May that he was stepping down after nearly 14 years leading the conference. Nonetheless, the day went smoothly with Associate Commissioner for Communications **Tyler Williams** deftly handling the proceedings.

Additionally this season, big news is that both **Edward Waters** and **Allen** are full conference members and will be eligible for the football title.

The new crop

There are new men at the helm of more than half the 13 SIAC programs.

In an interesting twist, four of the five West Division programs have new faces at the helm. Two of them - **Tuskegee's** new head coach and **AD Reggie Ruffin** (from



TEAM LEADERS: The 13 SIAC head football coaches pose in the lobby of the College Football Hall of Fame in Atlanta last Wednesday at the 2022 Media Day. New head coaches at seven programs will make the 2022 season quite interesting.

Miles) and **Clark Atlanta's** new head coach **Willie Slater** (from **Tuskegee**) — have moved from one conference program to another. Three in all — including former **Fort Valley State** head man **Kevin Porter** now at **Central State** — are getting their second head coaching assignments in the league. All three come with conference championship credentials.

Slater won seven SIAC titles in 15 years at Tuskegee. Ruffin took home four titles in 11 years at Miles. Porter won the 2016 SIAC crown while at FVSU.

The other new coaches include former Alabama and NFL player and coach **Sam Shade** at Miles, former **Howard** defensive backs coach **Aaron Kelton** who takes over from **Shawn Quinn** at

Brown, So., LANE; Emanuel Wilson, Jr., FVSU; **QB** - Dionte Bonneau, Jr., ALB

DEFENSE
DL - Malik Barnes, So., ALB; Andrew Farmer, Sr., LANE; Makenly Newbill, Sr., SSU; Roosevelt Thompson, R-So., MILES; **LB** - Stephan Pierre, Jr., ALB; Rodney Lewis, Jr., CAU; Daylon Land, So., MHS;
DB - Mitchell Smiley, Sr., MILES; Armani Maddox, So., MHS; Charles Crawford, Gr., CAU; Tyler Moore, Sr., FVSU

SPECIAL TEAMS
PK & P - Kenneth Lockhart, So., SSU; **PR** - Marquez Pride, Jr., MHS; **KR** - Anthony Evelyn, Sr., LANE

SECOND TEAM
OFFENSE
OL - Jajuan Gordon, So., ALB; Genesis Hartley, Sr., CSU; Josh Simon, Jr., ALB; Kyle Frazier, So., SSU; Nathan Harri-

son, Sr., TUSK; **TE** - Latrevien O'Neal, Jr., TUSK; **WR** - O'Joshua Bunton, R-Sr., LANE; JoeVontae Shorter, Sr., ALB; **RB** - Kamran Ward, So., ALB; Shamarcus Poole, So., SSU; **QB** - Michael Huntley, Sr., LANE; Eric Phoenix, Sr., BEN;

DEFENSE
DL - Anthony Harvey, So., ALB; Josh Hill, So., ALB; Tim Alderman, So., FVSU; Loobert Denelus, Jr., BEN; **LB** - Mackenzie Howard, Gr., LANE; Gary Bourrage, Jr., ALLEN; Darrell Dorris Jr., So., KSU; **DB** - James Hawkins, Jr., ALB; Brandarious Rawlings, Sr., ALB; Christian Maddox, Sr., FVSU; Jeffery Johnson, R-Sr., LANE

SPECIAL TEAMS
PK - Jackson Spradlin, Sr., MILES; **P** - Jose Chaires, So., CSU; **PR** - Hakeem Ellington, R-Jr., FVSU; **KR** - Marquez Pride, Jr., MHS

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

TENNESSEE STATE FOURTH IN OVC:

In its second year under **Eddie George**, **Tennessee State** was picked fourth in the new-look, seven-team Ohio Valley Conference poll and placed eight players on the All-OVC Preseason team. The announcements were made at OVC Media Day at the Cool Springs Marriott in Nashville on Tuesday.

TSU picked up one of 14 first-place votes that ultimately saw the defending league champions from UT Martin secure 10 other votes for the top spot in the league.

Entering his first season at TSU after transferring over from former OVC foe Austin Peay, quarterback **Draylen Ellis** — the 2020-21 OVC Co-Freshman of the Year with TSU running back **Devon Starling** — was named to the preseason team. Ellis ranked among the FCS leaders and led the OVC in passing touchdowns (19), passing yards (2,625), yards per completion (13.7), and total offense (268.5 ypg).

Starling, who rushed for 800 yards and three touchdowns and caught 37 passes for 312 yards was also designated along with wide receiver **Zaire Thornton** (26 rec., 398 yards, 2 TDs 15.3 ypc.). Offensive lineman **Robert Lacy** and two both defensive tackles, **Terray Jones** and **Tadarrius Patterson** were also named to the preseason team.

