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## PRIMED AND READY

**AGAIN!** Jackson State head coach Deion "Coach Prime" Sanders' Tigers are the top votegetters for SWAC 2022 football honors.

**BOWIE STATE (CIAA), JACKSON STATE (SWAC) PICKED TO REPEAT; NC A&T IS TOP PICK IN THE BIG SOUTH**

## 2022 CIAA FOOTBALL PRESEASON PREDICTIONS

CIAA 2022 PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH	2022 PRESEASON ALL-CIAA OFFENSE	2022 PRESEASON ALL-CIAA DEFENSE	2022 PRESEASON ALL-CIAA SPECIAL TEAMS
<b>NORTH DIVISION</b> 1. Bowie State 2. Virginia Union 3. Chowan 4. Virginia State 5. Elizabeth City State 6. Lincoln (PA)	<b>TIGHT END</b> Jeremiah Smith, Chowan <b>OFFENSIVE LINEMEN</b> Tyreese Bobbitt, Shaw* Quinton Bobo, Bowie State* David Keck, Chowan* Mark Murphy, Bowie State+ Antavious Zachery, Shaw+ <b>WIDE RECEIVERS</b> Laurence King, Chowan+ Reggie Bryant, Johnson C. Smith+ <b>QUARTERBACK</b> K'hari Lane, Fayetteville State+ <b>RUNNING BACKS</b> Jada Byers, Virginia Union+! Sidney Gibbs, Shaw*	<b>DEFENSIVE LINEMEN</b> Isaac Anderson, Chowan\$ Joshua Pryor, Bowie State+ Devin Cowan, Fayetteville State Armonii Burden, Virginia Union <b>LINEBACKERS</b> Ta'Shaun Taylor, Winston-Salem State* Zion Johnson, Virginia State+ Juanya' Majette, Elizabeth City State+ <b>DEFENSIVE BACKS</b> Brandon Barnes-Brown, Fayetteville State* Rontay Dunbar, Lincoln (PA)+ Elijah Banks, Winston-Salem State+ Simeon Burns, Chowan	<b>KICK RETURNER</b> Zion Riddick, Elizabeth City State+ <b>PLACE KICKER</b> Elton Andrew, Fayetteville State* <b>PUNT RETURNER</b> Darius Bowmen, Bowie State+ <b>PUNTER</b> Achille Laudet, Lincoln (PA)*#  * - Returning 2021 All-CIAA First Team selection + - Returning 2021 All-CIAA Second Team selection # - Returning 2021 CIAA Special Teams Player of the Year ! - Returning 2021 CIAA Offensive Rookie of the Year \$ - Returning 2021 CIAA Defensive Rookie of the Year

## UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

### NC A&T PICKED FIRST IN BIG SOUTH:

The new-look, six-member Big South Conference held its Media Day in Charlotte Tuesday and with the departure of Hampton to the CAA, North Carolina A&T was the only HBCU in attendance.

Head coach Sam Washington and the Aggies are spending one more year playing Big South football before moving to the CAA.

The Aggies were picked to finish first with six first-place votes and 60 points in voting by the conference's head coaches and media. Campbell (2, 50 points) was second followed by Charleston Southern (2, 44) and Gardner Webb (1, 44), new member Bryant (1, 33) and Robert Morris (21).

NC A&T sophomore offensive linemen Jamison Warren and redshirt senior Ricky Lee III were voted to the preseason all-Big South offense. Grad senior lineman Jermaine McDaniel, senior linebacker Jacob Roberts and redshirt junior defensive back Karon Prunty were voted to the defense with sophomore Andrew Brown as the placekicker.

### HBCUnited BOWS OUT AT TBT:

The collection of former HBCU stars competing at the winner-take-all \$1 million The Basketball Tournament (TBT) came up just short of making the Elite Eight.

Playing at New York's famed Rucker Park in that arena's regional finals Wednesday, HBCUnited was done in by a slew of second-half turnovers in falling 67-63 to Americana for Autism.

