
SOUTHERN HERITAGE CLASSIC
Presented by FedEx
UAPB GOLDEN LIONS
ALCORN
ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF
ALCORN STATE
SEPTEMBER 12, 2026
SIMMONS BANK LIBERTY STADIUM
MEMPHIS
OFFICIAL GAMEDAY PROGRAM




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SOUTHERN HERITAGE CLASSIC
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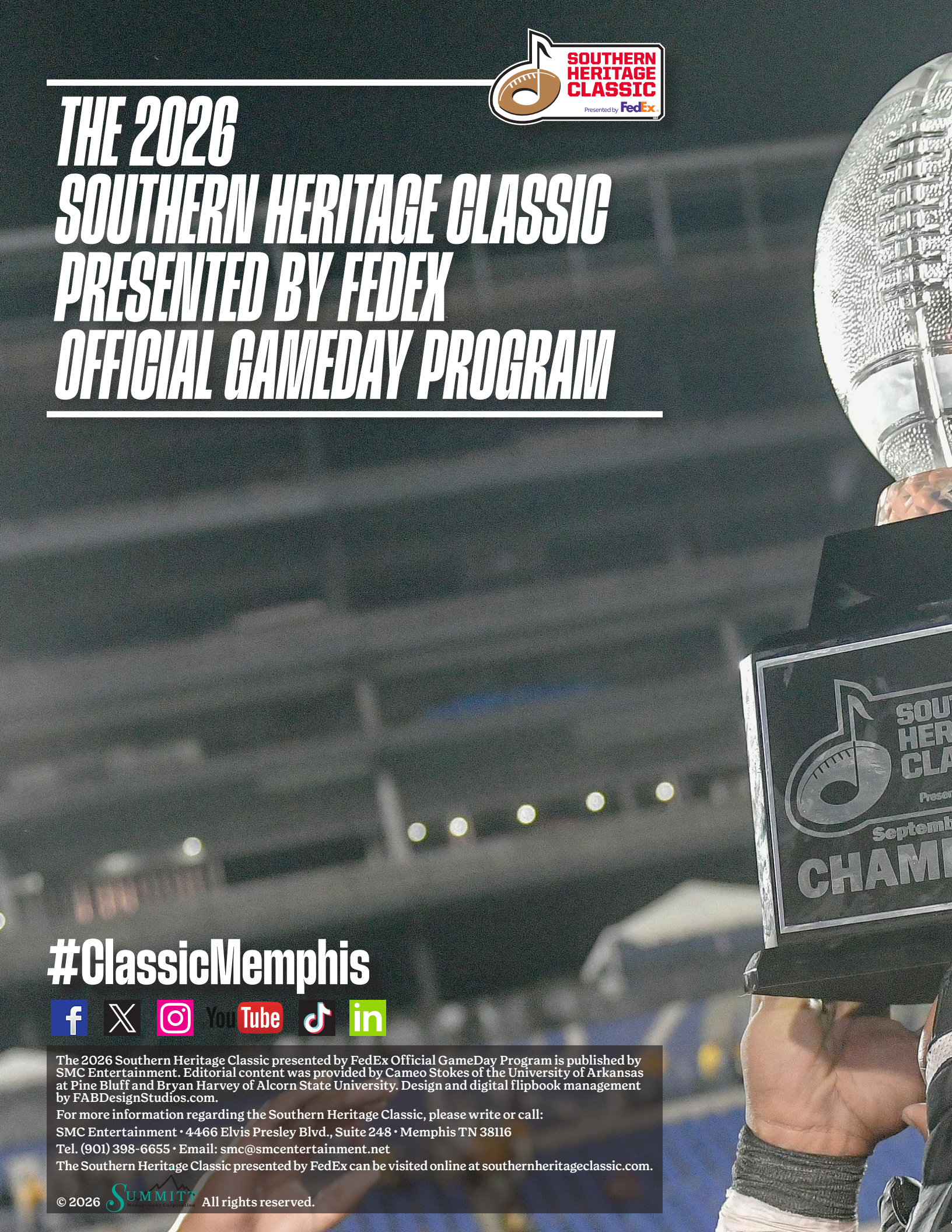
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# I Love Memphis BLOG

## HERE FOR THE CLASSIC. STAY FOR THE CULTURE.

YOUR PLAYBOOK FOR THE CITY'S BEST FOOD, MUSIC, EVENTS, AND MORE.



# THE 2026 SOUTHERN HERITAGE CLASSIC PRESENTED BY FEDEX OFFICIAL GAMEDAY PROGRAM

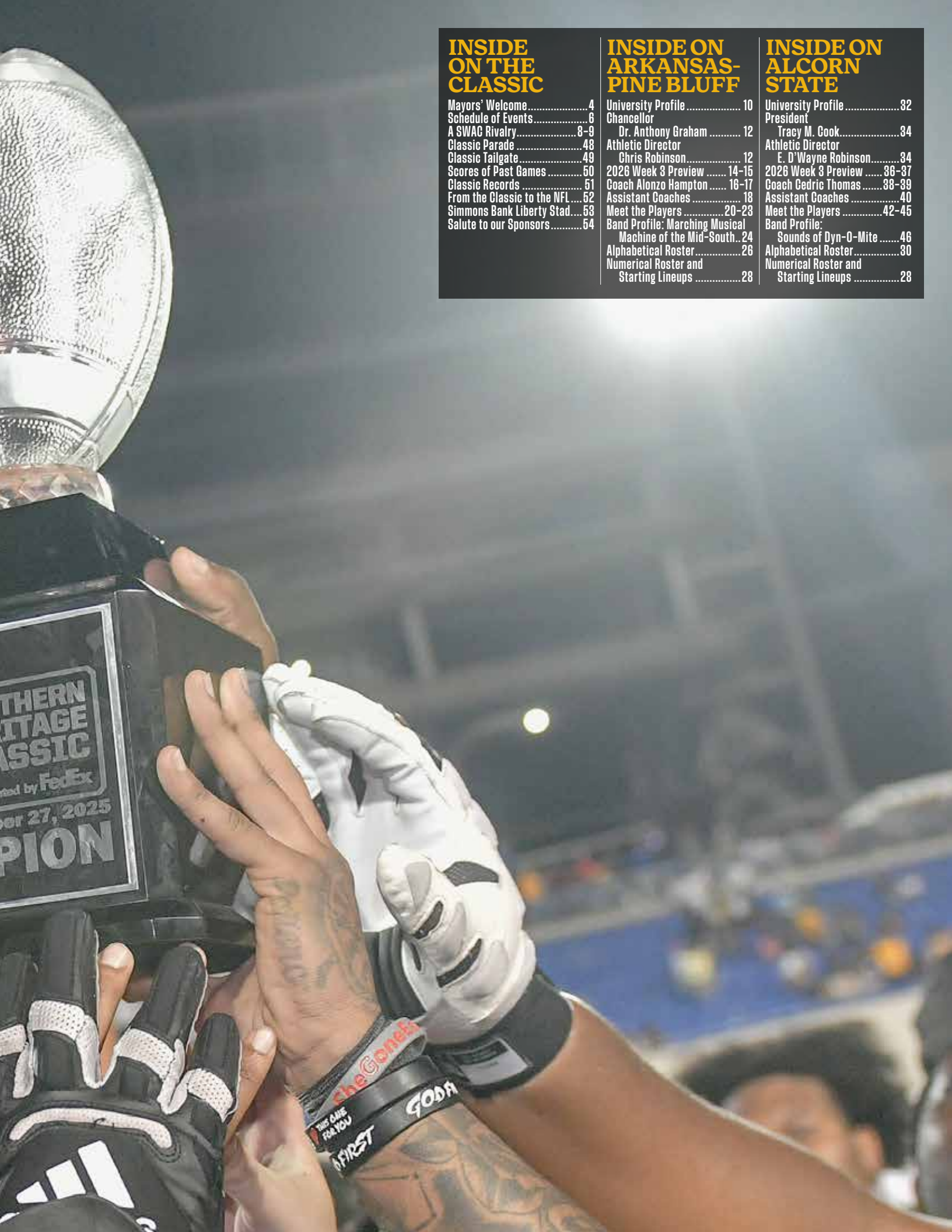
#ClassicMemphis

The 2026 Southern Heritage Classic presented by FedEx Official GameDay Program is published by SMC Entertainment. Editorial content was provided by Cameo Stokes of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff and Bryan Harvey of Alcorn State University. Design and digital flipbook management by FABDesignStudios.com.

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The Southern Heritage Classic presented by FedEx can be visited online at southernheritageclassic.com.

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# WELCOME TO MEMPHIS



City of Memphis Mayor
Paul A. Young

## Joint Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** the **Southern Heritage Classic** has emerged as one of our nation's premier football events and cultural celebrations centered around support for higher education; and

**WHEREAS,** celebrating 37 years of history, the **Southern Heritage Classic** has grown to include several initiatives, programs, and events including concerts, fashion shows, golf classics, parades, and a college fair; and

**WHEREAS,** the event's founder, Fred Jones, Jr., has cultivated the vision for this football game and cultural celebration with the support of its presenting sponsor, FedEx, and numerous partnering sponsors and supporters; and

**WHEREAS,** the **Southern Heritage Classic** continues to benefit Memphis and Shelby County by exposing tens of thousands of individuals and tourists yearly to the beauty of our communities. The Southern Heritage Classic inspires the imaginations of our citizens locally around the themes of college attainment, entrepreneurship, cultural awareness, unity, and this event has become the **"PRIDE AND JOY OF MEMPHIS!"**

**NOW, THEREFORE, WE, PAUL A. YOUNG, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF MEMPHIS, and MICKELL M. LOWERY, MAYOR OF SHELBY COUNTY,** do hereby proclaim September 12, 2026, as

**"SOUTHERN HERITAGE CLASSIC DAY"**

in Memphis and Shelby County, Tennessee, and thus we urge all citizens to support the series of events organized for this annual celebration.

**In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Memphis to be affixed this 12th day of September 2026.**

**Paul A. Young**
**Mayor of City of Memphis**

**In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Shelby County to be affixed this 12th day of September 2026.**

**Mickell M. Lowery**
**Mayor of Shelby County**



Shelby County Mayor
Mickell M. Lowery

Grow.
Thrive.
Connect. | In This Together

# Your Journey to Grow, Thrive, and Connect Starts Here

From skilling programs to small business support to community resources — discover the tools and opportunities Amazon has built with you in mind.



## Grow

*through upskilling, education, and economic opportunities — gaining skills and building businesses.*

**AWS AI Ready**
Training and certification program to build in-demand cloud and AI skills.

---

## Thrive

*through wellness, benefits, and supportive environments — accessing affordable services and resources.*

**Amazon One Medical**
$9/month hybrid virtual and in-person primary care for Prime Members.

---

## Connect

*through community-building, volunteering, and shared experiences — joining a global network.*

**Amazon Supplier Connect**
Join Amazon's global network of suppliers.

**Scan to get started**

amazon

# CLASSIC CULTURAL CELEBRATION

## Friday, September 11

**CLASSIC COLLEGE & CAREER FAIR** – *8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Memphis Sports & Events Center, 995 Early Maxwell Blvd. in Liberty Park. Presented by the City of Memphis Office of Youth Services. Regional college and university representatives as well as businesses will be available to provide information about attending college and employment opportunities. For more information, call (901) 636-6264. Free admission.*

**CLASSIC COACHES LUNCHEON Presented by FedEx** – *Noon, Renasant Convention Center/Grand Ballroom. A Classic salute to Arkansas-Pine Bluff head football coach **Alonzo Hampton** and Alcorn State head football coach **Cedric Thomas**. Special guest speaker: **Curtis Symonds**, President/Co-Founder, HBCU GO. Invitation only.*






## Saturday, September 12

**CLASSIC TAILGATE** – *8 a.m., Simmons Bank Liberty Stadium parking lots and Tiger Lane. **Friends, Food and Football.** Premium packages available at www.ticketmaster.com.*

**PENNY HARDAWAY MEMPHIS DISTRICT GOLF CLASSIC** – *8 a.m., Tunica National Golf & Tennis. $800 per team, 4-man shamble. All participants receive a golf shirt and gift bag with premium items. For information, call (901) 265-4886 or online at www.memphisdistrictgolfclassic.org.*

**CLASSIC PARADE** – *9 a.m., Presented by the Orange Mound Community Parade Committee as a salute to the Southern Heritage Classic. The parade route is along Park Avenue from Haynes to Airways featuring area high school marching bands. For information, contact Claudette Boyd at (901) 413-7109 or Algenner Jackson at (901) 230-3819 and online at www.omcpc.org.*

**CLASSIC BATTLE OF THE BANDS** – *10 a.m., Whitehaven High School Stadium. The competition will feature the best high school show bands in the region with show-stopping dance routines. Tickets: $12 in advance, $15 day of. For tickets and information, contact Walter Banks Jr. at (901) 497-2015 or email at banksmtm@gmail.com, or Vincent Smith at (901) 831-7624 or email at smithv1@scsk12.org.*

**CLASSIC FASHION SHOW & BRUNCH** – *11 a.m., The Great Hall, 1900 S. Germantown Road. **"Crowned in Heritage"** presented by the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. – Memphis Chapter. Tickets $100. For tickets and information, call (901) 218-2775 or (901) 568-4021 or online at www.memphisncbw.org.*

**SOUTHERN HERITAGE CLASSIC FOOTBALL GAME** – *6 p.m., Simmons Bank Liberty Stadium. A great football rivalry featuring **Arkansas-Pine Bluff** vs. **Alcorn State**. Tickets $53, $38 and $23 plus service charges. All seats reserved. Tickets available at www.ticketmaster.com.*

**AUTOZONE HALFTIME SHOW**
*featuring UAPB's **Marching Musical Machine of the Mid-South** and ASU's **Sounds of Dyn-O-Mite***

**CLASSIC 5th QUARTER** – *A grand finale to the Southern Heritage Classic Football Game featuring a battle of the bands.*







*Schedule subject to change without notice*

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# A SWAC RIVALRY

Tonight's Southern Heritage Classic will serve as the conference opener for both schools. Alcorn State and Arkansas-Pine Bluff are members of the Southwestern Athletic Conference. UAPB originally joined the SWAC in 1936, left in 1970, and rejoined the league in 1997. Alcorn joined the SWAC in 1962. The rivals have been simultaneously in the SWAC for 37 years, and in that span have squared off in all but four seasons. This will be the 47th meeting between the two schools, with UAPB holding a slim 23-20-3 edge after last year's 24-20 win in Simmons Bank Liberty Stadium.



Ex-NFL linebacker Monte Coleman still ranks 4th in Redskins' history in career sacks. He later became head coach at Arkansas-Pine Bluff and guided the Golden Lions to a 10-2 record in 2012 including the black-college national championship.

## BLACK-COLLEGE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

**5** ALCORN
MOST RECENT: 2014

**1**
MOST RECENT: 2012

**3** ALCORN

Mahamadou Diarra (Whitehaven H.S.)
Tevora Griffin (Bartlett H.S.)
Kyshawn Kimble (Center Hill H.S., Olive Bran

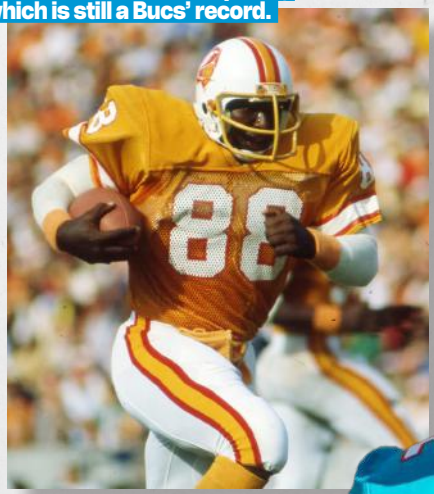


Memphis-born Marino Casem, nicknamed "The Godfath coached Alcorn State from 1964-85 and led the Brave to four black-college national championships, the most recent in 1984, before moving on to Southern He finished his career with a 159-93-8 record.



L.C. Greenwood was a star player on the vaunted "Steel Curtain" defense that racked up four Super Bowl victories in the '70s. In Super Bowl X, the former UAPB star sacked Cowboys QB Roger Staubach four times to help the Steelers win back-to-back titles.

Four-time Pro Bowl tight end and Alcorn alum Jimmie Giles once scored 4 touchdowns in a game vs. the Miami Dolphins, which is still a Bucs' record.






Five-time Pro Bowl tackle Terron Armstead played 12 NFL seasons for the Saints and Dolphins. The former Arkansas-Pine Bluff standout was a three-time All-SWAC performer.

# 26

HIGHEST OVERALL: 62nd
Ed Cross in 1969

## PLAYERS TAKEN IN NFL DRAFT

# 55

HIGHEST OVERALL: 3rd
Steve McNair in 1995

# 5

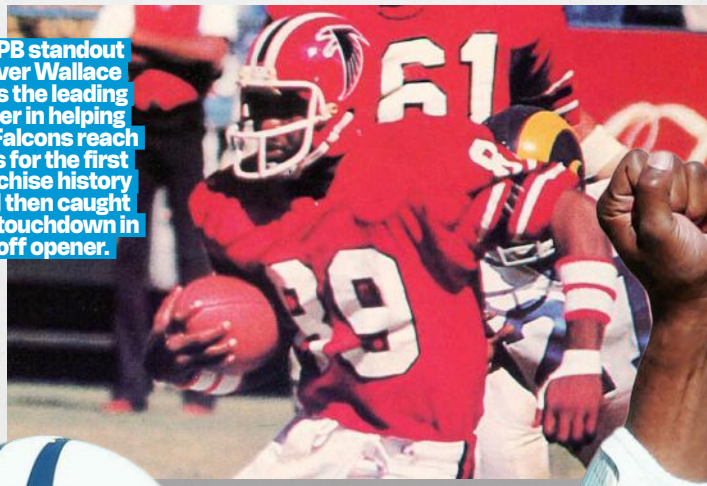
Jamerious Austin (Southwind H.S.)
Troyce Grimsley (Fairley H.S.)
Cameron Ledlow (Germantown H.S.)
Zayden Walker (Marion H.S.)
Trevor Walton (Horn Lake H.S.)

## EMPHIS-AREA RECRUITING

## SWAC THE SERIES

*UAPB leads, 23-20-3*

1952 – Alcorn 33, UAPB 13
1953 – Alcorn 6, UAPB 6 Tie
1954 – Alcorn 0, UAPB 0 Tie
1955 – Alcorn 19, UAPB 2
1956 – UAPB 12, Alcorn 8
1957 – UAPB 13, Alcorn 7
1958 – UAPB 26, Alcorn 6
1959 – UAPB 39, Alcorn 12
1960 – UAPB 34, Alcorn 0
1961 – Alcorn 20, UAPB 18
1962 – UAPB 10, Alcorn 7
1963 – UAPB 21, Alcorn 10
1964 – UAPB 28, Alcorn 10
1965 – UAPB 14, Alcorn 10
1966 – UAPB 34, Alcorn 28
1967 – Alcorn 25, UAPB 8
1968 – Alcorn 53, UAPB 0
1969 – Alcorn 23, UAPB 23 Tie
1973 – Alcorn 31, UAPB 14
1974 – Alcorn 24, UAPB 12
1990 – UAPB 25, Alcorn 7
1995 – Alcorn 44, UAPB 28
1996 – Alcorn 19, UAPB 2
1997 – UAPB 20, Alcorn 10
1998 – UAPB 27 Alcorn 18
1999 – UAPB 33, Alcorn 17
2000 – UAPB 32, Alcorn 10
2001 – Alcorn 17, UAPB 10
2002 – Alcorn 34, UAPB 24
2003 – Alcorn 37, UAPB 10
2005 – UAPB 17, Alcorn 7
2006 – UAPB 42, Alcorn 14
2007 – UAPB 21, Alcorn 3
2008 – Alcorn 13, UAPB 3
2010 – UAPB 39, Alcorn 35
2011 – UAPB 27, Alcorn 20
2012 – UAPB 24, Alcorn 6
2013 – Alcorn 21, UAPB 16
2014 – Alcorn 56, UAPB 6
2015 – Alcorn 61, UAPB 14
2016 – UAPB 45, Alcorn 43
2021 – Alcorn 39, UAPB 38
2022 – Alcorn 38, UAPB 21
2023 – Alcorn 31, UAPB 7
2024 – Alcorn 38, UAPB 28
2025 – UAPB 24, Alcorn 20



Former UAPB standout wide receiver Wallace Francis was the leading pass catcher in helping the Atlanta Falcons reach the playoffs for the first time in franchise history in 1978, and then caught the winning touchdown in their playoff opener.