Linebacker **James Green**, who led TSU with 77 total tackles (41 solo and 36 assists) and punt/kick returner **Dayron Johnson** were also selected. Ohio State transfer **K'Vaughn Pope**, a 6-foot-1 225-pound linebacker from Dinwiddie, Virginia was designated a Newcomer to Watch.

TSU will kick off the 2022 season on September 3, at Eastern Washington at 3 p.m. CT before meeting **Jackson State** in Memphis on Sept. 10 at 6 p.m. in the *Southern Heritage Classic*.

The Tigers will play five games in Nashville with the home-opener set for October 1, against **Lane** in the *John Merritt Classic* at Hale Stadium. The remaining four games will be played at Nissan Stadium, including homecoming on October 8 vs. **Bethune-Cookman**.

FOOTBALL MEDIA DAYS CONTINUE:

The prelude to the 2022 black college football season continued this week as both the CIIA and SWAC held their Media Days.

The CIIA held its event Tuesday and Wednesday (July 18 and 19) in Roanoke Virginia beginning with a free youth football clinic (ages 7-13) on Tuesday at Salem Football Stadium.

CIIA Football Media Day opened at 9:00 a.m. Wednesday and each of the CIIA's twelve head football coaches and a returning player from each school discussed the outlook for their respective programs and expectations for the upcoming season.

This year's event will be highlighted by the release of the CIIA preseason football all-conference team along with the predicted order of finish and television schedule for the 2022 season.

New coaches in the CIIA include **Kyle Jackson** at **Bowie State**, **Dr. Henry Frazier** at **Virginia State**, **Marcus Hilliard** at **Elizabeth City State** and **Maurice Flowers** at **J. C. Smith**

Head coaches and student-athletes will be present at the annual SWAC Football Media Day on Thursday, July 21 at 10:00 am CST at the Sheraton-Birmingham. ESPN College football analysts **Tiffany Greene** and **Jay Walker** will host the event which is set to be carried live on ESPN3. Heralded Jackson State No. 1 recruit **Travis Hunter** is among the student/athletes expected to attend.

There are new SWAC head coaches at **Alabama State** (**Eddie Robinson Jr.**) **Grambling** (**Hue Jackson**), **Prairie View A&M** (**Bubba McDowell**) and **Southern** (**Eric Dooley**).

SWAC student athletes attending include: Abdul-Fatai Ibrahim (WR) and Gary Quarles (RB) of Alabama A&M; Demetrius Davis (QB) and Irshaad Davis (DB) of Alabama State; CJ Bolar (WR) and Keyron Kinsler Jr. (DB) of Alcorn State; Kemari Averett (TE) and Omari Hill-Robinson (DB) of Bethune-Cookman; Isaiah Land (LB) and Xavier Smith (WR) of Florida A&M; Tyler Thomas (OL) and Joshua Reed (DB) of Grambling State; She-deur Sanders (QB) and Travis Hunter (WR/DB) of Jackson State; Caleb Johnson (RB) and Ronnie Thomas (DL) of Mississippi Valley State; Trazon Connelly (QB) and Tre'Vion Green (LB) of Prairie View A&M; Dallas Black (OL) and Cameron Peterson (DL) of Southern; Andrew Body (QB) and Demontario Anderson (DL) of Texas Southern; Skyler Perry (QB) and Mark Evans II (OL) Univ. Arkansas-Pine Bluff



Hunter

Led by head coach **Gabe Giardina**, Albany State snapped their championship game losing streak by defeating Miles in the 2021 championship game, 31-0. The Golden Rams pitched six shutouts, and collected their 11th championship game title since 1990 and ASU's first since 2013.

The 2022 SIAC title game is scheduled for Nov. 12 hosted by the East champ.

Preseason all-SIAC team

This year's SIAC preseason team features 29 returning players from the 2021 team.

It is led on offense by Albany State quarterback **Dionte Bonneau** who was selected as this year's Preseason Offensive Player of the Year. His counterpart on defense is Lane senior tackle **Andrew Farmer**.

Bonneau led the Golden Rams to a 10-2 overall mark, 7-0 mark and championship in the SIAC as well as a NCAA Div. II playoff berth. The Atlanta, Ga. native finished the season with 1,896 passing yards and 19 passing touchdowns.

Farmer, a senior from Jacksonville, Fla., was a second-team All-SIAC performer last season and was a key element in the Dragon defense. Farmer led the Lane defense to a 6-4 overall and 3-3 in conference record and topped the league in sacks with 11.5 and finished with 54 total tackles from the defensive end position.

BCSP Notes

NC A&T's Ross booted from World Championships

EUGENE, Ore. — Back-to-back NCAA champion **Randolph Ross Jr.** was booted from the world track and field championships on the eve of his 400 meter preliminary race, about a month after officials could not locate him to take an antidoping test.