Ronald March, who played collegiately at HBCU Philander Smith, was impressive finishing with 12 points for AfA. Former NC A&T big man Femi Olujobi added 7 points.

Former Hampton point guard Jermaine Marrow did all he could to keep HBCUnited in the game. He led his squad with a game-high 22 points making 7 of 15 shots including 2 of 6 from behind the arc. Former Bethune-Cookman guard Brandon Tabb and former Texas Southern forward Jeremy Combs added 10 points.

The loss and elimination came after the team, coached by Norfolk State head coach Rob Jones and showcased on ESPN, won its first two games. A win would have advanced HBCUnited to Dayton and the national quarterfinals. The team was eliminated after just one game in last year's tournament.

### 2022 CIAA FOOTBALL ON ASPIRE TV

Oct. 15	Lincoln (PA) visits Elizabeth City State
Oct. 22 -	Fayetteville State @ J. C. Smith (HC)
Oct. 29	J. C. Smith @ Winston-Salem State
Nov. 5	Saint Augustine's @ Shaw
Nov. 12	CIAA Championship Game

### 2022 SWAC FOOTBALL ON ESPN

Aug. 27	Alabama State vs. Howard	ESPN
Sept. 3	Miles at Alabama State	ESPN+
Sept. 3	Texas Southern at Prairie View A&M	ESPN+
Sept. 10	SC State at Bethune-Cookman	ESPN+
Sept. 17	Grambling at Jackson State	ESPNU
Sept. 17	Incarmate Word at Prairie View A&M	ESPN+
Sept. 24	Alabama A&M at Florida A&M	ESPN+
Sept. 24	Grambling State at Bethune-Cookman	ESPN+
Sept. 24	Miss. Valley State at Jackson State	ESPN+
Oct. 8	Jackson State at Alabama State	ESPNU
Oct. 8	Alcorn State at Miss. Valley State	ESPN+
Oct. 8	Southern at Prairie View A&M	ESPN+
Oct. 15	Alcorn State at Southern	ESPN+
Oct. 22	Texas Southern at Alcorn State	ESPN+
Oct. 29	Alabama A&M at Alabama State	TBA
Oct. 29	Alcorn State at Grambling State	ESPN+
Oct. 29	Southern at Jackson State	TBA
Nov. 3	Alabama A&M vs. Miss. Valley State	ESPNU
Nov. 4	Alcorn State at Prairie View A&M	ESPNU
Nov. 5	Southern at Florida A&M	ESPNU
Nov. 5	Jackson State at Texas Southern	ESPN+
Nov. 5	Ark.-Pine Bluff at Grambling State	ESPN+
Nov. 12	Alabama A&M vs. Jackson State	ESPN+
Nov. 12	Grambling State at Texas Southern	ESPN+
Nov. 12	Miss. Valley State at Southern	ESPN+
Nov. 19	Jackson State at Alcorn State	ESPN+
Nov. 19	B-Cookman vs. Florida A&M	ESPNU
Nov. 24	Ark.-Pine Bluff at Alabama State	ESPN+
Dec. 3	Cricket SWAC Football Championship	ESPN2

### LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

ATLANTA, GA — With a new head coach at three-time defending champion Bowie State, the door may appear open for someone other than the Bulldogs to take the CIAA football championship.

That was perhaps the feeling Wednesday for head coaches and players at the 2022 CIAA Media Day at Roanoke's Holiday Inn Valley View.

Damon Wilson, who led Bowie State for 13 years, has moved to Morgan State with former linebackers coach Kyle Jackson taking the helm of the Bulldog program on an interim basis. Jackson says, "not so fast" to the rumors of BSU's impending demise.

"The biggest key is setting the standard of expectations," Jackson said Wednesday. "When I talk to the guys, I let them know the standard is the standard regardless of who's here, who's not here."

Jackson is a former middle linebacker who played under Wilson at BSU in 2009 and 2010 and joined Wilson's coaching staff in 2017. He also echoed his former mentor's mantra of "tradition never graduates."