Donald Driver was an Olympic-class high jumper in track and also excelled at football at Alcorn State. The 7th round draft pick quickly showed his immense talent at wide receiver with the Green Bay Packers. He is the team's all-time leading receiver and won Super Bowl XLV alongside teammate Aaron Rodgers.



Former Alcorn great Steve McNair finished 3rd in the 1994 Heisman Trophy voting and later led the Tennessee Titans to their only Super Bowl appearance in 1999.

# UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT PINE BLUFF



The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff is an 1890 land-grant HBCU with a diverse student population, competitive degree offerings and stellar faculty.

For more than 150 years, the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff has worked to create an environment that inculcates learning, growth and productivity while affording a basic need to its students – a chance to advance.

The 15:1 student-to-teacher ratio makes it possible to maintain a learning environment with close interaction between students and faculty while challenging curricula encourage our students to seek and fulfill their potential.

You can excel in your chosen field of study through a curriculum of certificate and associate degree programs, more than 30 undergraduate programs, master's degree programs and a doctorate program in Aquaculture/Fisheries. You can also develop workplace readiness through internships, co-ops, and fellowships in the U.S. and abroad.

Out-of-class experiences and student involvement include more than 90 student organizations, an internationally renowned Vesper Choir, Marching Band, Concert Bands, Wind Symphony, nationally recognized debate team, award-winning theater department and accomplished athletic program.



Though the main campus is in Pine Bluff, its reach is worldwide. UAPB has an extended campus in North Little Rock and offers online courses as well. With the addition of the Arkansas Research and Education Optical Network (ARE-ON), students can engage in information exchange with others anywhere in the world.

There are also Research and Extension offices in Lonoke, Newport and Lake Village and collaborations with other colleges and universities in the State through the National Science Foundation funded STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Academy.

As the second oldest land-grant institution in the state of Arkansas, the mission of this No Excuse University remains the same – to provide a high quality, affordable education with a personal touch. We invite you to Become a Part of the Pride at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.

# The future of health care starts here.



In the heart of Memphis, the future of health care is already taking shape at Baptist Health Sciences University. Located in the Mid-South's largest medical district, Baptist University prepares students for high-level health care careers through the Colleges of Health Professions, Nursing, Osteopathic Medicine, and Sciences and General Studies.

As an academic health sciences university, Baptist University combines advanced academics with real-world clinical experiences, preparing the next generation of health care professionals to lead with knowledge, compassion and purpose.

If caring is your calling, your future begins here.

**Baptist Health Sciences University is proud to support the Southern Heritage Classic.**

BAPTIST HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

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baptistu.edu

# ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF ADMINISTRATION

## *Dr. Anthony* GRAHAM

### Chancellor



It's the beginning of a new era for the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. Dr. Anthony Graham, the new Chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, is a beacon of hope for the future. His distinguished track record of visionary leadership, transformative academic innovation, and lifelong commitment to equity and excellence in education sets a new standard.

Under his leadership, the university is poised to enter "a Golden Era of Excellence that is student-focused, success-driven, and mission-based."

Dr. Graham envisions an era that is rooted in his belief in the transformative power of education and his commitment to fostering a supportive and inclusive academic environment.

Prior to his appointment at UAPB, Dr. Graham served as Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (2018–2023) and Interim Chancellor (2023–2024) at Winston-Salem State University in North Carolina. Before these appointments, he served as Dean of the College of Education and a tenured Full Professor at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, where he advanced initiatives to increase teacher diversity and expand community engagement.

Dr. Graham's academic achievements are a testament to his dedication and passion for education. He holds a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Teaching with a concentration in multicultural education, as well as a master's degree in secondary English education, both from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. His bachelor's degree in English with a minor in mathematics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his graduation from Kinston (N.C.) High School further underscore his commitment to learning and his belief in the transformative power of education.

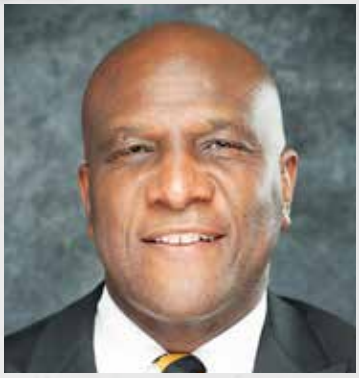
As a scholar, Dr. Graham focuses on the educational experiences of black male students across K–20 settings, including how their academic and cultural identities are shaped by educational environments. His research explores effective pedagogical strategies, teacher identity, and culturally relevant instruction. He has authored numerous peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and co-authored a book, and served as managing editor of The Negro Educational Review, one of the nation's historic academic journals.

Dr. Graham has secured over $25 million in competitive grant funding from agencies such as the U.S. Department of Education, the National Science Foundation, and the Lumina Foundation. These grants have supported initiatives to diversify the teaching workforce, expand educational access, and strengthen student support, particularly for students of color and those in underserved communities. Among his notable projects are the NSF-funded North Carolina A&Teach STEM Scholars Program, the Adult Connections and Continuing Education Student Success (ACCESS) Program, and multiple U.S. Department of Education–funded teacher residency programs.

Deeply committed to student development and community uplift, Dr. Graham has launched impactful programs such as the Brother-2-Brother Mentoring Program, the Charles Hamilton Houston Summer Leadership Institute for Adolescent African American Boys, and the Scholarship Search and College Admission Conference for Minority Students. His work consistently centers on students' well-being, identity development, and long-term success.

## *Chris* ROBINSON

### Athletic Director



One of the all-time greats in Golden Lion football history, Chris Robinson was named UAPB's Vice Chancellor for Intercollegiate Athletics in June 2021 after serving as the Executive Senior Associate Athletic Director.

Robinson moves over to athletics from the Office of Recruitment, where he had spent the previous eight years in serving the university.

Multiple stints at UAPB is a common theme for Robinson, who came to Pine Bluff after a standout career at Mattie T. Blount High in Pritchard, Ala. After playing for the legendary Archie "The Gunslinger" Cooley at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Robinson transferred to Southern University, playing quarterback for one season under College Football Hall of Fame Coach Marino Casem.

As the Golden Lion football program returned to play in 1993, Robinson returned and led the revival of the program under UAPB alum and the coach with the most wins in school history, Coach Lee Hardman. UAPB went 6-5 before forfeiting a game in '93 before Robinson led the Golden Lions to the 1994 NAIA National Championship Game, highlighted by a seven-touchdown (six passing / one rushing) performance in a come-from-behind overtime semifinal win.

After one year away from playing working in management, Robinson returned to the sidelines at Mid-American Nazarene University. He coached quarterbacks and running backs while also serving as assistant softball coach, and as the school's Director of Minority Affairs.

Robinson then returned to UAPB, teaching marketing while also coaching the offensive skill players and special teams, football operations and was the program's NFL liaison. He then returned to the corporate sector for a decade before returning to The Pride in 2012.

A 2014 UAPB Sports Hall of Fame inductee, Robinson earned his bachelor's degree in management from UAPB, and a Master's degree in business administration from Mid-America Nazarene University.

In Robinson's first year as Vice Chancellor and Director of Athletics, the Golden Lions football program captured their first Western Division title since 2012 and advanced to the spring 2021 SWAC Championship.

In July of 2022, Robinson was named to the FCS ADA Executive Committee. He currently serves on the Executive Board for the Jefferson County Habitat for Humanity and the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame.

The Golden Lions have since gone to the SWAC Championship Game with the women's basketball team for the first time in school history while the UAPB Men's Golf Team secured the SWAC Golf Title in 2023.

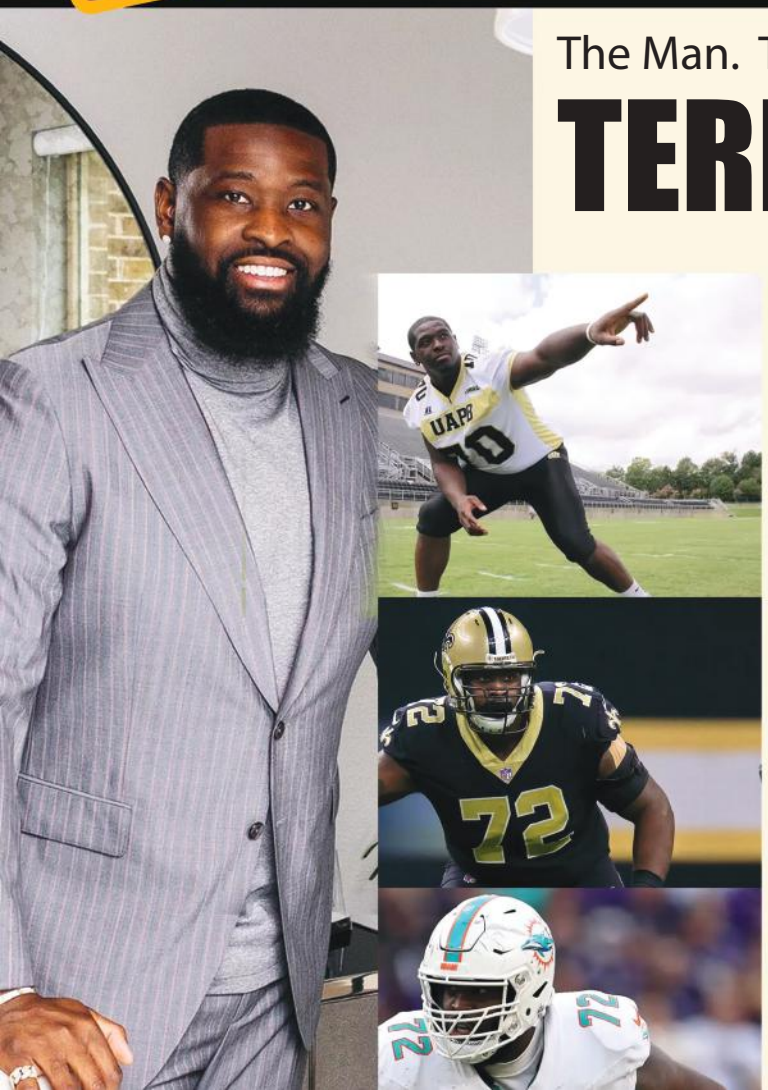
Robinson's administration made a monumental announcement in January and formally launched several campaigns and renovation projects. The campaign will impact several key facilities throughout the athletics department, including the groundbreaking of the Track and Soccer Complex, renovation of the Thomas May Fieldhouse Fuel Station, football locker room, and UAPB Softball Complex.

Robinson married two-time All American track runner and Golden Lion Alum Kim George and the couple has two sons – Christopher (UAPB Graduate), Kylan (UAPB Graduate), and one daughter, a freshman in high school, Kaylen.



# YOUR ROAR STARTS HERE.

At the Southern Heritage Classic, you are not just watching football. You are experiencing the ROAR of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff! Founded in 1873, UAPB has a proud legacy of creating opportunities, developing leaders, and empowering generations to achieve greatness. Being a Golden Lion is about excellence in every arena. From competing through UAPB Athletics to experiencing the unmatched energy, sound, style, and tradition of the Marching Musical Machine of the Mid South, UAPB gives students countless opportunities to discover their purpose and represent something bigger than themselves. Beyond the field and the bandstand, our stellar academic programs provide students with the knowledge, skills, and experiences needed to prepare for successful careers and meaningful futures. At UAPB, you do not just attend college. You become part of a legacy, a family, and a tradition of excellence. Your future is calling. Will you answer the ROAR? Scan the QR code, complete our prospect card, and start your journey to becoming a Golden Lion!



The Man. The Myth. The Legend. UAPB Ambassador-

# TERRON ARMSTEAD







UAPB excellence doesn't stop when you leave the Bluff—it travels with you.

NFL veteran and proud Golden Lion Terron Armstead represents what's possible when talent, discipline, education, and determination come together. From protecting the quarterback at the highest level of football to continuing to champion the university that helped shape his journey, Armstead embodies the strength, pride, and perseverance of UAPB Athletics.

Now, as an Ambassador for UAPB Athletics, Terron Armstead is helping shine a brighter spotlight on the Golden Lions and inspire the next generation to believe that their dreams are bigger than the field.

The legacy is real. The standard is high. The future is Golden.

Come to UAPB. Find your purpose. Build your legacy.

# ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF WEEK 3 PREVIEW



Redshirt freshman quarterback Garrison Davis won the starting nod this summer and showed everyone that the coaches' confidence was deserved, as he went 10-of-15 for 182 yards and 2 TDs in the opener vs. Morehouse College.

## 2026 Schedule

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| A.29 | Morehouse (in Little Rock) | W | 35-15 |
| S.5 | at Missouri | L | 14-54 |
| S.12 | Alcorn State (in Memphis) | | 6:00 |
| **S.19** | **Central State** | | **4:00** |
| S.26 | <BYE> | | |
| O.3 | at Southern Univ. | | 6:00 |
| O.10 | <BYE> | | |
| **O.17** | **Alabama State** | | **2:00** |
| O.24 | at Florida A&M | | 2:00 |
| **O.31** | **Bethune-Cookman** | | **2:00** |
| N.7 | at Grambling State | | 2:00 |
| **N.14** | **Prairie View A&M** | | **2:00** |
| N.21 | at Texas Southern | | 3:00 |

All times Central



Running back Jaylen Jennings gained 939 yards and 11 TDs en route to earning first-team All-SWAC honors.

# Experience and depth bolster pursuit of a SWAC title

The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff football program enters the 2026 season with a combination of experience, increased depth and proven playmakers as the Golden Lions continue building under fourth-year head coach Alonzo Hampton.

For Hampton and his staff, the foundation for the upcoming season has been built around competition and developing a more complete roster. UAPB entered fall camp with approximately 108 scholar-athletes, providing the Golden Lions with their deepest roster since Hampton arrived in Pine Bluff. That depth has allowed the coaching staff to create competition throughout nearly every position group while giving younger players valuable opportunities to develop.

The expectations are also higher.

UAPB returns several of the Southwestern Athletic Conference's most productive players, highlighted by five 2026 Preseason All-SWAC selections. Linebacker Danarius Hilliard, running back Jaylen Jennings and wide receiver D'Avery Robinson earned First-Team recognition, while offensive lineman Nick Carter and defensive tackle Marquis Cagle were named to the Second Team.

That returning production gives the Golden Lions experienced leaders on both sides of the football.

**Offensively**, UAPB will once again look to establish itself on the ground.

Jaylen Jennings returns after earning first-team All-SWAC honors following an outstanding 2025 campaign. Jennings finished second in the conference with 939 rushing yards while leading the SWAC with 11 rushing touchdowns. He averaged 78.0 rushing yards per game and recorded four 100-yard performances.

His biggest performance came against Lincoln University when he rushed for 226 yards and four touchdowns, earning SWAC Player of the Week honors.

Jennings' combination of power, vision and big-play ability gives UAPB a proven centerpiece in the backfield.

The running game will operate behind an offensive line that returns significant experience. One of the anchors is Nick Carter, who made an immediate impact as a true freshman. Carter started every game at right tackle in 2025, becoming the first UAPB true freshman in more than a decade to start 11 games on the offensive line.

Carter finished the season with an 89% blocking grade and surrendered just two sacks, earning 2026 preseason second-team All-

SWAC recognition.

Throughout fall camp, Hampton has emphasized that UAPB's offensive identity will begin with its ability to control the line of scrimmage and run the football.

On the perimeter, D'Avery Robinson gives the Golden Lions an established playmaker at wide receiver.

Robinson emerged as one of the SWAC's top young receivers during the 2025 season and enters 2026 as a preseason first-team All-SWAC selection. His speed, athleticism and ability to create explosive plays provide the Golden Lions with a dangerous weapon in the passing game.

UAPB has also added experience to the receiving room, including Boise State transfer Demetric Whitlock Jr., giving the offense another athletic option capable of stretching defenses.

At quarterback, competition throughout fall camp included Garrison Davis, Jack Schierholz, Landon Holcomb and Champion Edwards. Hampton praised the group during camp for taking care of the football, making the correct reads and developing a stronger command of the offense. Davis' familiarity with the system and leadership were particularly noticeable during preseason work.




**Junior transfer Demetric Whitlock Jr. made 5 catches and 3 TDs in Week 0, more than he accumulated all last year at Boise State.**

Regardless of who is under center, UAPB's ability to establish the run should create opportunities for the passing game.

If experience is one of UAPB's greatest strengths entering 2026, that is especially true on **defense**.

The Golden Lions returned their defensive coaching staff along with six to seven starters, providing valuable continuity entering the season.

At the center of that unit is Danarius Hilliard, who established himself as one of the premier linebackers in the SWAC during the 2025 season. He earned first-team All-SWAC and Boxtorow HBCU first-team All-America honors after leading the conference with 8.2 tackles per game.




**Senior linebacker Danarius Hilliard and senior end Tylan Cole (11) combined to record 16 tackles for loss and 4½ sacks in 2025. More is expected this season.**

Hilliard finished second in the SWAC with 90 total tackles while adding 3½ sacks. His signature performance came against Florida A&M when he recorded a season-high 15 tackles, one tackle for loss and one sack.

His production, experience and leadership make him the centerpiece of a veteran Golden Lion defense.

UAPB also expects its defensive front to be a major strength.

Marquis Cagle returns after earning preseason second-team All-SWAC recognition. Cagle started nine games in 2025 and finished with 29 tackles and 5½ tackles for loss, establishing himself as a disruptive presence along the interior defensive line.

The Golden Lions have also added size and athleticism through recruiting and the transfer portal, including defensive end Keiyhaun Wilks, a 6-foot-5, 260-pound transfer from Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.

Hampton has consistently stressed that UAPB's identity must begin at the line of scrimmage: run the football offensively and stop the run defensively.

That approach places significant responsibility on both lines, but UAPB enters the season believing it has the personnel and depth necessary to compete physically throughout the year.

Perhaps the biggest difference between the 2026 Golden Lions and previous teams under Hampton is depth.

During fall camp, UAPB was able to work as many as four offensive groups and three defensive groups during scrimmage situations. Hampton has emphasized that every player will have an opportunity to compete and that freshmen will be expected to prepare at the same standard as veterans.

The goal is to develop a team capable of handling injuries, maintaining competition throughout the season and playing its best football when the SWAC race intensifies.

On **special teams**, senior Trey Glymph returns after connecting on 7-of-10 field goal tries a year ago.

Transfer George Wiles-Koehler has taken over the punting duties and averaged 42.8 yards per kick in the opener.