The Athletics Integrity Unit announced Saturday it was provisionally suspending the **North Carolina A&T** sprinter for tampering with the antidoping process after an unsuccessful testing attempt on June 18. The investigation concluded, the AIU said, after officials interviewed him Thursday.

Ross had been scheduled to compete Sunday in the 400 meter heats. Ross Jr. was the only HBCU athlete to make the U. S. team.

Athletes are required to give antidoping authorities detailed lists of where they'll be so testers can reach them with no notice to collect samples when the athletes are not competing. In some cases, three missed tries can result in an antidoping violation. AIU did not release the specifics of Ross' case, other than to say "the allegation arises out of the athlete's conduct during the course of an investigation into a potential whereabouts violation."

His father, **Duane Ross**, who coached his son at A&T, was involved in an issue involving doping improprieties during his athletics career. Ross won a bronze medal in the 110 hurdles at the 1999 worlds but later served a two-year suspension related to the case involving coach Trevor Graham and the Bay Area Laboratory Co-operative (BALCO).

Duane Ross has been hired as the new director of track and field programs at Tennessee. His son has announced that he will join him there.

HBCUnited in regional TBT Final at Rucker Park

A team made up of former HBCU players and coached by **Norfolk State** head coach **Rob Jones** has won two games at New York's famed Rucker Park to advance to the Rucker Park Region finals of the \$1 million winner-take-all TBT (The Basketball Tournament).

The fourth-seeded HBCU squad followed up a 76-72 opening round win on Saturday over fifth-seed Skip To My Lou with a 66-59 win over YGC, the top team in their bracket, on Sunday. YGC is a team sponsored by Boston Celtics' guard Marcus Smart and included former NC A&T forward **Maurice Taylor**.

The wins advanced HBCUnited to Wednesday night's 8 p.m. region championship game vs. second-seed Americana for Autism. The TBT Sweet 16 game was set to be televised on ESPN.

A win over Americana for Autism would advance HBCUnited to the TBT Elite Eight national quarterfinals in Dayton, Ohio.

The HBCUnited squad includes former **Hampton** guards **Malique Trent** and **Jermaine Marrow** and forward **Amir Smith**, former **Maryland-Eastern Shore** forward **Bakari Copeland**, former **Bethune-Cookman** guard **Brandon Tabb**, former **Norfolk State** guards **Derrik Jamerson** and **Devante Carter**, former **Texas Southern** forward **Jeremy**



HBCUNITED: (L. to r.) Former Norfolk State guard Devante Carter, head coach Rob Jones and former Hampton guard Malique Trent celebrate after Trent's game-clinching 3-pointer gave HBCUnited a 76-72 first-round win over Skip to My Lou at New York's Rucker Park Saturday. HBCUnited also got a win Sunday over YGC to advance to Wednesday's region final vs. Americana for Autism. A win Wednesday vaults HBCUnited into the Elige Eight quarterfinals of the \$1 million winner-take-all tournament. The team is made up of former HBCU players and is coached by Jones, the current head men's basketball coach at Norfolk State.

Combs, former Morgan State forward Phillip Carr and former Jackson State guard/trainer Thomas "Snacks" Lee.

Marrow replaced former **Winston-Salem State** guard **Rob Colon** who could not return from playing overseas in Ecuador in time for the tournament. Former Norfolk State guard **Steven Whitley** is one of the assistant coaches.

Leading the way for the HBCU squad in the win over YGC was Trent with 16 points. He also grabbed seven rebounds in 22 minutes. His former Hampton teammate Marrow scored 11 points off the bench to help with the winning effort and also had a team-high eight rebounds. Carter added 10 points, including the game-closing dunk to put the exclamation point on the victory and set off a wild celebration. HBCUnited led by as many as 11 points.

In the win over Skip to My Lou, Trent hit a game-ending three-pointer from the corner that set off another wild celebration. Tabb led HBCUnited in scoring with 14 points.

The format of TBT calls for a "Elam ending" where a final target winning score is set at the first stoppage at or under 4:00 of the fourth and final quarter. At that juncture, the game clock is turned off. The target score is set equal to the leading team's score plus eight (8) points. After returning from the timeout, play resumes without a game clock but with the shot clock until one team matches or exceeds the target score.

The wins for HBCUnited were a stark contrast from the team's debut in 2021 when it was blown out in its first and only game last year in West Virginia.

American for Autism defeated seventh-seed Peacock Nation in the quarterfinal round, 69-68 and defeated sixth-seed Big 5 83-67 in the semis. Former NC A&T star center **Femi Olujobi** and former **Philander Smith** shooting guard **Ronald March** play for Afa as does former Iona star **A. J. English**, the son of the former **Virginia Union** and NBA player with the same name.