"Things are not going to change much," Jackson said of the 12-2 team that was undefeated in conference play (8-0) and won an unprecedented two games in the NCAA Div. II playoffs to reach the national quarterfinals.

### LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.- Everyone here for the Southwestern Athletic Conference Football Media Day Thursday had to be wondering what Jackson State head coach Deion "Coach Prime" Sanders and his Tigers will do for an encore.

All Sanders and the Tigers did in his first full season was finish 8-0 to win the East Division title and beat West Division champ Prairie View A&M to give JSU its first league championship since 2007.

Speculation is that Sanders and JSU may be poised to repeat but they are going to have to do it against fortified league competition.

Four new coaches, all with quality credentials - Eddie Robinson at Alabama State, Hue Jackson at Grambling State, Eric Dooley at Southern, and Bubba McDowell at Texas Southern - have entered the fray.

Robinson was a championship linebacker at Alabama State in 1991 before a distinguished 11-year NFL career. He hopes to return his alma mater to its former glory.

Jackson had stints as an NFL head coach at Cleveland and Oakland and was an NFL of-

### CIAA PREVIEW



**THE CHALLENGE AHEAD:** Former Bowie State head coach Dr. Henry Frazier III (l.) is now the head man at Virginia State. New interim Bowie State head coach Kyle Jackson (r.) will try to fight off Frazier and a host of challengers to lead BSU to its fourth straight CIAA championship.

"We saw how far we could really go (last season). It opened a lot of eyes to the potential the Bowie State program has. A lot of those guys are returning."

Chief among the BSU returnees is Joshua Pryor, a 6-4, 260-pound senior defensive lineman. Often facing double teams, he posted 73 tackles, six sacks and 21.5 tackles for 84 yards in losses last season.

### BSU's N. Div. challengers

Bowie State's chief challenger in the North Division may come from former BSU player and head coach Dr. Henry Frazier III.

Frazier was a successful quarterback (1986-89) and head coach (1999-2003) before leading Prairie View A&M (2004-10) to the 2009 SWAC championship.



He returned to BSU and helped Wilson as a special assistant during the 2018 and 2019 championship years.

Virginia Union has been the closest to dethroning Bowie State in the North. The Panthers finished 12-5 in the division over the last three seasons under Dr. Alvin Parker, finishing second, a game behind Bowie State twice (5-2 last season).

"That's the game (vs. Bowie State) that's been stopping us every year," Parker said. "We win that game any one of the three years and we're playing in Salem (site of the championship game)."

He returns sophomore running back Jada Byers (914 yds., 5.4 yards per carry) who led the league with 12 rushing touchdowns.

Marcus Hilliard, who played an coached at Elizabeth City State when it was a perennial contender is the new coach at his alma mater.

Chowan and second particularly year head coach Mark Hall will enter the year without QB Bryce Witt who led the CIAA's top offense and was the offensive player of the year.

### The top challenger

The biggest threat to Bowie State's supremacy has been Richard Hayes' Broncos of Fayetteville State. After dominating the South Division, FSU has fallen to BSU in the CIAA championship game in each of the past three campaigns. The Broncos have won four straight S. Div. titles.

FSU will feature the league's top returning quarterback, Khari Lane, who was voted the preseason all-CIAA quarterback. Lane threw for over 2,000 yards with 20 TDs and only five interceptions.

Sixth-year head coach Adrien Jones guided Shaw (6-4, 5-2 S) past Winston-Salem State into second in the S. Div. behind FSU. The Bears are 0-5 during Jones' tenure vs. FSU including a close 15-12 fourth-quarter loss a year ago.

The Bears return the league's top ground attack (194.8 ypg.) with led by top returning rusher, junior Sidney Gibbs (948 yds., 5.7 ypc., 94.8 ypg., 6 TDs.).

## Sanders, JSU looking for follow-up title

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### SWAC PREVIEW



**AWARD WINNERS:** Jackson State QB Shedeur Sanders (l.) was the 2021 FCS Freshman of the Year and Florida A&M defensive end Isaiah Land (r.) was the top defender in the FCS in 2021. They were voted the top offensive player (Sanders) and defensive player (Land) returning in the SWAC this season.

fensive assistant for six different teams before taking over the legendary program this year.