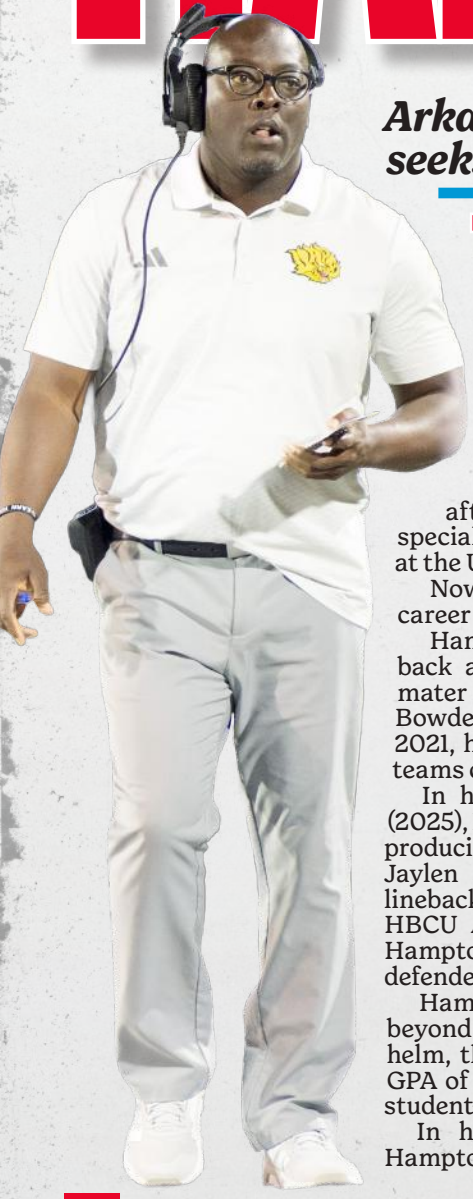
DaeDae Allen and Jalen Williams performed all the kick returns for the Golden Lions against Morehouse.




**Senior mike linebacker Derron Moore returns after ranking second on the Lions' team with 66 total tackles and 4 QB hurries in 2025.**

# ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF HEAD COACH

# ALONZO HAMPTON





## *Arkansan builds foundation, seeks winning expectation*

The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff announced that Alonzo Hampton was named the Golden Lions' 22nd head football coach, bringing him back to his home state. The Warren, Ark., native returns to one of his previous coaching stops, having been with the Golden Lions five seasons from 2006–10.

A name highly recognized throughout Arkansas and around the nation in college football, Hampton came to UAPB after serving as the assistant head coach/special teams coordinator under Terry Bowden at the University of Louisiana Monroe.

Now in his fourth year in Pine Bluff, Hampton's career record at UAPB stands at 10-27.

Hampton, a four-year letterman as a defensive back at ULM (1993-96), returned to his alma mater to serve as assistant head coach on Bowden's staff. After working with the safeties in 2021, he assumed the responsibilities as special teams coordinator.

In his third year leading the Golden Lions (2025), Hampton continued to develop elite talent, producing SWAC All-Conference running back Jaylen Jennings and first-team All-Conference linebacker Danarius Hilliard. Hilliard also earned HBCU All-American honors, further cementing Hampton's reputation for developing standout defenders at the collegiate level.

Hampton's commitment to excellence extends beyond the field in each of his three seasons at the helm, the Golden Lions have maintained a team GPA of 3.0 or higher, reflecting his dedication to student-athlete success in the classroom.

In his second year as UAPB head coach, Hampton's offense was ranked in the top-5 in the SWAC and had three student-athletes named SWAC All-Conference: Jaden Kelly, Javonnie Gibson, and Christon Love. Gibson led the conference in receiving and was named SWAC First Team All-Conference and FCS All-American. Love and Kelly were named to the SWAC All-Conference Second Team.

In his first year with UAPB, Hampton's linebacker unit was one of the best in the conference, led by Rico Dozier, who topped the league in tackles and earned First-Team All-Conference honors.

At ULM in 2022, Hampton's special teams unit (punting) ranked 29th in the NCAA FBS and second in the Sun Belt Conference, averaging 43.9




## COACHING EXPERIENCE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2000-03 | **WARREN H.S.** | Defensive Coordinator |
| 2004-05 | **DUMAS H.S.** | Head Coach |
| 2006-10 | **ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF** | DBs/Defensive Coordinator |
| 2011-12 | **WESTERN KENTUCKY** | Defensive Backs |
| 2013-14 | **TIFT COUNTY H.S. (GA.)** | Defensive Backs |
| 2015-16 | **SOUTH FLORIDA** | Special Teams/DBs |
| 2017 | **OREGON** | Defensive Analyst |
| 2018 | **FLORIDA STATE** | Special Teams |
| 2019 | **ARKANSAS** | Defensive Analyst |
| 2021-22 | **LOUISIANA-MONROE** | Asst. Head Coach/Special Teams |
| 2023- | **ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF** | Head Football Coach |

| Year | Overall | SWAC |
|---|---|---|
| 2023 | 2-9 | 1-7 |
| 2024 | 3-9 | 2-6 |
| 2025 | 4-8 | 2-6 |
| 2026 | 1-1 | 0-0 |

yards per punt (Devyn McCormick). In 2021, three of his safeties ranked among ULM's Top 10 in tackles, including Jabari Johnson, who recorded 58 tackles.

Hampton worked as a defensive analyst for Chad Morris at Arkansas in 2019 and as special teams coordinator under Willie Taggart at Florida State in 2018. That year, FSU's D.J. Matthews ranked sixth nationally in punt return average (13.5 yards) and recorded a 74-yard punt return touchdown against Miami, the longest return in the ACC that season. In 2017, Hampton served as a defensive analyst at Oregon. Prior to that, he spent two years (2015-16) at South Florida as defensive backs coach and special teams coordinator, helping the Bulls to a school-record 11 wins and a No. 19 AP ranking in 2016.

A former standout cornerback at ULM, Hampton earned All-Louisiana honors and finished his career with 201 tackles and three interceptions. He holds a bachelor's degree from ULM and a master's from the University of Arkansas at Monticello. Hampton played professionally for the Seattle Seahawks, Jacksonville Jaguars, and Frankfurt Galaxy of NFL Europe, winning the 1999 World Bowl.

Hampton and his wife Yolanda have five children, including four sons: Aaron, Rashad, A.J., a fifth-year defensive back at Northwestern, and Ashton; and one daughter, Kenya.



**BORN** *Oct. 9, 1973 (age: 52)*
**HOMETOWN** *Warren, Ark.*
**H.S.** *Warren (Ark.)*
**COLLEGE** *Louisiana-Monroe*

@COACHAHAMPTON

# ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF ASSISTANT COACHES


Barnette


Black


Burrow


Hill


Ingram


Jones


Ricumstrict


Scott

**Stephen Barnette** joined UAPB in 2026 as co-offensive coordinator and wide receivers coach. His coaching background includes California, North Carolina A&T, Duke, New Hampshire and Towson.

While at Cal, he helped develop Jacob DeJesus, who became the ACC receptions leader and first-team All-ACC selection.

He also served as tight ends coach at NCA&T and an offensive analyst at Duke in 2023, when he worked with Jordan Moore, a second-team All-ACC receiver.

At New Hampshire, he helped the Wildcats capture a CAA championship. Barnette was also a standout receiver at Richmond, earning two All-CAA selections while finishing his career with 197 receptions for 2,844 yards and 17 touchdowns.

**Miguel Black**, a former standout defensive back at Mississippi College, joined UAPB in 2025 after three successful seasons on staff at his alma mater, where his running backs unit led Division II in rushing (2022) and produced multiple All-Conference players.

He quickly transitioned from player to coach, beginning his career at Madison Ridgeland Academy before moving to Southwest Minnesota State.

He developed All-Conference RB Jesse Sherwood at Southwest Minnesota State and coached one of the nation's top punters in 2023. At UAPB, he has helped develop the skills of Jaylen Jennings, who was recognized as a first-team All-SWAC last year and one of the top backs in FCS.

Known as a rising star recruiter, Black brings strong southern recruiting ties and player development experience to the Golden Lions.

**Jeff Burrow** enters his fifth season with the Golden Lions as the program's defensive coordinator. Burrow came to UAPB after spending the previous three seasons at the University of Buffalo.

Burrow originally came to UB as the Bulls' director of player personnel and coached the defensive back position in 2021 after previously coaching the safeties. In 2020, the Bulls were the top defense in the Mid-American Conference.

At UAPB, two of his players in the secondary, Ja'Marlin Green and Quintin Sterling, finished in the top 16 in tackles in the SWAC. Under his guidance, the Lions finished fourth in the conference in interceptions.

The Sylvester, Ga., native also worked as Kent State's safeties coach from 2011–17 and was promoted to co-defensive coordinator in 2017. He was on staff when the Golden Flashes reached a bowl game in 2012 for the first time in 40 years.

He also held full-time positions at Indiana State, Marshall and Notre Dame. A former four-year starter at Cincinnati, Burrow also played professionally with the CFL's Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

**Dimitri Hill** joined the Golden Lions in 2026 as offensive line coach and run-game coordinator. He came to UAPB after serving as assistant offensive line coach at Syracuse.

In his first season at Syracuse, the Orange led the nation in passing offense.

Hill's previous coaching stops include Delaware State, Bluefield State, ASA Miami and Navarro College.

While at Delaware State, he tutored All-MEAC tight end E.J. Core, who led the team and touchdown receptions. At Bluefield State, he worked on an offense that had its highest rushing output since 2001, while the line allowed just 19 sacks.

From 2020–22, Hill was the offensive line coach and run-game coordinator at ASA Miami, where he led the development of the team's rushing attack.

A former four-year starter and All-MEAC offensive lineman at Delaware State, Hill also played professionally with the Cedar Rapids Titans of the American Indoor Football.

**Pierre Ingram**, a veteran coach with 17 years of experience, spent the last decade leading the Fujitsu Frontiers in Japan's X-League, winning seven championships. He previously coached at Cal, where he helped develop Daniel Lasco, who was the Bears' 1,000-yard rusher.

In 2013-14, he was Cal's running game coordinator and running backs coach and in 2015, he moved to the passing game coordinator.

Prior to his time at Cal, Ingram coached running backs at Louisiana Tech, where he was instrumental in a Bulldog offense that led the nation in both scoring and total offense. As a result, he was named the WAC Recruiter of the Year by ESPN.com. While there, he developed Kenneth Dixon, who broke Marshall Faulk's NCAA freshman record with 27 rushing TDs.

He also worked at Villanova at the FCS level.

A former Middle Tennessee wide receiver, Ingram brings championship experience and a proven record of offensive success to UAPB.

**Nathan Jones**, recognized as a rising defensive coach, joined UAPB in 2025 after successful stints at Lincoln (Pa.) and Buffalo.

At Lincoln, he served as linebackers coach, special teams and recruiting coordinator, where his units improved across the board, and returner Zyaire Tart earned Special Teams Player of the Year. He also contributed to a top-25 national defense at Buffalo in 2023 and has developed talent now playing in the Canadian Football League.

The University of Delaware graduate spent the 2022 season at Lincoln (Pa.), where he worked with the Lions' safeties and developed Kai Gray, who is now one of the CFL's top DBs in Edmonton.

**George Ricumstrict** brings over 30 years of college coaching experience to UAPB, with stops at Delaware State, Buffalo, Central Michigan, and Indiana, among others. He has developed numerous All-Conference players and NFL talent, including Pittsburgh Steelers draft pick Leterrius Walton and CMU standout Joe Ostman.

Ostman finished his career with 28 sacks, second in school history, and in 2017, he led the nation with 14 sacks, the second-highest single-season total in school history.

He also held various coaching positions at Wayne State, Michigan State, Army and Missouri Southern.

A former All-MAC linebacker at Central Michigan, Ricumstrict finished his career with 266 tackles before beginning a long and successful coaching career.

**Keith Scott** returned to his alma mater to coach the Golden Lions' defensive backs and coordinate special teams.

A Pine Bluff native and former UAPB defensive back, Scott was a three-year letterwinner and team captain for the Golden Lions. His coaching résumé includes Texas A&M-Kingsville, Central Arkansas, Austin Peay, Eastern Illinois, Arkansas-Monticello, Prairie View A&M and Mississippi Valley State.

While at Kingsville, he worked as the special teams coach and also worked with the safeties. From 2021–24, he was assistant head coach and special teams coordinator at Central Arkansas.

He also had coaching roles at Prairie View A&M, Austin Peay, Eastern Illinois, Arkansas-Monticello and Mississippi Valley State, including a prior stint at Central Arkansas.


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# MEET THE ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF GOLDEN LIONS



**TY ACKERMAN**
Soph., Kicker
Edmond, Okla.
Edmond Memorial H.S.
26



**DAEDAE ALLEN**
Sr., Wide Receiver
Westchester, N.Y.
Archbishop Stepniac
tr–Edinboro Univ.
18



**AHMAD ANDERSON**
Soph., Defensive Back
Sheridan, Ark.
Sheridan H.S.
34



**GIO ANDRADE**
Fr., Def. Tackle
Woodbridge, Va.
Charles J. Colgan H.S.
tr–Saint Francis Univ.
96



**JAMERIOUS AUSTIN**
Soph., Off. Lineman
Memphis, Tenn.
Southwind H.S.
71



**JAPHEN BAKER**
Soph., Def. Lineman
El Dorado, Ark.
El Dorado H.S.



**TyERIC BERNAL**
Sr., Offensive Lineman
Waco, Texas
Waco University H.S.
tr–Cisco C.C.
69



**TOMORRIO BILBERRY Jr.**
Soph., Defensive Back
Franklin, La.
Union Parish H.S.
23



**AYDAN BLAIR**
Sr., Offensive Lineman
Dallas, Texas
Kimball H.S.
tr–Cisco C.C.
74



**JAVIEN BLANKS**
Jr., Defensive End
Demopolis, Ala.
Demopolis H.S.
58



**ARSENIO BOLDS**
Fr., Linebacker
New Orleans, La.
Edna Karr H.S.
47



**BRYSON BOULDEN**
Jr., Defensive Back
El Dorado, Ark.
El Dorado H.S.
tr–Southern Arkansas
25



**DAVID BREWER IV**
Fr., Wide Receiver
Richmond, Texas
Travis H.S.
83



**RUSSELL BROOKS**
Jr., Offensive Lineman
Meridian, Miss.
Meridian H.S.
tr–Miss. Gulf Coast C.C.
62



**KE'OVION BROWN**
Fr., Wide Receiver
Hamburg, Ark.
Hamburg H.S.



**BEAU BRUINS**
Soph., Tight End
Riverside, Calif.
Ramona H.S.
tr–Riverside City College
29



**MARQUIS CAGLE**
Sr., Defensive Tackle
La Crosse, Wis.
Rufus King H.S.
tr–Wisconsin-
La Crosse
91



**MACHAI CAMPBELL**
Grad., Defensive Back
Apopka, Fla.
Lake Highland Prep
tr–Concordia Univ.-
St. Paul
30



**NICK CARTER**
Soph., Off. Lineman
Little Rock, Ark.
Mills Univ. Studies H.S.
65



**DE'ONTAE CLARK**
Fr., Wide Receiver
Stuttgart, Ark.
Stuttgart H.S.
82



**TYLAN COLE**
Sr., Defensive End
Meridian, Miss.
Meridian H.S.
tr–Miss. Gulf Coast C.C.
11

OWEN
**COLPAERT**
Soph., Tight End
Detroit, Mich.
Dakota H.S.
tr–Miss. Gulf Coast C.C.
85

B.J.
**CURRY**
Sr., Running Back
Magnolia, Ark.
Magnolia H.S.
4

GARRISON
**DAVIS**
Fr., Quarterback
Jackson, Miss.
Holmes County H.S.
15

RANDALL
**DAVIS**
Soph., Def. Lineman
Little Rock, Ark.
Parkview H.S.
60

NATHAN
**DEMING**
Jr., Defensive Tackle
Boyertown, Pa.
Boyertown Area Sr. H.S.
tr–Lackawanna College
95

CHAMPION
**EDWARDS**
Sr., Quarterback
Los Angeles, Calif.
American Fork H.S.
tr–Wayne State
16

TREY
**GLYMPH**
Sr., Kicker
Alpharetta, Ga.
Denmark H.S.
48

DOVONTE
**GRIMES**
Soph., Defensive Back
Junction City, Ark.
Junction City H.S.
45

TROYCE
**GRIMSLEY**
Fr., Wide Receiver
Memphis, Tenn.
Fairley H.S.
88

TYLER
**HAMPTON**
Fr., Quarterback
N. Little Rock, Ark.
Sylvan Hills H.S.
13

ANTOINE
**HARDIE**
Soph., Defensive End
La Crosse, Wis.
Central H.S.
tr–Saddleback C.C.
53

DAYLON
**HARRIS**
Soph., Off. Lineman
Little Rock, Ark.
Southwest H.S.
73

MICHAEL
**HENDERSON**
Soph. Defensive Back
East Orange, N.J.
E. Orange Campus H.S.
tr–Monroe C.C.
35

CHRIS
**HICKS** Jr.
Sr., Wide Receiver
Dallas, Texas
Duncanville H.S.
10

DANARIUS
**HILLIARD**
Sr., Linebacker
Hazlehurst, Miss.
Hazlehurst H.S.
tr–Southwest C.C.
0

LANDON
**HOLCOMB**
Soph., Quarterback
Pine Bluff, Ark.
Pine Bluff H.S.
9

JORDAN
**JACKSON**
Sr., Wide Receiver
Pine Bluff, Ark.
White Hall H.S.
tr–Arkansas Tech
6

JAYLEN
**JENNINGS**
Sr., Running Back
Columbus, Ohio
Harvest Prep H.S.
tr–East Miss. C.C.
1

NA'IL
**JOHNSON**
Sr., Defensive Back
East Orange, N.J.
Cicely L. Tyson H.S.
tr–Monroe C.C.
38

MOHAMMED
**KAMARA**
Jr., Offensive Lineman
Newark, N.J.
Newark Vocational H.S.
tr–Monroe Univ.
57

MOHAMMED
**KELLEH**
Jr., Linebacker
Newark, N.J.
Hudson Catholic H.S.
tr–Monroe C.C.
51

# MEET THE ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF GOLDEN LIONS CONT.



**CAMERON LEDLOW**
Fr., Wide Receiver
Memphis, Tenn.
Germantown H.S.



**AMAJAH LEWIS** 49
Jr., Linebacker
Carthage, Texas
Carthage H.S.
tr–E. Central Univ.



**ROBERT LEWIS** 92
Jr., Defensive End
Jacksonville, Fla.
Westwide H.S.
tr–Edward Waters



**QUINTEN McCARTY** 54
Jr., Offensive Lineman
Brownwood, Texas
Brownwood H.S.
tr–Navarro C.C.



**MALACHI McDONALD** 99
Fr., Defensive Tackle
Little Rock, Ark.
Bryant H.S.



**KYNDALL McKENZIE** 75
Grad., Off. Lineman
Little Rock, Ark.
Parkview H.S
tr–Memphis



**DERRON MOORE** 14
Sr., Linebacker
Woodbury, N.J.
Woodbury H.S.
tr–Duquesne



**JAMESON MOSLEY** 46
Jr., Linebacker
Madison, Miss.
Madison Central H.S.
tr–NE Miss. C.C.



**DERRICK MURDOCK** 44
Soph., Defensive Back
Little Rock, Ark.
Southwest H.S.



**JOSH NARCISSE** 93
Jr., Defensive Tackle
Chicago, Ill.
Hinsdale Central H.S.
tr–Coll. of DuPage



**JAYLON NORMAN** 77
Jr., Offensive Lineman
New Orleans, La.
Belle Chasse H.S.
tr–Edward Waters



**DU'WAYNE PAULHILL Jr.** 27
Grad., Defensive Back
Bryan, Texas
Bryan H.S.
tr–E. Central C.C.



**E.J. PULLINS** 78
Sr., Offensive Lineman
East Orange, N.J.
E. Orange Campus H.S.
tr–Lincoln Univ. (Pa.)



**AKEEM RAHSAAN** 40
Soph., Defensive Back
DeSoto, Texas
DeSoto H.S.



**CAMDEN REDD** 89
Soph., Tight End
Laurelville, Ohio
Iowa Central H.S.



**JOSH RICHARDS** 19
Sr., Wide Receiver
East Orange, N.J.
E. Orange Campus H.S.
tr–Maryland



**BRYCE ROBINSON** 86
Sr., Wide Receiver
Massapequa, N.Y.
St. John the Baptist
tr–Livingstone Coll.



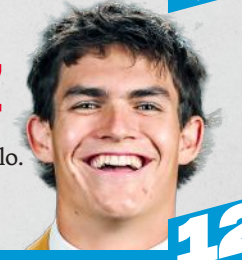
**D'AVERY ROBINSON** 2
Soph., Wide Receiver
Logansport, La.
Logansport H.S.



**ISAAC ROBINSON**
Jr., Defensive Back
Oceanside, Calif.
Vista H.S.
tr–Glendale C.C.



**JAI'TERIYAS ROBINSON** 21
Jr., Defensive Back
Lumberton, Miss.
Lumberton H.S.
tr–E. Central C.C.



**JACK SCHIERHOLZ** 12
Soph., Quarterback
Summit County, Colo.
Summit H.S.
tr–Fullerton C.C.



## NATHAN SHAW
Jr., Offensive Lineman
Baldwyn, Miss.
Baldwyn H.S.
tr–Itawamba C.C.
52



## DERICK SIMON Jr.
Jr., Defensive End
Orangeburg, S.C.
Erskine H.S.
90



## K.J. SIMS
Jr., Defensive End
Pine Bluff, Ark.
Watson Chapel H.S.
43



## CHASE SMITH
Jr., Defensive Back
Longview, Texas
Longview H.S.
tr–Kilgore College
20



## JACOBI SPRAGGINS
Soph., Off. Lineman
Downers Grove, Ill.
Downers Grove South H.S.
67



## RAYLEN SPRATT
Fr., Defensive Back
Dumas, Ark.
Dumas Tech H.S.
24



## ZAY STRIBLING
Soph., Defensive Back
Little Rock, Ark.
Mills Univ. Studies H.S.
32



## PAUL SUMMERS II
Sr., Wide Receiver
Tulsa, Okla.
Mansfield Legacy H.S.
tr–Texas Wesleyan
84



## SEAN TURNER
Jr., Off. Lineman
Jacksonville, Fla.
Jones H.S.
tr-Fort Valley State
55



## CHAMAR WADE
Jr., Linebacker
Trenton, N.J.
Pennsbury H.S.
tr–Lincoln Univ. (Pa.)



## NATE WALKER
Jr., Linebacker
Amory, Miss.
Amory H.S.
tr–NW Miss. C.C.
50



## TREVOR WALTON
Jr., Defensive Back
Horn Lake, Miss.
Horn Lake H.S.
tr–NE Miss. C.C.
22



## ZA'MARION WEBBER
Jr., Running Back
Franklin, La.
Franklin Sr. H.S.
tr–La.-Monroe
5



## JoQWAN WEST
Sr., Wide Receiver
Houston, Texas
The Village School
tr–Westgate Christian
7



## JADEN WHITE
Soph., Off. Lineman
Sherwood, Ark.
Sylvan Hills H.S.
64



## DEMETRIC WHITLOCK
Jr., Wide Receiver
Gilbert, La.
Neville H.S.
tr–Boise State
17



## GEORGE WILES-KOEHLER
Sr., Punter
Monrovia, Calif.
St. John Bosco H.S.
tr–New Mexico Highland
97



## KEIYHAUN WILKS
Jr., Defensive End
Carrollton, Miss.
J.Z. George H.S.
tr–Miss. Gulf Coast C.C.
98



## BRYSON WILLIAMS
Jr., Defensive Back
Conyers, Ga.
Peachtree Ridge H.S.
tr–Central Ga. Tech
37



## JALEN WILLIAMS
Soph., Running Back
Rayville, La.
Mangham H.S.
tr–SW Miss. C.C.
31



## JACKSON WILSON
Soph., Long Snapper
Bradenton, Fla.
Braden River H.S.
tr–Presbyterian Coll.
63

# MARCHING MUSICAL MACHINE OF THE MID-SOUTH





**JOHN GRAHAM**
*Band Director*



There's no doubt that the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Marching Band, known as "The Marching Musical Machine of the Mid-South (or M4 for short), has crafted a well-earned reputation for knowing how to thrill audiences and mesmerize fans.

M4 is consistently ranked among the top 10 black college marching bands in the Nation.

Founded in 1946 by Miss Alma L. Brown, the band is now under the direction of John Graham. Previous Directors include: Harold S. Strong 1952–81, Odie E. Burris 1981–89, Dr. Joseph L. Miller 1989–91, and Kelvin Washington 1991–94.

Now celebrating its 80th year, the marching band is comprised of students from all over the country, including 250 instrumentalists, Dance Line "The Golden Girls," Flag Line "24 Karat Golden Silks" and Drum Majors "The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen."



The Golden Lion Marching Band is noted for its soulful, symphonic sound combined with intricate drill maneuvers and precision choreography. M4 has performed in many major stadiums in the country including: The American Airlines Center, Edward Jones Dome, Georgia Dome, LP Field, Mercedes Benz Superdome, Reliant Stadium, FedEx Forum and Soldier Field.

Notable performances during the history of the UAPB Marching Band include: National Football League (NFL) halftime performances for the Kansas City Chiefs, New Orleans Saints, and St. Louis Rams; National Basketball Association (NBA) Halftime performances for the Dallas Mavericks.

The UAPB Marching Band has performed in parades all over the nation – cities include: Little Rock, Montgomery, Nashville, New Orleans, Tampa-St. Petersburg, St. Louis, Memphis and of course we are extremely proud of our performance in the ultimate parade, the 56th Presidential Inaugural Parade for the 44th President of the United States, Barack Obama, in Washington, D.C.

Featured at the 6th and 12th Honda Invitational Battle of the Bands, the UAPB "Marching Musical Machine of the Mid-South has been seen and heard by millions of fans in live performance or via the mediums of radio, television, and the internet.

Graham, a Little Rock native at the helm since 1994, is assisted by Darryl Evans and Harold Fooster. Jenise "Sandy" Todd manages the Band Office. Dr. Deaundra Rhodes and Whitney Lee are the directors of the Golden Girls and 24 Karat Golden Silks, respectively. Other UAPB Bands are the Jazz Ensemble, Wind Symphony, and Black and Gold Concert Bands.

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# WELCOME *to* MEMPHIS

Our Memphis story begins on the bluffs of the Mississippi, runs through the clubs of historic Beale Street, and echoes in the halls of the National Civil Rights Museum.

It's written in the music of B.B. King, W.C. Handy, Elvis, Al Green, Yo Gotti, Project Pat, GloRilla, Aretha Franklin, Booker T. & the MG's, Justin Timberlake, Big Star, Al Kapone, Big Boogie, and so many more. You'll still hear it at Stax, Sun Studio, Ardent, and Graceland.

It's tasted at Gus's, the Rendezvous, Alcenia's, the Four Way—and in every grandmother's kitchen across this city.

Our story is **authentic, soulful, historic, innovative, colorful, cool, and unforgettable.** And today, it's being written in what we proudly call **our Era of Yes**—a Memphis that says yes to culture, yes to community, and yes to a future as bold as our past.

And now, it's yours to add to.
We hope you enjoy the game.
We know you'll enjoy the city.




**Saturday, September 12, 2026**
**6 p.m.**
**Simmons Bank Liberty Stadium**



City of MEMPHIS

# ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF ROSTER

| No. | Player | Yr. | Pos. | Ht. | Wt. | Hometown | High School |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 26 | **Ackerman**, Ty | So. | K | 6-0 | 185 | Edmond, Okla. | Edmond Memorial |
| | **Adkins**, Aayden | So. | RB | 5-8 | 190 | Wylie, Texas | Wylie East |
| 18 | **Allen**, DaeDae | Sr. | WR | 5-10 | 185 | Westchester, N.Y. | Archbishop Stepniac |
| 34 | **Anderson**, Ahmad | So. | DB | 5-11 | 175 | Sheridan, Ark. | Sheridan |
| 96 | **Andrade**, Gio | R-Fr. | DT | 6-0 | 300 | Woodbridge, Va. | Charles J. Colgan |
| 71 | **Austin**, Jamerious | R-So. | OL | 6-1 | 320 | Memphis, Tenn. | Southwind |
| | **Baker**, Japhen | R-So. | DL | 5-11 | 295 | El Dorado, Ark. | El Dorado |
| | **Bell**, Kriston | R-Jr. | OL | 6-5 | 300 | New Orleans, La | Edna Karr |
| 69 | **Bernal**, TyEric | Sr. | OL | 6-2 | 310 | Waco, Texas | University |
| 23 | **Bilberry**, Tomorrio Jr. | R-So. | DB | 6-0 | 185 | Franklin, La. | Union Parish |
| 74 | **Blair**, Aydan | Sr. | OL | 6-7 | 300 | Dallas, Texas | Kimball |
| 58 | **Blanks**, Javien | R-Jr. | DE | 6-0 | 255 | Demopolis, Ala. | Demopolis |
| 47 | **Bolds**, Arsenio | R-Fr. | LB | 6-1 | 220 | New Orleans, La. | Edna Karr |
| 25 | **Boulden**, Bryson | R-Jr. | DB | 5-11 | 175 | El Dorado, Ark. | El Dorado |
| | **Bowers**, Dorien | Fr. | QB | 6-4 | 220 | Fayetteville, Ark. | Northside |
| 83 | **Brewer**, David IV | Fr. | WR | 6-1 | 175 | Richmond, Texas | Travis |
| 62 | **Brooks**, Russell | Jr. | OL | 6-4 | 350 | Meridian, Miss. | Meridian |
| | **Brown**, Ke'ovion | Fr. | WR | 6-3 | 195 | Hamburg, Ark. | Hamburg |
| 29 | **Bruins**, Beau | So. | TE | 5-11 | 220 | Riverside, Calif. | Ramona |
| 91 | **Cagle**, Marquis | Sr. | DT | 6-3 | 295 | La Crosse, Wis. | Rufus King |
| 30 | **Campbell**, Machai | Gr. | DB | 6-2 | 210 | Apopka, Fla. | Lake Highland Prep |
| 65 | **Carter**, Nick | So. | OL | 6-4 | 300 | Little Rock, Ark. | Mills Univ. Stud. |
| 82 | **Clark**, De'Ontae | R-Fr. | WR | 6-0 | 180 | Stuttgart, Ark. | Stuttgart |
| 11 | **Cole**, Tylan | Sr. | DE | 6-2 | 250 | Meridan, Miss. | Meridian |
| 85 | **Colpaert**, Owen | R-So. | TE | 6-3 | 220 | Detroit, Mich. | Dakota |
| 4 | **Curry**, B.J. | Sr. | RB | 5-9 | 195 | Magnolia, Ark. | Magnolia |
| 15 | **Davis**, Garrison | R-Fr. | QB | 5-11 | 201 | Jackson, Miss. | Holmes County |
| 60 | **Davis**, Randall | R-So. | DL | 5-11 | 345 | Little Rock, Ark. | Parkview |
| 95 | **Deming**, Nathan | Jr. | DT | 6-3 | 285 | Boyertown, Pa. | Boyertown Area Sr. |
| 70 | **Durand**, Darren | Fr. | OL | 6-4 | 300 | Houston, Texas | Westfield |
| 16 | **Edwards**, Champion | Sr. | QB | 6-1 | 195 | Los Angeles, Calif. | American Fork |
| 39 | **Flugence**, Floyd | R-Fr. | DB | 6-1 | 190 | Crowley, La. | Crowley |
| 48 | **Glymph**, Trey | R-Sr. | K | 5-8 | 190 | Alpharetta, Ga. | Denmark |
| | **Goodwin**, Makyrin | R-Fr. | DT | 6-3 | 270 | Pine Bluff, Ark. | Pine Bluff |
| 81 | **Grimes**, Dominique | R-Fr. | WR | 5-8 | 170 | El Dorado, Ark. | Junction City |
| 45 | **Grimes**, Dovonte | R-So. | DB | 6-0 | 175 | Junction City, Ark. | Junction City |
| 88 | **Grimsley**, Troyce | Fr. | WR | 5-11 | 180 | Memphis, Tenn. | Fairley |
| 42 | **Hampton**, Dakylan | Fr. | TE | 6-1 | 215 | Junction City, Ark. | Junction City |
| 13 | **Hampton**, Tyler | Fr. | QB | 6-2 | 200 | N. Little Rock, Ark. | Sylvan Hills |
| 53 | **Hardie**, Antoine | R-So. | DE | 6-0 | 225 | La Crosse, Wis. | Central |
| | **Harris**, Cameron | R-Sr. | WR | 6-2 | 195 | Benton, Ark. | Benton |
| 73 | **Harris**, Daylon | R-So. | OL | 6-1 | 315 | Little Rock, Ark. | Southwest |
| 35 | **Henderson**, Michael | So. | DB | 6-2 | 180 | East Orange, N.J. | E. Orange Campus |
| 10 | **Hicks**, Chris, Jr. | Sr. | WR | 5-10 | 190 | Dallas, Texas | Duncanville |
| 0 | **Hilliard**, Danarius | Sr. | LB | 5-11 | 215 | Hazlehurst, Miss. | Hazlehurst |
| 9 | **Holcomb**, Landon | R-So. | QB | 6-1 | 200 | Pine Bluff, Ark. | Pine Bluff |
| | **Hunter**, Raymond Jr. | Fr. | LB | 6-0 | 230 | N. Little Rock, Ark. | N. Little Rock |
| 28 | **Jackson**, Camare | Fr. | DB | 5-11 | 180 | Montgomery, Ala. | G.W. Carver |
| 6 | **Jackson**, Jordan | Sr. | WR | 6-3 | 210 | Pine Bluff, Ark. | White Hall |
| 41 | **Jaime**, Luey | Fr. | ATH | 6-0 | 175 | Las Vegas, Nev. | Hot Springs |
| 1 | **Jennings**, Jaylen | Sr. | RB | 5-10 | 210 | Columbus, Ohio | Harvest Prep |
| 94 | **Johnson**, Bryan | R-Fr. | DT | 6-2 | 295 | Springfield, Mo. | Kickapoo |
| 38 | **Johnson**, Na'il | Sr. | DB | 5-11 | 190 | East Orange, N.J. | Cicely L. Tyson |
| 57 | **Kamara**, Mohammed | Jr. | OL | 6-3 | 290 | Newark, N.J. | Newark Vocational |
| 51 | **Kelleh**, Mohammed | R-Jr. | LB | 6-2 | 235 | Newark, N.J. | Hudson Catholic |
| | **Ledlow**, Cameron | Fr. | WR | 6-2 | 175 | Memphis,Tenn. | Germantown |
| 49 | **Lewis**, Amajah | R-Jr. | LB | 6-2 | 220 | Carthage, Texas | Carthage |
| 92 | **Lewis**, Robert | Jr. | DE | 6-2 | 252 | Jacksonville, Fla. | Westside |
| 33 | **Martin**, Montrell | So. | TE | 6-4 | 260 | Little Rock, Ark. | Southwest |
| 54 | **McCarty**, Quinten | Jr. | OL | 6-2 | 280 | Brownwood, Texas | Brownwood |
| 99 | **McDonald**, Malachi | Fr. | DT | 6-0 | 290 | Little Rock, Ark. | Bryant |
| 75 | **McKenzie**, Kyndall | Gr. | OL | 6-2 | 310 | Little Rock, Ark. | Parkview Magnet |
| 14 | **Moore**, Derron | Sr. | LB | 6-0 | 230 | Woodbury, N.J. | Woodbury |
| 80 | **Morning**, Ja'Marcis | Fr. | WR | 6-3 | 180 | Shreveport, La. | Hot Springs |
| 46 | **Mosley**, Jameson | Jr. | LB | 6-0 | 220 | Madison Miss. | Madison Central |
| 44 | **Murdock**, Derrick | R-So. | DB | 6-0 | 195 | Little Rock, Ark. | Southwest |
| 93 | **Narcisse**, Josh | Jr. | DT | 6-0 | 275 | Chicago, Ill. | Hinsdale Central |
| 77 | **Norman**, Jaylon | Jr. | OL | 6-3 | 280 | New Orleans, La. | Belle Chasse |
| 27 | **Paulhill**, Du'Wayne Jr. | Gr. | DB | 6-2 | 205 | Bryan, Texas | Bryan |
| 78 | **Pullins**, E.J. | Sr. | OL | 6-3 | 315 | East Orange, N.J. | E. Orange Campus |
| 40 | **Rahsaan**, Akeem | R-So. | DB | 5-11 | 170 | DeSoto, Texas | DeSoto |
| | **Raynor**, Jeremiah | Fr. | DE | 6-2 | 255 | Dallas, Texas | Lancaster |
| 89 | **Redd**, Camden | R-So. | TE | 6-5 | 250 | Laurelville, Ohio | Iowa Central |
| 19 | **Richards**, Josh | Sr. | WR | 6-3 | 185 | East Orange, N.J. | E. Orange Campus |
| 86 | **Robinson**, Bryce | Sr. | WR | 6-5 | 205 | Massapequa, N.Y. | St. John the Baptist |
| 2 | **Robinson**, D'Avery | R-So. | WR | 5-9 | 170 | Logansport, La. | Logansport |
| | **Robinson**, Isaac | Jr. | DB | 6-1 | 195 | Oceanside, Calif. | Vista |
| 21 | **Robinson**, Jai'Teriyas | Jr. | DB | 5-10 | 185 | Lumberton, Miss. | Lumberton |
| 12 | **Schierholz**, Jack | R-So. | QB | 6-3 | 225 | Summit Co., Colo. | Summit |
| 52 | **Shaw**, Nathan | Jr. | OL | 6-3 | 280 | Baldwyn, Miss. | Baldwyn |
| 87 | **Simmons**, Dwayne | R-Fr. | TE | 6-3 | 230 | Summerville, S.C. | Ashley Ridge |
| 90 | **Simon**, Derick Jr. | Jr. | DE | 6-3 | 255 | Orangeburg, S.C. | Erskine |
| 43 | **Sims**, K.J. | R-Jr. | DE | 6-1 | 230 | Pine Bluff, Ark. | Watson Chapel |
| 20 | **Smith**, Chase | Jr. | DB | 5-10 | 190 | Longview, Texas | Longview |
| 67 | **Spraggins**, Jacobi | So. | OL | 6-3 | 285 | Downers Grove, Ill. | Downers Grove So. |
| 24 | **Spratt**, Raylen | R-Fr. | DB | 6-0 | 170 | Dumas, Ark. | Dumas Tech |
| 32 | **Stribling**, Zay | So. | DB | 6-0 | 175 | Little Rock, Ark. | Mills Univ. Stud. |
| | **Sumler**, Carter | Sr. | LS | 5-10 | 230 | Norman, Okla. | Norman North |
| 84 | **Summers**, Paul II | Sr. | WR | 6-0 | 185 | Tulsa, Okla. | Mansfield Legacy |
| 55 | **Turner**, Sean | Jr. | OL | 6-2 | 280 | Jacksonville, Fla. | Jones |
| 56 | **Wade**, Chamar | R-Jr. | LB | 5-11 | 220 | Trenton, N.J. | Pennsbury |
| 50 | **Walker**, Nate | Jr. | LB | 6-0 | 220 | Amory, Miss. | Amory |
| | **Walker**, Zayden | Fr. | QB | 6-4 | 190 | Marion, Ark. | Marion |
| 22 | **Walton**, Trevor | R-Jr. | DB | 6-2 | 190 | Horn Lake, Miss. | Horn Lake |
| 5 | **Webber**, Za'Marion | R-Jr. | RB | 6-0 | 200 | Franklin, La. | Franklin Sr. |
| 7 | **West**, JoQwan | Sr. | WR | 6-1 | 195 | Houston, Texas | The Village Sch. |
| 64 | **White**, Jaden | R-So. | OL | 6-3 | 290 | Sherwood, Ark. | Sylvan Hills |
| | **White**, Trey | Fr. | DB | 6-3 | 175 | Chandler, Ariz. | AZ Compass-Prep |
| 17 | **Whitlock**, Demetric | R-Jr. | WR | 6-0 | 185 | Gilbert, La. | Neville |
| 97 | **Wiles-Koehler**, George | Sr. | P | 6-0 | 180 | Monrovia, Calif. | St. John Bosco |
| 98 | **Wilks**, Keiyhaun | Jr. | DE | 6-5 | 260 | Carrollton, Miss. | J.Z. George |
| 37 | **Williams**, Bryson | Jr. | DB | 6-0 | 190 | Conyers, Ga. | Peachtree Ridge |
| 31 | **Williams**, Jalen | R-So. | RB | 5-9 | 185 | Rayville La. | Mangham |
| 63 | **Wilson**, Jackson | R-So. | LS | 5-11 | 175 | Bradenton, Fla. | Braden River |