Dooley led Prairie View to last year's West Division title and was also a key offensive assistant for three SWAC championship teams in 21 years.

McDowell played seven years in the NFL and was a Prairie View assistant for the last decade before taking over this year from Dooley.

The Preseason All-SWAC teams, Individual Winners, and Predicted Order of Finish were voted on by the league's head coaches and sports information directors.

Jackson State quarterback Shedeur Sanders was named Preseason Offensive Player of the Year while Florida A&M defensive end/linebacker Isaiah Land was tabbed Preseason Defensive Player of the Year.

Sanders had a stellar debut season for the Tigers as he was named the Stats Perform FCS Jerry Rice Award recipient. At the conclusion of regular season play, he led the SWAC with a 68.7 completion percentage while passing for 2971 yards (2nd in SWAC), 28 touchdowns (2nd in SWAC), and only five interceptions.

Land was one of the top players in the nation this past season as he was named the Stats Perform FCS Buck Buchanan Award recipient. At the conclusion of regular season play, he led the nation with 25.5 tackles for loss and 19 sacks. Land also added three forced fumbles, two pass breakups, and one fumble recovery.

Jackson State (116) was selected to finish in first place in the SWAC Eastern Division poll rankings. Southern (111) was tabbed to finish in first place in the SWAC Western Division.

## 2022 SWAC FOOTBALL PRESEASON PREDICTIONS

SWAC 2022 PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH	OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR	DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR	FIRST TEAM SPECIALISTS	SECOND TEAM DEFENSE
<b>SWAC EAST</b> Jackson State 16 points (12) Florida A&M 108 points (7) Alabama A&M 87 points (2) Alabama State 60 points (1) Bethune-Cookman 56 points Miss. Valley State 35 points	Shedeur Sanders, Jackson State	Isaiah Land, Florida A&M	<b>PK:</b> Jose Romo-Martinez, FAMU; <b>P</b> Josh Sanchez, UAPB <b>LS:</b> Thomas Reny, UAPB <b>RS:</b> Isaiah Bolden, JSU	<b>DL:</b> Jalen Bell, MVSU; Troy James, PVA&M; Devonta Davis, JSU; Athen Smith, UAPB <b>LB:</b> Tarik Cooper, TSU; Claudin Cherelus, ALC; Blake Thomas, GSU <b>DB:</b> Cam/Ron Silman-Craig, JSU; Quincy Mitchell, GSU; Caleb Brunson, MVSU; Javan Morgan, FAMU
<b>SWAC WEST</b> Southern 111 points (11) Alcorn State 110 points (5) Prairie View A&M 82 points (5) Grambling State 77 points (1) Arkansas-Pine Bluff 42 points Texas Southern 40 points	<b>QB:</b> Shedeur Sanders, JSU <b>RB:</b> Gary Quarles, AA&M; Caleb Johnson, MVSU <b>OL:</b> Dallas Black, SU; Mark Evans II, UAPB; Drake Centers, TSU; Tony Gray, JSU; Robert Alston, ALST <b>WR:</b> Abdul-Fatai Ibrahim, AA&M; Xavier Smith, FAMU <b>TE:</b> Kemari Averett, B-CU	<b>QB:</b> Andrew Body, TSU <b>RB:</b> Niko Duffey, ALC; Jaden Stewart, PV A&M <b>OL:</b> Jeremiah Stafford, SU; Brian Williams, SU; Cameron Covin, FAMU; Carson Vinson, AA&M; Arrington Taylor, PV A&M <b>WR:</b> C.J. Bolar, ALC; Malachi	<b>PK:</b> Garrett Urban, GSU <b>P:</b> Garrett Urban, GSU <b>LS:</b> Desmond Calloway, PVA&M <b>RS:</b> Darnell Deas, B-CU	<b>TE:</b> Jyrin Johnson, Texas Southern

\*First place votes listed in parenthesis ( )