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## UAPB FOOTBALL STAFF

**HEAD COACH** *Alonzo Hampton*
**ASSISTANT COACHES**
*Stephen Barnette, Co-Offensive Coordinator/WRs*
*Miguel Black, Running Backs*
*Jeff Burrow, Defensive Coordinator*
*Dimitri Hill, Offensive Line/Running Game Coord.*
*Pierre Ingram, Co-Offensive Coordinator/QBs*
*Nate Jones, Linebackers*
*George Ricumstrict, Defensive Line*
*Keith Scott, Special Teams/Nickelbacks*

**GENERAL MANAGER** *Charles Roberts*
**STRENGTH CONDITIONING/SPORTS PERFORMANCE** *Nicholas Wilkerson*
**HEAD TRAINER** *T.J. Cleveland*
**DIRECTOR OF EQUIPMENT OPERATIONS** *Darryl Collins*
**ASSOCIATE A.D. FOR STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS** *Cameo Stokes*




## QUICK FACTS

**Location** *Pine Bluff, Ark.* | **Enrollment** *2,625* | **Conference Affiliation** *SWAC* | **Final 2025 Record** *4-8 (2-6 in SWAC)* | **Home Field** *Simmons Bank Field*
**Primary Offensive System** *Air Raid* | **Primary Defensive System** *4-2-5* | **Starters Returning/Lost** *11/11* | **Freshmen** *26*, **Sophomores** *26*, **Juniors** *27*, **Seniors/Grads** *25*


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# ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF

## GOLDEN LIONS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 0 | Danarius Hilliard | LB |
| 1 | Jaylen Jennings | RB |
| 2 | D'Avery Robinson | WR |
| 4 | B.J. Curry | RB |
| 5 | Za'Marion Webber | RB |
| 6 | Jordan Jackson | WR |
| 7 | JoQwan West | WR |
| 9 | Landon Holcomb | QB |
| 10 | Chris Hicks, Jr. | WR |
| 11 | Tylan Cole | DE |
| 12 | Jack Schierholz | QB |
| 13 | Tyler Hampton | QB |
| 14 | Derron Moore | LB |
| 15 | Garrison Davis | QB |
| 16 | Champion Edwards | QB |
| 17 | Demetric Whitlock | WR |
| 18 | DaeDae Allen | WR |
| 19 | Josh Richards | WR |
| 20 | Chase Smith | DB |
| 21 | Jai'Teriyas Robinson | DB |
| 22 | Trevor Walton | DB |
| 23 | Tomorrio Bilberry Jr. | DB |
| 24 | Raylen Spratt | DB |
| 25 | Bryson Boulden | DB |
| 26 | Ty Ackerman | K |
| 27 | Du'Wayne Paulhill Jr. | DB |
| 28 | Camare Jackson | DB |
| 29 | Beau Bruins | TE |
| 30 | Machai Campbell | DB |
| 31 | Jalen Williams | RB |
| 32 | Zay Stribling | DB |
| 33 | Montrell Martin | TE |
| 34 | Ahmad Anderson | DB |
| 35 | Michael Henderson | DB |
| 37 | Bryson Williams | DB |
| 38 | Na'il Johnson | DB |
| 39 | Floyd Flugence | DB |
| 40 | Akeem Rahsaan | DB |
| 41 | Luey Jaime | ATH |
| 42 | Dakylan Hampton | TE |
| 43 | K.J. Sims | DE |
| 44 | Derrick Murdock | DB |
| 45 | Dovonte Grimes | DB |
| 46 | Jameson Mosley | LB |
| 47 | Arsenio Bolds | LB |
| 48 | Trey Glymph | K |
| 49 | Amajah Lewis | LB |
| 50 | Nate Walker | LB |
| 51 | Mohammed Kelleh | LB |
| 52 | Nathan Shaw | OL |
| 53 | Antoine Hardie | DE |
| 54 | Quinten McCarty | OL |
| 55 | Sean Turner | OL |
| 56 | Chamar Wade | LB |
| 57 | Mohammed Kamara | OL |
| 58 | Javien Blanks | DE |
| 60 | Randall Davis | DL |
| 62 | Russell Brooks | OL |
| 63 | Jackson Wilson | LS |
| 64 | Jaden White | OL |
| 65 | Nick Carter | OL |
| 67 | Jacobi Spraggins | OL |
| 69 | TyEric Bernal | OL |
| 70 | Darren Durand | OL |
| 71 | Jamerious Austin | OL |
| 73 | Daylon Harris | OL |
| 74 | Aydan Blair | OL |
| 75 | Kyndall McKenzie | OL |
| 77 | Jaylon Norman | OL |
| 78 | E.J. Pullins | OL |
| 80 | Ja'Marcis Morning | WR |
| 81 | Dominique Grimes | WR |
| 82 | De'Ontae Clark | WR |
| 83 | David Brewer IV | WR |
| 84 | Paul Summers II | WR |
| 85 | Owen Colpaert | TE |
| 86 | Bryce Robinson | WR |
| 87 | Dwayne Simmons | TE |
| 88 | Troyce Grimsley | WR |
| 89 | Camden Redd | TE |
| 90 | Derick Simon Jr. | DE |
| 91 | Marquis Cagle | DT |
| 92 | Robert Lewis | DE |
| 93 | Josh Narcisse | DT |
| 94 | Bryan Johnson | DT |
| 95 | Nathan Deming | DT |
| 96 | Gio Andrade | DT |
| 97 | George Wiles-Koehler | P |
| 98 | Keiyhaun Wilks | DE |
| 99 | Malachi McDonald | DT |
| | Aayden Adkins | RB |
| | Japhen Baker | DL |
| | Dorien Bowers | QB |
| | Ke'ovion Brown | WR |
| | Brandon Giron | RB |
| | Makyrin Goodwin | DT |
| | Cameron Harris | WR |
| | Raymond Hunter Jr. | LB |
| | Cameron Ledlow | WR |
| | Jeremiah Raynor | DE |
| | Isaac Robinson | DB |
| | Zayden Walker | QB |
| | Trey White | DB |

## ALCORN STATE DEFENSE

1 Timothy Jasper, SS
45 Dillon Crowell, LB
8 Jayden Davis, LB
14 Jaylen McRoy, NK
25 Elijah Ruffin, FS
21 Ricardo Butler, CB
10 Kyshawn Kimble, DE
0 Gideon Spottsville, NG
98 Kenneth Andrews, DT
11 Kenyen McKanstry, DE
2 Tayvion Haney, CB
17 Demetric Whitlock, WR
33 Montrell Martin, TE
74 Aydan Blair, LT
78 E.J. Pullins, LG
75 Kyndall McKenzie, C
64 Jaden White, RG
65 Nick Carter, RT
2 D'Avery Robinson, WR
82 De'Ontae Clark, WR
15 Garrison Davis, QB
1 Jaylen Jennings, RB

## ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF OFFENSE

City of MEMPHIS

# STARTING LINEUPS

## ALCORN STATE OFFENSE

22 Carl McDonald Jr., RB
11 Jaylon Tolbert, QB
17 Nolan Chambers, WR
14 Elijah Griffin, WR
79 Derrick Cooper, RT
62 Jaden Bryant, RG
74 Jackson Pickett, C
67 Cameran Rogers, LG
73 Shar'Dez Taylor, LT
3 Jamar Kaho Jr., WR
8 Damien Jones, WR

## ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF DEFENSE

32 Zay Stribling, CB
11 Tylan Cole, LEO
91 Marquis Cagle, DT
93 Josh Narcisse, NG
98 Keiyhaun Wilks, DE
35 Michael Henderson, CB
0 Danarius Hilliard, LB
14 Derron Moore, LB
38 Na'il Johnson, FS
20 Chase Smith, STAR
21 Jai'Teriyas Robinson, SS

# ALCORN STATE

## BRAVES

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 0 | Omarion Blakes | WR |
| 0 | Gideon Spottsville | DL |
| 1 | Kareem Burke | WR |
| 1 | Timothy "TJ" Jasper | DB |
| 2 | Malachi Augustus | WR |
| 2 | Tayvion Haney | CB |
| 3 | Jamar Kaho Jr. | WR |
| 3 | Kaidon Whidby | LB |
| 4 | Jakobie Anderson | CB |
| 4 | Jordan Louie | RB |
| 5 | Tyree Kelly | WR |
| 5 | Geoffrey McKelton | DB |
| 6 | Caleb Anderson | TE |
| 6 | Patrick Kince Jr. | CB |
| 7 | Brent Barnes | DB |
| 7 | Fredrick Robertson | RB |
| 8 | Jayden Davis | LB |
| 8 | Damien Jones | WR |
| 10 | Kyshawn Kimble | DL |
| 10 | Armon Wright | WR |
| 11 | Kenyen McKanstry | DL |
| 11 | Jaylon Tolbert | QB |
| 12 | Demetrion Duvall | P/K |
| 13 | Jordan Daniel | LB |
| 13 | Bryan Wilson | QB |
| 14 | Elijah Griffin | WR |
| 14 | Jaylen McRoy | DB |
| 15 | Damarius Higgs | WR |
| 15 | Eric Thomas Jr. | DL |
| 16 | Alvin Dinkins | QB |
| 16 | Emanuel Robinson | DL |
| 17 | Nolan Chambers | WR |
| 17 | Elijah Matthews | CB |
| 19 | Achilles Ringo | QB |
| 19 | Derald Spears Jr. | DB |
| 20 | Tyreke Snow | DB |
| 20 | Ernest Temple | RB |
| 21 | Ricardo Butler | CB |
| 22 | Carl McDonald Jr. | RB |
| 22 | Ayindae Pugh | LB |
| 23 | Xavier Kately | DB |
| 23 | Joshua Tate | RB |
| 25 | Elijah Ruffin | DB |
| 25 | Carson Wilt | K |
| 26 | Kameron Brown | DB |
| 27 | Lauria McDuffey | RB |
| 27 | Jaeden Spelmon | DB |
| 28 | Jermaine McRoy | DB |
| 29 | Ernest Lyons | CB |
| 29 | Anthony Morgan | RB |
| 30 | Laquon Whisenhunt | LB |
| 31 | Jakel Houston-Irving | LB |
| 33 | Mahamadou Diarra | LB |
| 34 | Jordan Berry | CB |
| 35 | Ladarien Haynes | LB |
| 36 | Dajuan Culbert | DB |
| 37 | Kenyon Bowyer | K/P |
| 38 | Devin Tribble | DB |
| 39 | Damon Joseph | CB |
| 40 | Landon Carson | DL |
| 41 | Simeon Washington | DB |
| 42 | Cameron Wilson | DB |
| 45 | Dillon Crowell | LB |
| 46 | Antoine Washington | DL |
| 47 | Adam Diaz | LS |
| 48 | Jonaven Hill | LB |
| 49 | Dedrick Davis | DB |
| 51 | Landen Sewell | OL |
| 52 | Jordan Towns | OL |
| 55 | Jayden McCarroll | OL |
| 58 | Jaden Nguyen | OL |
| 60 | Julian Treadway | OL |
| 62 | Jaden Bryant | OL |
| 64 | Jaydon Lee | OL |
| 66 | Kriston Edwards | OL |
| 67 | Cameran Rogers | OL |
| 68 | Marvin Price | OL |
| 70 | Abe Diallo | OL |
| 73 | Shar'Dez Taylor | OL |
| 74 | Jackson Pickett | OL |
| 75 | Atamai Matau | OL |
| 78 | Shaun Archer | OL |
| 79 | Derrick Cooper | OL |
| 80 | Noel Butler | WR |
| 81 | Jamarr Ebron | WR |
| 82 | Tre'von Martin | WR |
| 83 | Myles Franklin | WR |
| 85 | Joshua Good | WR |
| 87 | Cheikh Sall | OL |
| 88 | Deshawn Palmer | DL |
| 90 | Montaine Bonner | DL |
| 92 | McKinnley Blackshear | DL |
| 93 | Gregory Shaffer | LS |
| 94 | Terry Rutledge | DL |
| 95 | Tony Deloach | DL |
| 97 | William Harry III | DL |
| 98 | Kenneth Andrews | DL |
| 99 | Teddy Roby | DL |
| | Tevora Griffin | DB |

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# ALCORN STATE ROSTER

| No. | Player | Yr. | Pos. | Ht. | Wt. | Hometown | High School |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | **Anderson**, Caleb | R-Sr. | TE | 6-4 | 230 | Brandon, Miss. | Brandon |
| 4 | **Anderson**, Jakobie | So. | DB | 5-10 | 180 | New Orleans, La. | John McDonogh 35 |
| 98 | **Andrews**, Kenneth | Sr. | DL | 6-3 | 285 | Clinton, Miss. | Clinton |
| 78 | **Archer**, Shaun | Fr. | OL | 6-4 | 340 | Vicksburg, Miss. | Vicksburg |
| 2 | **Augustus**, Malachi | Fr. | WR | 6-0 | 190 | Houston, Texas | Nimitz |
| 7 | **Barnes**, Brent | Sr. | DB | 6-2 | 195 | Birmingham, Ala. | McAdory |
| 34 | **Berry**, Jordan | Jr. | CB | 5-10 | 175 | Natchez, Miss. | Adams Co. Christ. |
| 92 | **Blackshear**, McKinnley | Fr. | DL | 6-1 | 315 | Houston, Texas | Benjamin Davis |
| 0 | **Blakes**, Omarion | R-Jr. | WR | 5-11 | 192 | Shaw, Miss. | McEvans |
| 90 | **Bonner**, Montaine | Jr. | DL | 6-2 | 250 | Oxford, Miss. | Oxford |
| 37 | **Bowyer**, Kenyon | Gr. | K/P | 5-10 | 190 | Sacramento, Calif. | Destiny Christ. |
| 26 | **Brown**, Kameron | So. | DB | 5-10 | 190 | Prentiss, Miss. | Jefferson Davis |
| 62 | **Bryant**, Jaden | R-Sr. | OL | 6-4 | 344 | Norfolk, Va. | Norview |
| 1 | **Burke**, Kareem | R-Sr. | WR | 6-0 | 175 | Jacksonville, Fla. | Raines |
| 80 | **Butler**, Noel | Fr. | WR | 5-10 | 175 | Stuttgart, Germany | Lake Ridge (Tx) |
| 21 | **Butler**, Ricardo | Sr. | CB | 5-10 | 180 | Alligator, Miss. | Northside |
| 40 | **Carson**, Landon | Jr. | DL | 6-1 | 275 | Frisco, Texas | Frisco |
| 17 | **Chambers**, Nolan | Jr. | WR | 6-1 | 195 | Jacksonville, Fla. | Orange Park |
| 79 | **Cooper**, Derrick | So. | OL | 6-4 | 330 | Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. | Rancho Cucamonga |
| 45 | **Crowell**, Dillon | Sr. | LB | 6-1 | 209 | Hattiesburg, Miss. | Hattiesburg |
| 36 | **Culbert**, Dajuan | Fr. | DB | 6-0 | 165 | Natchez, Miss. | Natchez |
| 13 | **Daniel**, Jordan | Jr. | LB | 6-3 | 210 | San Antonio, Texas | Sotomayor |
| 49 | **Davis**, Dedrick | Fr. | DB | 5-11 | 170 | Woodville, Miss. | West Feliciana |
| 8 | **Davis**, Jayden | Jr. | LB | 5-11 | 218 | Alabaster, Ala. | Thompson |
| 95 | **Deloach**, Tony | Sr. | DL | 6-2 | 295 | Macon, Miss. | Noxubee County |
| 70 | **Diallo**, Abe | Jr. | OL | 6-6 | 305 | Seffner, Fla. | Armwood |
| 33 | **Diarra**, Mahamadou | Sr. | LB | 6-0 | 208 | Memphis, Tenn. | Whitehaven |
| 47 | **Diaz**, Adam | Fr. | LS | 5-10 | 235 | Mesa, Ariz. | Mesa |
| 15 | **Dinkins**, Alvin | Fr. | QB | 6-3 | 205 | Mobile, Ala. | Williamson |
| 12 | **Duvall**, Demetrion | Jr. | P/K | 5-11 | 185 | Akron, Ohio | Buchtel |
| 81 | **Ebron**, Jamarr | Sr. | WR | 5-9 | Sr. | Waldorf, Md. | Archbishop Caroll |
| 66 | **Edwards**, Kriston | So. | OL | 6-0 | 435 | Jackson, Miss. | Lanier |
| 85 | **Good**, Joshua | Jr. | WR | 5-11 | 175 | Ridgeland, Miss. | Ridgeland |
| 14 | **Griffin**, Elijah | R-Sr. | WR | 6-4 | 215 | St. Louis, Mo. | Chaminade Coll. Prep |
| | **Griffin**, Tevora | Fr. | DB | 5-8 | 150 | Bartlett, Tenn. | Bartlett |
| 2 | **Haney**, Tayvion | Sr. | DB | 6-1 | 180 | Little Rock, Ark. | Parkview |
| 97 | **Harry**, William III | Jr. | DL | 6-3 | 230 | Poplarville, Miss. | Poplarville |
| 35 | **Haynes**, Ladarien | Jr. | LB | 6-0 | 227 | Columbia, Miss. | East Marion |
| 15 | **Higgs**, Damarius | Fr. | WR | 6-0 | 165 | Hollywood, Fla. | McArthur |
| 48 | **Hill**, Jonaven | Sr. | LB | 6-0 | 225 | Richmond, Calif. | Novato |
| 31 | **Houston-Irving**, Jakel | So. | LB | 6-3 | 228 | Natchez, Miss. | Natchez |
| 1 | **Jasper**, T.J. | Sr. | DB | 6-0 | 185 | Little Rock, Ark. | Sylvan Hills |
| 8 | **Jones**, Damien | R-Sr. | WR | 5-11 | 185 | Del Valle, Texas | Del Valle |
| 39 | **Joseph**, Damon | So. | CB | 5-10 | 175 | New Orleans, La. | Warren Easton |
| 3 | **Kaho**, Jamar Jr. | Sr. | WR | 6-4 | 195 | Natchez, Miss. | Adams Co. Christ. |
| 23 | **Kately**, Xavier | Gr. | WR | 6-1 | 200 | St. Martinville, La. | St. Martinville |
| 5 | **Kelly**, Tyree | Sr. | WR | 6-3 | 205 | Cairo, Ga. | Cairo |
| 10 | **Kimble**, Kyshawn | Jr. | DL | 6-1 | 250 | Olive Branch, Miss. | Center Hill |
| 6 | **Kince**, Patrick Jr. | Sr. | DB | 6-2 | 180 | Shaw, Miss. | Th. Edwards Sr. |

| No. | Player | Yr. | Pos. | Ht. | Wt. | Hometown | High School |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 64 | **Lee**, Jaydon | Fr. | OL | 5-10 | 240 | Vicksburg, Miss. | Vicksburg |
| 4 | **Louie**, Jordan | R-So. | RB | 5-11 | 220 | Tuscaloosa, Ala. | Meadowcreek |
| 29 | **Lyons**, Ernest | So. | CB | 6-0 | 175 | New Orleans, La. | John F. Kennedy |
| 82 | **Martin**, Tre'von | Jr. | WR | 5-11 | 165 | Austin, Texas | Del Valle |
| 75 | **Matau**, Atamai | So. | OL | 6-4 | 345 | Milpitas, Calif. | St. Francis |
| 17 | **Matthews**, Elijah | Jr. | CB | 6-0 | 190 | Williamsburg, Va. | Lafayette |
| 55 | **McCarroll**, Jayden | Fr. | OL | 6-3 | 305 | Mobile, Ala. | Theodore |
| 22 | **McDonald**, Carl Jr. | So. | RB | 5-8 | 180 | Natchez, Miss. | Natchez |
| 27 | **McDuffey**, Lauria | So. | RB | 5-9 | 175 | New Hebron, Miss. | Lawrence Co. |
| 11 | **McKanstry**, Kenyen | Jr. | OLB | 6-4 | 215 | Tuscaloosa, Ala. | Paul W. Bryant |
| 5 | **McKelton**, Geoffrey | R-Sr. | DB | 6-1 | 185 | Pahokee, Fla. | Palmetto Prep Acad. |
| 14 | **McRoy**, Jaylen | Sr. | DB | 5-10 | 187 | Shaw, Miss. | Cleveland Central |
| 28 | **McRoy**, Jermaine | Jr. | DB | 5-10 | 195 | Shaw, Miss. | Cleveland Central |
| 29 | **Morgan**, Anthony | Fr. | RB | 5-10 | 205 | Ashland, Miss. | Faulkner |
| 58 | **Nguyen**, Jaden | Sr. | OL | 6-3 | 315 | Austin, Texas | Sr. Dominic Savio |
| 88 | **Palmer**, Deshawn | Sr. | DL | 6-2 | 310 | Cleveland, Miss. | Cleveland Central |
| 74 | **Pickett**, Jackson | Jr. | OL | 6-4 | 300 | Decatur, Ga. | Tucker |
| 68 | **Price**, Marvin | So. | OL | 6-0 | 240 | Gross Tete, La. | North Iberville |
| 22 | **Pugh**, Ayindae | Fr. | LB | 6-0 | 215 | Mobile, Ala. | Saraland |
| 19 | **Ringo**, Achilles | So. | QB | 6-3 | 215 | Pine Bluff, Ark. | Mills Univ. Studies |
| 7 | **Robertson**, Fredrick | Jr. | RB | 5-8 | 190 | New Orleans, La. | Warren Easton |
| 16 | **Robinson**, Emanuel | Jr. | DL | 6-3 | 235 | Newton, Miss. | Newton |
| 99 | **Roby**, Teddy | Jr. | DL | 6-4 | 360 | New Hope, Miss. | Noxubee Co. |
| 67 | **Rogers**, Cameran | Jr. | OL | 6-4 | 330 | Theodore, Ala. | Theodore |
| 25 | **Ruffin**, Elijah | Sr. | DB | 6-1 | 190 | Philadelphia, Miss. | Neshoba Central |
| 94 | **Rutledge**, Terry | Fr. | DL | 6-3 | 240 | Hazel Green, Ala. | Hazel Green |
| 87 | **Sall**, Cheikh | R-Fr. | OL | 6-2 | 250 | Houston, Texas | Summer Creek |
| 51 | **Sewell**, Landen | Sr. | OL | 6-0 | 295 | Natchez, Miss. | Natchez |
| 93 | **Shaffer**, Gregory | Jr. | LS | 5-11 | 218 | Bentonia, Miss. | Yazoo City |
| 20 | **Snow**, Tyreke | Sr. | DB | 6-1 | 183 | Newton, Miss. | Newton |
| 19 | **Spears**, Derald Jr. | Fr. | DB | 6-0 | 194 | Baton Rouge, La. | Catholic |
| 27 | **Spelman**, Jaeden | Fr. | DB | 6-0 | 165 | Houston, Texas | Paetow |
| 0 | **Spottsville**, Gideon | Sr. | DL | 6-4 | 270 | Baton Rouge, La. | Southern Lab |
| 23 | **Tate**, Joshua | Fr. | RB | 5-10 | 195 | Detroit, Mich. | West Bloomfield |
| 73 | **Taylor**, Shar'Dez | Jr. | OL | 6-4 | 312 | Vicksburg, Miss. | Vicksburg |
| 20 | **Temple**, Ernest | Sr. | RB | 6-1 | 215 | Chicago, Ill. | Thornton Frac. S. |
| 15 | **Thomas**, Eric Jr. | Jr. | DL | 6-3 | 245 | Columbus, Miss. | Starkville |
| 11 | **Tolbert**, Jaylon | Sr. | QB | 6-2 | 175 | Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. | Chaminade Madonna |
| 52 | **Towns**, Jordan | Sr. | OL | 6-5 | 320 | Glendale, Calif. | Crescenta Valley |
| 60 | **Treadway**, Julian | Fr. | OL | 6-0 | 290 | Monroe, La. | Ouachita Parish |
| 38 | **Tribble**, Devin | So. | DB | 5-10 | 190 | Heidelberg, Miss. | Heidelberg |
| 46 | **Washington**, Antoine | Sr. | DL | 6-4 | 240 | Hollandale, Miss. | Simmons |
| 41 | **Washington**, Simeon | So. | DB | 6-2 | 190 | New Orleans, La. | John McDonogh 35 |
| 3 | **Whidby**, Kaidon | R-So. | LB | 6-0 | 210 | McDonough, Ga. | Jasper County |
| 30 | **Whisenhunt**, Laquon | Fr. | LB | 5-11 | 225 | Jacksom, Ala. | Jackson |
| 13 | **Wilson**, Bryan | Jr. | QB | 5-11 | 200 | Corona, Calif. | Roosevelt |
| 42 | **Wilson**, Cameron | Fr. | DB | 6-1 | 160 | Mansfield, Texas | Lake Ridge |
| 25 | **Wilt**, Carson | Gr. | K | 5-11 | 180 | Lake Worth, Fla. | Atlantic |
| 10 | **Wright**, Armon | R-So. | WR | 5-8 | 180 | Charlotte, N.C. | Chambers |

## @AlcornStateFB

## ASU FOOTBALL STAFF

**Head Coach:** *Cedric Thomas*
**Assistant Coaches:**
*Aaron Anguiano, Offensive Coordinator/QBs*
*Ryan Busz, Running Backs*
*Derrion Covington, Defensive Line*
*Cadron Davis, Outside Linebackers*
*Tavarian McCullum, Nickels*
*Semaj Mitchell, Receivers*
*Deion Roberson, Defensive Coordinator/LBs*
*Ahmaad Smith, Defensive Backs/Pass Game Coord.*
*Duane Taylor, Tight Ends*
*Trumaine Watson, Offensive Line*

**Director of Football Operations:** *Ryan Busz*
**Director of Sports Performance:** *Stephen Houston*
**Director of Sports Medicine:** *Roderick Young*
**Equipment Manager:** *Kameron January*




## QUICK FACTS

**Location** *Lorman, Miss.* | **Enrollment** *2,900* | **Conference Affiliation** *SWAC* | **Final 2025 Record** *5-7 (4-4 in SWAC)* | **Home Field** *Jack Spinks-Marino Casem Stadium*
**Primary Offensive System** *Spread (Multiple)* | **Primary Defensive System** *4-3 (Multiple)* | **Starters Returning/Lost** *10/12* | **Freshmen** *22*, **Sophomores** *17*, **Juniors** *26*, **Seniors/Grads** *33*



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# ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY



Alcorn is the oldest public historically black land-grant institution in the United States and the second-oldest state-supported institution of higher learning in Mississippi. Alcorn University was founded in 1871 as a result of the people of Mississippi's efforts to educate the descendants of formerly enslaved Africans. It was named in honor of the sitting governor of Mississippi, James L. Alcorn.

Alcorn is situated in Claiborne County, seven miles west of Lorman, 80 miles southwest of the capital city of Jackson, 45 miles south of Vicksburg, and 40 miles north of Natchez. The site was originally occupied by Oakland College, a school established by Presbyterians in 1828; the state of Mississippi purchased the Oakland campus for $40,000 and named it Alcorn University.

Hiram R. Revels resigned his seat as a United States Senator to become the University's first president. The state legislature provided $50,000 cash annually for the university's first 10 years to support its establishment and overall operation. Additionally, 30 acres of land were sold for $188,928; Alcorn received three-fifths of the proceeds, or $113,400. This funding was used for Alcorn's agricultural and mechanical components.

Initially, the institution's three major study components were the four-year college track, the two-year college track, and the three-year graded track. Students spent the morning, from seven o'clock until noon, in classes. In the afternoon, they worked in various University shops for eight cents per hour. Room and board, including laundry, cost about $5 a month.

In 1878, Alcorn University became Alcorn Agricultural and Mechanical College. The college was exclusively for males at first, but eventually women were admitted. A dormitory for women was built in 1902. Over time, facilities increased from three historic buildings to more than 80 structures. The original purchase of 225 acres of land grew to a campus of more than 1,700 acres.

In 1974, Alcorn Agricultural and Mechanical College became Alcorn State University. Governor William L. Waller signed House Bill 298, granting this status. Alcorn has thrived by continuously accomplishing dynamic goals and objectives despite limited resource allocations from the state. By the early 1990s, Alcorn's physical plant and academic programs evolved into a more diversified University. The student population is now representative of more than 65 counties, more than 30 states, and at least 18 foreign countries. The University provides an undergraduate education that enables students to successfully pursue work in graduate and professional schools, engage in teaching, and enter other professions.

As Mississippi recognized the importance of educating all citizens, Alcorn has gained status and importance. From the original eight faculty members in 1871, the University has grown to more than 700 faculty and staff. The student body has increased from 179 students to more than 3,200 students with varied ethnic backgrounds. Although early graduates of Alcorn had limited horizons, today's graduates are successful in their chosen professions, and many are outstanding entrepreneurs. Throughout Alcorn's history, the leadership and faculty remained committed to enhancing the institution's image and to attracting young people whose interest is the pursuit and receipt of a quality education. Over the decades, "the college that excelled against great odds" has become one of the leading universities in the nation.

Alcorn State University operates divisions with degree programs in more than 40 areas, including bachelor's, master's, educational specialist degrees, and doctor of nursing practice.

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# MICKELL LOWERY

# ALCORN STATE ADMINISTRATION



## *Dr. Tracy M.* COOK

### President

Dr. Tracy M. Cook was appointed as the President of Alcorn State University, effective April 1, 2024. He had been serving as interim president since July 8, 2023.

He previously served as Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management at Alcorn State University.

His responsibilities included directing and supervising the units and directors within the Office of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, including Admissions and Recruiting, Career Services, and Residence Life. In this role, he developed vital collaborative relationships with campus administrative areas, faculty, and campus and community leaders to plan and implement strategic initiatives.

Cook has more than 25 years of administrative experience in education.

He returned to Alcorn in 2015 as Chief of Staff. In 2018, he was appointed interim Vice President for Student Affairs. After successfully serving in the interim role, he was promoted to Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management in 2019.

Before joining Alcorn, Cook served in various roles, including superintendent, assistant superintendent, principal, assistant principal, athletic director, and teacher in the Jefferson and Claiborne County School Districts.

He is a dedicated administrator with extensive experience in financial management, project management, negotiation, conflict resolution, data analysis, and professional development.

While employed at the Jefferson County School District, Cook successfully managed a budget of more than $50 million and secured an additional $2 million to support student outcomes.

Cook's attention to detail and general aptitude have allowed him to serve as a member of several professional organizations, namely, the Mississippi Association of School Superintendents Board of Directors, Mississippi Alliance of Black School Educators Board of Directors, Mississippi Association of School Administrators, Mississippi School Board Association – Board of Directors, and AP&C Trusts, a trustee/board member for Copiah-Lincoln Community College, and the Natchez-Adams School District as a board advisor.

In addition, he served on the Southern Regional Educational Service-Agency Consortium Board of Directors, Program of Research & Evaluation for Public Schools Advisory Committee, Parents' Campaign Better Schools-Brighter Future, Southwest Junior High Athletic Conference – Secretary; Mississippi High School Activities Association's Legislative and Executive Board of Directors, and the Copiah-Lincoln Community College Board of Trustees. Cook also co-founded the Southwest Mississippi Educator Conference.

He was recognized as one of Alcorn's 40 Under 40 honorees in 2012 and ranked among the University's Top 50 Greatest Football Athletes (2014). In 2015, Cook was inducted into the Alcorn Sports Hall of Fame.

A scholar-athlete, Cook received a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics, and master's degrees in agronomy and educational administration and supervision. He went on to earn his specialist and doctoral degrees from William Carey.

He is married to the former Dr. Crystal N. Smith, and they have two children, Kennedi and Casey.



## *E. D'Wayne* ROBINSON

### Athletic Director

On Sept. 15, 2024, E. D'Wayne Robinson was appointed as the Director of Athletics at Alcorn State University. In that time, he has managed a program with 15 varsity sports, and more than 350 student-athletes annually, as well as maintaining budget numbers and growing the department through a variety of areas.

With an extensive background in athletics administration and a commitment to fostering excellence, both on and off the field, Robinson holds a wealth of experience that has allowed him to further the brand of Alcorn and the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics overall.

When it comes to the vision for Alcorn Athletics, Robinson's emphasis focuses on student-athlete success, a world-class fan experience, and deeper engagement with alumni and the surrounding community. He is also striving to lead Braves Athletics to new levels of excellence both in competition and academics.

Robinson previously served as the Deputy Athletic Director (Compliance) before being appointed to Athletics Director. In his capacity as Deputy Associate Athletic Director (Compliance), Robinson played a key role in overseeing and enhancing the university's athletic programs. His responsibilities included oversight of NCAA Compliance, strategic planning, program development, and ensuring the continued success of Alcorn State University's student-athletes.

An alumnus of Alcorn, Robinson has a proven track record of success in compliance, fiscal management, and student-athlete development. Robinson steps into the role after serving as deputy associate athletic director at Alcorn.

Robinson brings more than 20 years of collegiate experience to Lorman, Miss., in a number of offices including athletic administration, having previously served in key roles at Alabama A&M University, Florida A&M University and Coppin State University. His leadership style, genuine commitment to student-athlete development, and ability to build successful student and donor relationships align seamlessly with the values of Alcorn.

During his time at Alabama A&M, Robinson also served as senior associate athletic director for compliance from 2019 to 2023. He began his athletics career at Alcorn in 1999 as a golf coach and assistant director of athletics for internal operations.

While at Florida A&M, where he was interim director of athletics in 2015, Robinson successfully reorganized the compliance structure, secured a $675,000 grant from the NCAA for academic support, and led the creation of the first-ever HBCU Legacy Weekend Celebration in partnership with the City of Boston and the Boston Red Sox.

Robinson holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from Tougaloo College, Master of Science in Education from Alcorn State, and has completed doctoral program work in higher education administration at Florida State University. He is an active member of the National Association of College Directors of Athletics, Minority in Opportunities in Athletic Administration (MOAA), and the National Association of Administrators for Compliance (NAAC). His experience and dedication to advancing the mission of Alcorn State University make him a valuable addition to the university's athletic leadership team.

# #ALWAYSALCORN



E. D'WAYNE ROBINSON
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR
ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY



CEDRIC THOMAS
HEAD COACH
ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY

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A SPECIAL WELCOME AS WELL TO THE MEMBERS OF OUR GREEK ORGANIZATIONS JOINING US THIS WEEKEND. YOUR PRESENCE ADDS SO MUCH TO THE ALCORN EXPERIENCE, AND WE'RE PROUD TO HAVE YOU REPRESENT OUR UNIVERSITY WITH SUCH SPIRIT.

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GO BRAVES!

# ALCORN STATE WEEK 3 PREVIEW




Senior quarterback Jaylon Tolbert passed for 265 yards and 5 TDs in the Braves' season-opening win over Miles College.

## 2026 Schedule

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **A.29** | **Miles College** | W | 56- 7 |
| S.5 | at Southern Miss | L | 3-49 |
| S.12 | Arkansas-Pine Bluff (in Memphis) | | 6:00 |
| S.19 | at North Alabama | | 6:00 |
| **S.26** | **Texas Southern** | | **3:00** |
| O.3 | at Grambling State | | 2:00 |
| **O.10** | **Arkansas Baptist** | | **2:00** |
| O.17 | at Prairie View A&M | | 2:00 |
| O.24 | <Bye> | | |
| O.31 | at Mississippi Valley State | | 2:00 |
| **N.7** | **Florida A&M** | | **2:00** |
| N.14 | at Southern Univ. | | 2:00 |
| **N.21** | **Jackson State** | | **2:00** |

All times Central



Omarion Blakes is the Braves' top returning pass catcher after hauling in 34 passes as a sophomore last year.

# QB centerpiece in place, Braves poised for steep rise

Alcorn State enters 2026 riding the momentum of one of the best closing stretches in the Southwestern Athletic Conference a year ago — and the early returns suggest the surge is continuing.

Head coach Cedric Thomas opens his third season in Lorman off a 56-7 rout of Miles College in the Week 1 opener, a game in which senior quarterback Jaylon Tolbert threw five touchdown passes — the most by a Braves' quarterback since Felix Harper in 2019 — completing 25 of 28 attempts for 265 yards.

The Braves immediately turned their attention to Southern Miss, the first meeting between the two programs since 2023. For Alcorn, it was the first time in program history they had not opened a season at "The Rock" when playing the Golden Eagles, an FBS school.

After jumping out to a 3-0 lead midway through the first quarter, Southern Miss dominated from there, powering their way on the ground for 317 rushing yards and seven touchdowns en route to a 49-3 victory.

Although he completed 15 of 22 pass attempts, Tolbert threw four interceptions in what should prove as a learning experience heading into conference play.

The turnaround has bevertheless been building since midseason 2025. Alcorn opened that campaign 0-5, including a lopsided 63-0 loss at Mississippi State, before catching fire down the stretch — winning five of its final seven games, four of them in a row, to finish 5-7 overall and 4-4 in SWAC play.

A tight 27-21 loss at rival Jackson State closed the book on 2025, but not before the Braves showed they could hang with anyone in the league, topping Southern, Texas Southern and Grambling in succession, respectfully.

The Braves hope that the growth that came after the MSU defeat in 2025 will repeat and expand after this difficult loss to USM in 2026.

If there's one certainty on **offense** entering 2026, it's under center. Jaylon Tolbert, a senior out of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., returns after throwing for 2,128 yards and 15 touchdowns in 2025 and picked up right where he left off, torching Miles College for five scores in the opener.

Tolbert's growth — his 129.6 efficiency rating a year ago ranked comfortably above the SWAC average — makes the Howard transfer the engine of everything Alcorn wants to do offensively.

What's changed is almost everyone around him. Alcorn's top two rushers from a season ago, Reggie Davis (839 yards, 10 TD) and Jacorian Sewell (766 yards, 6 TD), along with

leading receiver Jarvis Rush and big-play threat Tyran Warren, have moved on.

Sewell's total included a Southern Heritage Classic-record 225 rushing yards on 23 carries with a pair of touchdown runs.

The backfield now leans on Carl McDonald Jr., a Natchez product who paced the Braves' ground game in the opener, along with transfers Fredrick Robertson (Louisiana Tech) and Ernest Temple (Western Illinois), who found the end zone on a fourth-quarter touchdown catch against Miles.

At receiver, Alcorn blends returning production with an influx of transfer talent. Omarion Blakes and Elijah Griffin are back after combining for 590 yards a year ago, and both delivered touchdown grabs in the opener.

The headline newcomer is Kareem Burke, who transfers in after torching Alcorn for 102 receiving yards as an Arkansas-Pine Bluff Golden Lion in 2025 — he now catches passes for the Purple & Gold. Senior Jamarr Ebron announced himself immediately, hauling in two touchdown passes against Miles.

Up front, the offensive line is the roster's most experienced group. Seniors




**Left guard Cameran Rogers earned SWAC preseason all-conference first-team honors and drives the Braves' potent running game.**

Jordan Towns (320 lbs.) and Landen Sewell, along with transfer Jaden Bryant (Norfolk State, 344 lbs.), give Alcorn size and continuity. Junior guard Cameran Rogers enters the year on the Deacon Jones Award watch list after helping pave the way for a rushing attack that averaged 178.1 yards a game in 2025.

Tackle Abe Diallo returns to strong form and was named to the SWAC preseason all-conference second team.

Alcorn's **defense** loses its top three tacklers from 2025 — Stemarion Edwards (86 tackles), Cedric Roberts (72) and T.B. Hinton (58, plus a team-high 5 sacks) — but the cupboard is far from bare. The back end returns a deep, veteran group, and the front seven is anchored by a genuine breakout candidate.

Junior Eric Thomas Jr. enters the



**Defensive end Eric Thomas Jr. is a disruptor in a number of areas and has commanded nationwide attention as a Boxtorow preseason All-American.**

season a preseason all-star: he's on the Deacon Jones Player of the Year Watch List and earned a spot on the Boxtorow Preseason All-America Team after racking up 6½ tackles for loss and 4 sacks in 2025.

He set the tone again in the opener with a team-high 6 tackles against Miles. He's flanked up front by returning seniors Kenneth Andrews and Gideon Spottsville, plus Delta State transfer Antoine Washington, giving the Braves size and experience on the interior.

The secondary is where this defense should make its living. Senior corner Tayvion Haney landed on the Aeneas Williams Award Preseason Watch List — one of just 16 defensive backs nationally recognized among HBCU programs — after a 2025 season with 29 tackles and a team-high six pass breakups.

He's joined by fellow returning starters Ricardo Butler, Geoffrey McKelton, Patrick Kince Jr., Tyreke Snow, T.J. Jasper, Jaylen McRoy, Brent Barnes and Elijah Ruffin — nine defensive backs back with starting or significant 2025 experience, arguably the deepest, most battle-tested unit on the roster. Jasper set the tone in the opener with a team-best four solo stops.

Jasper, a senior, led all players in the Southern Miss game with 13 total tackles, while LB Dillon Crowell added 11 stops.

McKelton is the top returning tackler from 2025, when he made 46 total stops.

On **special teams**, punter Demetrion Duvall returns after leading Alcorn's punting unit in 2025 (49 punts, 42.7-yard average) and opens 2026 on the FCS Preseason Watch List. The kicking game gets a fresh look with the arrivals of Kenyon Bowyer (Concord) and Carson Wilt (Valparaiso); Bowyer went a perfect 8-for-8 on extra points in the opening win.

Long snapper Gregory Shaffer returns to anchor the operation. Alcorn also got a jolt from its return game against Miles — Jaylen McRoy housed a blocked field goal for a 77-yard touchdown, a special-teams score that swung early momentum squarely in the Braves' favor.

With the SWAC's most productive returning passer, a deep and decorated secondary, and a roster stitched together through the transfer portal, Alcorn State looks to turn last year's late-season surge into a full campaign of contention. The Braves' 1-0 start — and Jaylon Tolbert's five-touchdown salvo — is exactly the kind of statement this program was looking to make.



**Cornerback Tayvion Haney is the star of a deep and talented group of pass defenders aiming to deliver more in 2026.**

# ALCORN STATE HEAD COACH

# CEDRIC THOMAS





## *Braves' leader continuing to build a competitive core*

Cedric Thomas is in his third season as the head coach of the Alcorn State football program. He is the 22nd coach in the history of the program, succeeding Fred McNair, who was coach for eight seasons.

In his second year at the helm, Thomas helped the Braves win four of their final five games of the year, including back-to-back home victories from Southwestern Athletic Conference Western Division foes Southern and Grambling State, respectively.

The Purple & Gold finished the year 5-7 overall (4-4 SWAC) after dropping six of their first seven to begin the 2025 campaign. In all, the Braves scored 20 points or more in their final seven games of the season, while holding opponents to under 20 in four of the last five as well.

Linebacker Stemarion Edwards was named to the SWAC all-conference first team, while running back Reggie Davis, offensive lineman Cameran Rogers, defensive lineman Eric Thomas Jr. and punter Demetrion Duvall earned second-team honors.

Thomas led the football program to a 6-6 record in his first season with wins over Grambling State, Texas Southern and Prairie View A&M just to name a few. The 2024 team finished 2nd in the SWAC Western Division. The Braves finished with six student-athletes receiving All-SWAC postseason honors, including two first-team selections.

The first-teamers were tight end Tavarious Griffin and defensive lineman Malachi Bailey, while running back Jacorian Sewell, offensive lineman Ronald Brown, linebacker Edwards and defensive back Edwin Summerour were honored on the second team.

This is his third game coaching against his alma mater, and he is 1-1, having won 38-28 in 2024, then dropping a 24-20 decision last year in Memphis.

A seasoned leader, Thomas rejoined the Alcorn State football staff in March of 2022 as the defensive coordinator. The Cleveland, Miss., native took the reigns of the program after a prior stint as the defensive back coach from 2012-15 and the defensive coordinator in 2016 and 2017.

During his previous eight seasons with the Braves, Alcorn won four straight SWAC Eastern Division titles, including back-to-back SWAC titles in 2014 and 2015, and participated in the inaugural Celebration Bowl.

Before returning to Alcorn, Thomas spent the 2021 season as the head football coach of his junior-college alma mater, Mississippi Delta




## COACHING EXPERIENCE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2002 | **UT-MARTIN** | Running Backs |
| 2003-04 | **MISSISSIPPI DELTA C.C.** | Defensive Coordinator |
| 2005-06 | **ITAWAMBA C.C.** | Defensive Backs |
| 2007-11 | **MISSISSIPPI DELTA C.C.** | Defensive Coordinator |
| 2012-15 | **ALCORN STATE** | Defensive Backs |
| 2016-17 | **ALCORN STATE** | Defensive Coordinator |
| 2018-19 | **ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF** | Head Football Coach |

| Year | Overall | SWAC |
|---|---|---|
| 2018 | 2-9 | 1-6 |
| 2019 | 6-5 | 3-4 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2020 | **SOUTHERN MISS** | Defensive Backs |
| 2021 | **MISSISSIPPI DELTA C.C.** | Head Football Coach |

| Year | Overall | MACCC |
|---|---|---|
| 2021 | 5-4 | 3-3 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2022-23 | **ALCORN STATE** | Defensive Coordinator |
| 2024- | **ALCORN S** | Head Football Coach |

| Year | Overall | SWAC |
|---|---|---|
| 2024 | 6-6 | 5-3 |
| 2025 | 5-7 | 4-4 |
| 2026 | 1-1 | 0-0 |

Community College. He led the Trojans to a 5-4 season with three student athletes receiving Mississippi Association of Community Colleges Conference All-Conference awards.

Thomas spent the 2020 season as the defensive back coach at the University of Southern Mississippi after a two-year stint as the head coach at his alma mater, Arkansas-Pine Bluff.

During his two years in Pine Bluff, Thomas helped lead the Golden Lions to a four-win improvement, as UAPB tripled their win total from two wins to six wins from 2018 to 2019. He coached 14 All-SWAC honorees, including nine first-team selections.

During his final year in Pine Bluff, five players made the All-SWAC first team, including Taeylor Porter, who enjoyed his second straight 1,000-yard rushing season, offensive linemen Mark Evans and Atondre Smith, defensive lineman Jalen Stewart and return specialist Tyrin Ralph.

Thomas began his coaching career in 2002 as the running backs coach at the University of Tennessee-Martin before going to MDCC in 2003, where he also spent the 2004 season. After a two-year term at Itawamba Community College in 2005 and 2006, he returned to MDCC for the 2007-2011 seasons.

The former MDCC and UAPB standout earned an Associate of Arts degree from MDCC in 1998, a bachelor's degree in recreation in 2001 from UAPB, and a master's degree in administration from Alcorn State University in 2015.

The former East Side High School graduate is married to Kelunda, and the couple has one daughter, Loegan. Thomas also has a son, Cedric Jr.



**BORN** *Oct. 13, 1977 (age: 48)*
**HOMETOWN** *Cleveland, Miss.*
**H.S.** *East Side*
**COLLEGE** *Ark.-Pine Bluff*

@CedricThomasHC

# ALCORN STATE ASSISTANT COACHES


Anguiano


Busz


Covington


Davis


McCullum


Mitchell


Roberson


Smith


Taylor


Watson

**Aaron Anguiano** is in his first season as the offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach for Alcorn State Football.

Anguiano arrived on "The Reservation" in 2024 after serving as the offensive coordinator at Itawamba Community College in 2023, where his offense produced the NJCAA's second-leading rusher in Charleston French.

Prior to ICC, he played a key role in resurrecting the Bluefield State football program (NCAA Division II) after a forty-one-year absence in 2021. As offensive coordinator in 2022, he guided an offense that broke multiple school passing and receiving records.

From 2018–20, Anguiano worked in several capacities at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.

**Ryan Busz** enters his ninth season as running backs coach after being promoted to the role in April 2019. A dedicated member of the Braves staff, Busz has played a key role in the development and success of Alcorn's offensive unit.

Before his promotion, Busz served as Alcorn's equipment manager in 2018 and contributed as a graduate assistant coach in 2017, assisting with offensive preparation and player development.

The Indiana native's coaching career began prior to his time at Alcorn, including a season as a graduate assistant at Wayne State College in Nebraska. In 2015, he coached linebackers at Garden City Community College, gaining valuable experience on defense.

**Derrien Covington** enters his third season as the defensive line coach.

Covington joined the Braves after spending three seasons as the defensive line coach and strength and conditioning graduate assistant at Delta State, where he mentored all-conference defensive tackle Timaje Porter.

Prior to Delta State, Covington served as the defensive coordinator at his alma mater, Pearl River Central High School. The Picayune, Miss., native also gained coaching experience as the defensive line coach at McPherson College in Kansas.

A Garland, Texas native, **Cadron Davis** brings over a decade of coaching experience across multiple levels of college football, and currently serves as special teams coordinator and outside linebackers coach.

Davis spent three seasons at Sul Ross State University as assistant head coach, defensive coordinator and general manager, helping turn the Lobos' defense from last in the conference to a top-half unit in his first year alone.

Other coaching stops include Faulker, Southern Nazarene, Abilene Christian, Independence Community College, Valdosta State and Eastern Michigan.

**Tavarian McCullum** is in his second season as nickelback coach. A sharp defensive mind with a passion for player development, McCullum brings a detail-oriented approach and an intense energy to the secondary.

The Alcorn State alum spent time as a graduate assistant under former head coach, Fred McNair, where he was instrumental in defensive backfield preparation and scout-team coordination. His coaching journey also includes stops at the high-school level in Mississippi.

The Collins, Miss. native, a former defensive back himself, brings a unique perspective on the demands of the position and the mentality required to succeed.

**Semaj Mitchell** is the Braves' new wide receivers coach, bringing coaching experience from both the FBS and FCS ranks along with an active hand in the program's recruiting efforts.

Mitchell most recently served at Minot State as offensive graduate assistant and running backs coach, and began his coaching career as a graduate assistant at Lamar. Since arriving at Alcorn State, he has also played a key role on the recruiting trail, extending the program's first Division I offers to several prospects.

A product of Contra Costa College and West Texas A&M University, Mitchell brings a well-rounded background on the offensive side of the ball to the Braves' coaching staff.

**Deion Roberson** is in his second season serving as defensive coordinator. A proud Alcorn State alumnus, Roberson returned to Lorman in 2022 to coach the defensive line after a successful stint at Arkansas–Pine Bluff.

At UAPB, Roberson held several key positions over three seasons, including defensive line coach (2018), linebackers coach (2019), and defensive run-game coordinator (2020). Under his leadership, the Golden Lions' defense made notable strides—most notably in 2019 when they ranked third in the SWAC in rushing defense.

His career began at Alcorn in 2015 as a student assistant and later worked at Prairie View A&M. As an Alcorn player, he was a three-year letterman and two-time All-SWAC honoree.

**Ahmaad Smith** is in his first season as defensive backs/pass-game coordinator. Smith comes to 'The Reservation' from Rice, where he was hired in 2023 as the assistant defensive backs/safeties coach. Prior to Rice, Smith served two years as the defensive backs coach at Dartmouth.

Smith coached the defensive backs and served as pass-game coordinator at his alma mater, Tennessee State under head coach Rod Reed from 2018-21. His units finished top 10 in FCS in several defensive categories while producing multiple All-OVC and FCS All-Americans.

The former three-sport letterman in football, basketball and track also had coaching stops at Catawba College (D2) in North Carolina and Hampden-Sydney College (D3) in Virginia.

**Duane Taylor** joins the ASU staff as tight ends coach, bringing more than a decade of experience building high-powered offenses at both the Division I and Division II levels.

Taylor spent seven seasons as offensive coordinator at Alabama A&M, where he helped guide the Bulldogs to a SWAC East Division title and championship game appearance in 2020. During his tenure at Alabama A&M, he was also tabbed to serve as offensive coordinator for the XFL's Vegas Vipers.

He has also worked at his alma mater, Fayetteville State, and was assistant head coach at Hampton for two seasons.

**Trumaine Watson** enters his third season as the assistant head coach, run-game coordinator and offensive line coach. In his second season, Watson led an offensive front that was ranked 25th nationally in sacks allowed.

Watson also produced two All-SWAC players Cameran Rogers and Ronald Brown. In his first season with the Braves, Watson led a formidable offensive front that ranked 17th nationally in rushing among FCS programs.

Before arriving in Lorman, Watson served as the tight ends and offensive line coach at Norfolk State University. The Kannapolis, N.C., native has also coached at Virginia State, Virginia Union (his alma mater) after beginning his career at Highland Springs High in Virginia.

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# MEET THE ALCORN STATE BRAVES



**CALEB ANDERSON**
Sr., Tight End
Brandon, Miss.
Brandon H.S.
tr–Ohio
**6**



**JAKOBIE ANDERSON**
Soph., Cornerback
New Orleans, La.
McDonogh 35 H.S.
**4**



**KENNETH ANDREWS**
Sr., Defensive Lineman
Clinton, Miss.
Clinton H.S.
tr–Copiah-Lincoln C.C.
**98**



**MALACHI AUGUSTUS**
Fr., Wide Receiver
Houston, Texas
Nimitz H.S.
**2**



**BRENT BARNES**
Sr., Defensive Back
Birmingham, Ala.
McAdory H.S.
tr–Copiah-Lincoln C.C.
**7**



**JORDAN BERRY**
Jr., Cornerback
Natchez, Miss.
Adams Co. Christian
tr–East Miss. C.C.
**34**



**OMARION BLAKES**
Jr., Wide Receiver
Shaw, Miss.
McEvans H.S.
**0**



**MONTAINE BONNER**
Jr., Defensive Lineman
Oxford, Miss.
Oxford H.S.
tr–Holmes C.C.
**90**



**KENYON BOWYER**
Grad., Kicker/Punter
Sacramento, Calif.
Destiny Christ. H.S.
tr–Concord Univ.
**37**



**KAMERON BROWN**
Soph., Defensive Back
Prentiss, Miss.
Jefferson Davis H.S.
**26**



**JADEN BRYANT**
Sr., Offensive Lineman
Norfolk, Va.
Norview H.S.
tr–Norfolk State
**62**



**KAREEM BURKE**
Sr., Wide Receiver
Jacksonville, Fla.
Raines H.S.
tr–Ark.-Pine Bluff
**1**



**NOEL BUTLER**
Fr., Wide Receiver
Stuttgart, Germany
Lake Ridge H.S. (Tx.)
**80**



**RICARDO BUTLER**
Sr., Cornerback
Alligator, Miss.
Northside H.S.
**21**



**LANDON CARSON**
Jr., Def. Lineman
Frisco, Texas
Frisco H.S.
tr–Holmes C.C.
**40**



**NOLAN CHAMBERS**
Jr., Wide Receiver
Jacksonville, Fla.
Orange Park H.S.
tr–Butler C.C.
**17**



**DERRICK COOPER**
Soph., Off. Lineman
Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.
Rancho Cucamonga H.S.
**79**



**DILLON CROWELL**
Sr., Linebacker
Hattiesburg, Miss.
Hattiesburg H.S.
**45**



**JORDAN DANIEL**
Jr., Linebacker
San Antonio, Texas
Sotomayor H.S.
tr–Mary Hardin-Baylor
**13**



**JAYDEN DAVIS**
Jr., Linebacker
Alabaster, Ala.
Thompson H.S.
tr–SE Missouri State
**8**



**TONY DELOACH**
Sr., Defensive Lineman
Macon, Miss.
Noxubee County H.S.
tr–East Central C.C.
**95**

ABE
## DIALLO
Jr., Off. Lineman
Seffner, Fla.
Armwood H.S.



70

MAHAMADOU
## DIARRA
Sr., Linebacker
Memphis, Tenn.
Whitehaven H.S.



33

DEMETRION
## DUVALL
Jr., Kicker/Punter
Akron, Ohio
Buchtel H.S.



12

JAMARR
## EBRON
Sr., Wide Receiver
Waldorf, Md.
Archbishop Carroll H.S.
tr–Univ. of Charleston



81

KRISTON
## EDWARDS
Soph., Off. Lineman
Jackson, Miss.
Lanier H.S.



66

MYLES
## FRANKLIN
Soph., Wide Receiver
Grand Prairie, Texas
S. Grand Prairie H.S.



83

JOSHUA
## GOOD
Jr., Wide Receiver
Ridgeland, Miss.
Ridgeland H.S.



85

ELIJAH
## GRIFFIN
Sr., Wide Receiver
St. Louis, Mo.
Chaminade Coll. Prep
tr–Garden City C.C.



14

TAYVION
## HANEY
Sr., Cornerback
Little Rock, Ark.
Parkview H.S.



2

WILLIAM
## HARRY III
Jr., Def. Lineman
Poplarville, Miss.
Poplarville H.S.
tr–Hinds C.C.



97

LADARIEN
## HAYNES
Jr., Linebacker
Columbia, Miss.
East Marion H.S.
tr–SW Miss. C.C.



35

JONAVEN
## HILL
Sr., Linebacker
Richmond, Calif.
Novato H.S.
tr–Laney College



48

JAKEL
## HOUSTON-IRVING
Soph., Linebacker
Natchez, Miss.
Natchez H.S.



31

T.J.
## JASPER
Sr., Defensive Back
Little Rock, Ark.
Sylvan Hills H.S.
tr–Ark.-Monticello



1

DAMIEN
## JONES
Sr., Wide Receiver
Del Valle, Texas
Del Valle H.S.



8

DAMON
## JOSEPH
Sr., Wide Receiver
Del Valle, Texas
Del Valle H.S.



8

JAMAR
## KAHO Jr.
Sr., Wide Receiver
Natchez, Miss.
Adams Co. Chr. H.S.
tr–Jones C.C.



3

XAVIER
## KATELY
Grad., Defensive Back
St. Martinville, La.
St. Martinville H.S.
tr–Texas Southern



23

TYREE
## KELLY
Sr., Wide Receiver
Cairo, Ga.
Cairo H.S.
tr–Massachusetts



5

KYSHAWN
## KIMBLE
Jr., Defensive Lineman
Olive Branch, Miss.
Center Hill H.S.
tr–NE Miss. C.C.



10

PATRICK
## KINCE Jr.
Sr., Cornerback
Shaw, Miss.
T.E. Edwards H.S.
tr–Coahoma C.C.



6

# MEET THE ALCORN STATE BRAVES CONT.



**JORDAN LOUIE**
Soph., Running Back
Tuscaloosa, Ala.
Meadowcreek H.S.
tr–Coffeyville C.C.
4



**ERNEST LYONS**
Soph., Cornerback
New Orleans, La.
John F. Kennedy H.S.
29



**TRE'VON MARTIN**
Jr., Wide Receiver
Austin, Texas
Del Valle H.S.
tr–West Hills C.C.
82



**ATAMAI MATAU**
Soph., Off. Lineman
Milpitas, Calif.
St. Francis H.S.
tr–Foothill College
75



**ELIJAH MATTHEWS**
Jr., Cornerback
Williamsburg, Va.
Lafayette H.S.
tr–Virginia-Wise
17



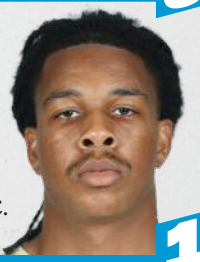
**JAYDEN McCARROLL**
Fr., Offensive Lineman
Mobile, Ala.
Theodore H.S.
55



**CARL McDONALD Jr.**
Soph., Running Back
Natchez, Miss.
Natchez H.S.
22



**LAURIA McDUFFEY**
Soph., Running Back
New Hebron, Miss.
Lawrence County H.S.
27



**KENYEN McKANSTRY**
Jr., Linebacker
Tuscaloosa, Ala.
Paul W. Bryant H.S.
tr–Independence C.C.
11



**GEOFFREY McKELTON**
Sr., Defensive Back
Pahokee, Fla.
Palmetto Prep H.S.
5



**JAYLEN McROY**
Sr., Defensive Back
Shaw, Miss.
Cleveland Central H.S.
tr–Hinds C.C.
14



**JERMAINE McROY**
Jr., Defensive Back
Shaw, Miss.
Cleveland Central H.S.
tr–Miss. Delta C.C.
28



**ANTHONY MORGAN**
Fr., Running Back
Ashland, Miss.
Faulkner H.S.
29



**JADEN NGUYEN**
Sr., Offensive Lineman
Austin, Texas
Lake Travis H.S.
tr–Cisco C.C.
58



**DESHAWN PALMER**
Sr., Defensive Lineman
Cleveland, Miss.
Cleveland Central H.S.
tr–Copiah-Lincoln C.C.
88



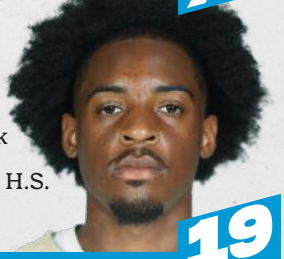
**JACKSON PICKETT**
Jr., Offensive Lineman
Decatur, Ga.
Tucker H.S.
74



**MARVIN PRICE**
Soph., Off. Lineman
Gross Tete, La.
North Iberville H.S.
68



**AYINDAE PUGH**
Fr., Linebacker
Mobile, Ala.
Saraland H.S.
22



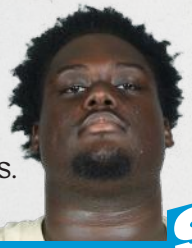
**ACHILLES RINGO**
Soph., Quarterback
Pine Bluff, Ark.
Mills Univ. Studies H.S.
19



**FREDRICK ROBERTSON**
Jr., Running Back
New Orleans, La.
Warren Easton H.S.
tr–Louisiana Tech
7



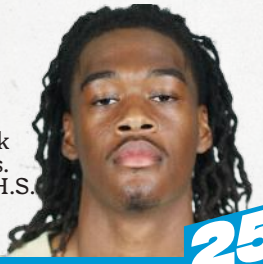
**EMANUEL ROBINSON**
Jr., Def. Lineman
Newton, Miss.
Newton H.S.
tr–East Central C.C.
16



## TEDDY ROBY
Jr., Def. Lineman
New Hope, Miss.
Noxubee County H.S.
tr–Hinds C.C.
**99**



## CAMERAN ROGERS
Jr., Off. Lineman
Theodore, Ala.
Theodore H.S.
**67**



## ELIJAH RUFFIN
Sr., Defensive Back
Philadelphia, Miss.
Neshoba Central H.S.
tr–NW Miss. C.C.
**25**



## TERRY RUTLEDGE
Fr., Def. Lineman
Hazel Green, Ala.
Hazel Green H.S.
**94**



## CHEIKH SALL
Fr., Offensive Lineman
Houston, Texas
Summer Creek H.S.
**87**



## LANDEN SEWELL
Sr., Off. Lineman
Natchez, Miss.
Natchez H.S.
tr–Pearl River C.C.
**51**



## GREGORY SHAFFER
Jr., Long Snapper
Bentonia, Miss.
Yazoo City H.S.
**93**



## TYREKE SNOW
Sr., Defensive Back
Newton, Miss.
Newton H.S.
tr–Jones C.C.
**20**



## DERALD SPEARS Jr.
Fr., Defensive Back
Baton Rouge, La.
Catholic H.S.
**19**



## JAEDEN SPELMON
Fr., Defensive Back
Houston, Texas
Paetow H.S.
**27**



## GIDEON SPOTTSVILLE
Sr., Defensive Lineman
Baton Rouge, La.
Southern Lab H.S.
**0**



## JOSHUA TATE
Fr., Running Back
Detroit, Mich.
West Bloomfield H.S.
**23**



## SHAR'DEZ TAYLOR
Jr., Offensive Lineman
Vicksburg, Miss.
Vicksburg H.S.
tr–East Miss. C.C.
**73**



## ERNEST TEMPLE
Sr., Running Back
Chicago, Ill.
Thornton Frac. So. H.S.
tr–Western Illinois
**20**



## ERIC THOMAS Jr.
Jr., Defensive Lineman
Columbus, Miss.
Starkville, H.S.
**15**



## JAYLON TOLBERT
Sr., Quarterback
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
Chaminade Madonna H.S.
tr–Howard
**11**



## JORDAN TOWNS
Sr., Offensive Lineman
Glendale, Calif.
Crescenta Valley H.S.
tr-L.A. Valley College
**52**



## DEVIN TRIBBLE
Soph., Defensive Back
Heidelberg, Miss.
Heidelberg H.S.
**38**



## ANTOINE WASHINGTON
Sr., Defensive Lineman
Hollandale, Miss.
Simmons H.S.
tr-Delta State
**46**



## SIMEON WASHINGTON
Soph., Defensive Back
New Orleans, La.
McDonogh 35 H.S.
**41**



## KAIDON WHIDBY
Soph., Linebacker
McDonough, Ga.
Jasper County H.S.
tr–Liberty
**3**

# SOUNDS OF DYN-O-MITE





**Dr. EVERSON MARTIN**
*Director of Bands*




Alcorn State University's Sounds of Dyn-O-Mite Marching Band traces its proud legacy back to 1885, originally known as the "Showband from Southland." Today, the band stands as a dynamic force in collegiate music, boasting over 200 talented members and a reputation for excellence nationwide.



The Sounds of Dyn-O-Mite has electrified audiences in iconic venues across the country, including Soldier Field (Chicago), the Astrodome (Houston), the Los Angeles Coliseum, Texas Stadium (Dallas), and the Orange Bowl (Miami). Notably, in 1975, it became the first college band to perform in the Superdome in New Orleans.

And last November, the band performed at the 2025 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, performing the intro "Let's Have a Parade," the iconic phrase that has signaled the start of every Macy's parade since 1924.

"Macy's is thrilled to invite the Sounds of Dyn-O-Mite to join us for the 2025 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade," said Sara Flores, the parade's associate producer. "The band's dynamic sounds and performance truly wowed during the selection process, and I'm thrilled to invite students from this talented band to perform on a national stage in November 2025."

"It's a major opportunity for Alcorn State University, the community, and the State of Mississippi," said Dr. Everson Martin, band director, upon learning of the group's achievement in being selected. "This is the first time our band program will be represented on a stage such as the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, and I cannot wait for Thanksgiving Day 2025."

As part of the announcement, the Macy's team presented Alcorn's band program with a $10,000 fundraising kickoff.

Beyond its spirited performances at Alcorn State University football games, the band has showcased its talent at prestigious events such as the Honda Battle of the Bands in Atlanta, the Reese's Senior Bowl, and halftime shows for the New Orleans Saints and Pelicans. It has also been featured at Disney's HBCU Celebration in Orlando and is a highly anticipated participant in New Orleans' annual Mardi Gras festivities.

With a legacy built on musical excellence, showmanship, and cultural pride, the Sounds of Dyn-O-Mite continues to inspire and entertain, carrying forward a tradition that blends history with innovation.

Adding energy to the music are the World Renowned Golden Girls (or GG's), a dance line founded in 1968 as the first all-female dance team to accompany a school's marching band during their halftime performances.

The band is under the direction of Dr. Everson Martin, who has been associated with the band since 2012. He is assisted by Brian Sterling and Byron Chatman. Dr. Kecia Ashley is the auxiliaries coordinator, and Michael Harper is the drum major coordinator.




# 10TH | OCTOBER

## TOM LEE PARK

## 5-9PM

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# CLASSIC PARADE

Classic GameDay gets off to a roaring start, and the Memphis neighborhood of Orange Mound takes center stage with the Classic Parade. More than 10,000 people line Park Avenue between Haynes Street and Airways Boulevard to see a spectacle consisting of floats, rides, clowns, and area high-school bands. Civic groups also participate and display their community pride. To top it all off, Arkansas-Pine Bluff's Marching Musical Machine of the Mid-South and Alcorn State's Sounds of Dyn-O-Mite perform to elevate this into a Must See Event for the whole family.















# CLASSIC TAILGATE

Preparing for the Big Game isn't complete without a visit to the Classic Tailgate, where Classic patrons pull out all the stops celebrating the convergence of friends, food and football. The party starts early on GameDay and lasts well into the night, as the Tailgate fills up Tiger Lane, Liberty Park and nearby Tobey Park. Sponsors engage with the fans using interactive displays and give-aways. The Classic Tailgate is definitely a sensory explosion of sights, sounds and the irresistable smells of cookouts.















# CLASSIC SCORES

The Southern Heritage Classic began in 1990 to enhance the regional rivalry between HBCU powers Tennessee State and Jackson State. The games have generally taken place in early September — the notable exception being the postponement of the 2001 game (originally scheduled for Sept. 15) until Thanksgiving Day due to the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. Since 2007, the second Saturday in September has been reserved. In all, 34 games have taken place, and 1,533,071 fans have passed through the turnstiles for an average of 45,090.



Freshman Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie returned an interception for a touchdown in the 4th quarter of the 2004 Classic that tied the game at 7-7 in an eventual 21-20 TSU victory. The defensive back played in 4 Classics between 2004–07, and Tennessee State went 4–0, winning by a combined margin of 11 points.

**1990** Sept. 8

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jackson State | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | – | 14 |
| Tennessee State | 3 | 0 | 20 | 0 | – | 23 |

*Attendance: 39,579*

**1991** Aug. 31

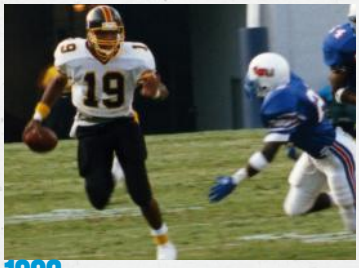
| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Miss. Valley State | 0 | 7 | 0 | 3 | – | 10 |
| Tennessee State | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | – | 7 |

*Attendance: 25,891*

**1992** Sept. 12

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jackson State | 0 | 21 | 7 | 10 | – | 38 |
| Tennessee State | 0 | 0 | 6 | 12 | – | 18 |

*Attendance: 37,437*



**1993** Sept. 18

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Grambling State | 6 | 13 | 7 | 7 | – | 33 |
| Tennessee State | 7 | 0 | 6 | 15 | – | 28 |

*Attendance: 41,669*

**1994** Sept. 10

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jackson State | 7 | 7 | 3 | 14 | – | 31 |
| Tennessee State | 6 | 0 | 6 | 0 | – | 12 |

*Attendance: 50,047*

**1995** Sept. 9

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tennessee State | 0 | 6 | 0 | 13 | – | 19 |
| Jackson State | 6 | 12 | 6 | 0 | – | 24 |

*Attendance: 48,593*

**1996** Sept. 14

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jackson State | 6 | 8 | 7 | 0 | – | 21 |
| Tennessee State | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 | – | 14 |

*Attendance: 55,212*

**1997** Sept. 13

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tennessee State | 3 | 17 | 0 | 8 | – | 28 |
| Jackson State | 7 | 10 | 0 | 14 | – | 31 |

*Attendance: 61,171*

**1998** Sept. 12

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jackson State | 0 | 13 | 8 | 0 | – | 21 |
| Tennessee State | 6 | 21 | 6 | 0 | – | 33 |

*Attendance: 55,545*

**1999** Sept. 11

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tennessee State | 14 | 10 | 14 | 10 | – | 48 |
| Jackson State | 7 | 6 | 0 | 20 | – | 33 |

*Attendance: 50,723*

**2000** Sept. 16

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jackson State | 14 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 42 | 2OT |
| Tennessee State | 0 | 6 | 21 | 6 | 6 | 39 | |

*Attendance: 62,118*

**2001** Nov. 22

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tennessee State | 21 | 24 | 9 | 10 | – | 64 |
| Jackson State | 0 | 14 | 13 | 6 | – | 33 |

*Attendance: 28,690*

**2002** Sept. 14

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jackson State | 14 | 7 | 7 | 3 | – | 31 |
| Tennessee State | 3 | 14 | 3 | 8 | – | 28 |

*Attendance: 42,914*

**2003** Sept. 13

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tennessee State | 7 | 9 | 14 | 14 | – | 44 |
| Jackson State | 0 | 6 | 0 | 8 | – | 14 |

*Attendance: 62,603*

**2004** Sept. 18

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jackson State | 0 | 0 | 7 | 13 | – | 20 |
| Tennessee State | 0 | 0 | 0 | 21 | – | 21 |

*Attendance: 55,015*

**2005** Sept. 10

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tennessee State | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 20 | OT |
| Jackson State | 0 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 14 | |

*Attendance: 48,300*

**2006** Sept. 16

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jackson State | 9 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 7 | 30 | OT |
| Tennessee State | 0 | 13 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 31 | |

*Attendance: 58,441*



**2007** Sept. 8

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tennessee State | 6 | 0 | 0 | 10 | – | 16 |
| Jackson State | 7 | 3 | 3 | 0 | – | 13 |

*Attendance: 50,879*

**2008** Sept. 13

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jackson State | 10 | 0 | 0 | 8 | – | 18 |
| Tennessee State | 0 | 28 | 10 | 3 | – | 41 |

*Attendance: 50,794*

**2009** Sept. 12

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tennessee State | 2 | 6 | 0 | 6 | – | 14 |
| Jackson State | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | – | 7 |

*Attendance: 49,306*

**2010** Sept. 11

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jackson State | 0 | 14 | 7 | 12 | – | 33 |
| Tennessee State | 7 | 0 | 12 | 7 | – | 26 |

*Attendance: 44,688*



**2011** Sept. 10

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tennessee State | 14 | 10 | 2 | 3 | – | 29 |
| Jackson State | 14 | 7 | 7 | 7 | – | 35 |

*Attendance: 43,532*

**2012** Sept. 8

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jackson State | 3 | 3 | 6 | 0 | – | 12 |
| Tennessee State | 0 | 21 | 10 | 7 | – | 38 |

*Attendance: 42,257*

**2013** Sept. 14

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tennessee State | 3 | 6 | 7 | 10 | – | 26 |
| Jackson State | 7 | 0 | 3 | 6 | – | 16 |

*Attendance: 42,400*

**2014** Sept. 13

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jackson State | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | – | 7 |
| Tennessee State | 21 | 14 | 0 | 0 | – | 35 |

*Attendance: 46,914*

**2015** Sept. 12

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tennessee State | 14 | 7 | 14 | 0 | – | 35 |
| Jackson State | 9 | 0 | 9 | 7 | – | 25 |

*Attendance: 48,335*

**2016** Sept. 10

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jackson State | 13 | 10 | 3 | 0 | – | 26 |
| Tennessee State | 13 | 6 | 14 | 7 | – | 40 |

*Attendance: 46,263*

**2017** Sept. 9

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tennessee State | 10 | 0 | 0 | 7 | – | 17 |
| Jackson State | 3 | 6 | 0 | 6 | – | 15 |

*Attendance: 47,407*

**2019** Sept. 14

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tennessee State | 7 | 7 | 9 | 21 | – | 44 |
| Jackson State | 21 | 7 | 14 | 7 | – | 49 |

*Attendance: 48,847*



**2021** Sept. 11

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tennessee State | 0 | 7 | 0 | 9 | – | 16 |
| Jackson State | 7 | 3 | 14 | 14 | – | 38 |

*Attendance: 46,171*

**2022** Sept. 10

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jackson State | 0 | 6 | 3 | 7 | – | 16 |
| Tennessee State | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | – | 3 |

*Attendance: 51,351*

**2023** Sept. 9

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arkansas-Pine Bluff | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 | – | 14 |
| Tennessee State | 7 | 7 | 3 | 7 | – | 24 |

*Attendance: 32,518*

**2024** Sept. 14

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arkansas Pine-Bluff | 7 | 7 | 14 | 0 | – | 28 |
| Tennessee State | 10 | 21 | 7 | 3 | – | 41 |

*Attendance: 27,584*

**2025** Sept. 27

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alcorn State | 6 | 7 | 7 | 0 | – | 20 |
| Arkansas-Pine Bluff | 3 | 14 | 0 | 7 | – | 24 |

*Attendance: 21,442*

*2001 game originally scheduled for Sept. 15, moved to November due to the events of 9/11 // 2018 game was canceled due to prolonged lightning and severe weather on GameDay // 2020 game was canceled due to COVID-19 protocols*

# CLASSIC RECORDS

## RUSHING

**Most attempts –**
33 Maurice Hampton, JSU in 1995
33 Preston Brown, TSU in 2010
32 Destry Wright, JSU in 1998
27 Eric Gant, GSU in 1993
27 Charles Anthony, TSU in 2004

**Most rushing yards –**
225 Jacorian Sewell, Alcorn in 2025
218 Preston Brown, TSU in 2010
175 Nathan McLaurin, JSU in 2000
171 Charles Anthony, TSU in 2004
167 Johness Davis, UAPB in 2023

**Most yards per carry** (min. 10 carries) **–**
10.9 Nathan McLaurin, JSU in 2000 (16-175)
9.9 Telvin Hooks, TSU in 2012 (10-99)
9.8 Jacorian Sewell, Alcorn in 2025 (23-225)
9.2 Calvin Davenport, TSU in 1998 (13-120)
8.9 Tarnak Counslor, JSU in 2002 (14-125)

**Most touchdowns –**
3 Darrell Asberry, JSU in 1994
3 Javarris Williams, TSU in 2006
3 Trabis Ward, TSU in 2012

**Longest rush –**
68 Nathan McLaurin, JSU in 2000
54 Calvin McNairl, TSU in 2009 (no TD)
52 Tyson Alexander, JSU in 2019
51 Telvin Hooks, TSU in 2012 (no TD)




## PASSING

**Most attempts –**
53 Robert Kent, JSU in 2001
49 James Wade, TSU in 1992
48 Robert Kent, JSU in 2003
46 Shannon Harris, TSU in 2001
41 Grailyn Pratt, JSU in 1996

**Most completions –**
30 Shedeur Sanders, JSU in 2021
29 Robert Kent, JSU in 2001
29 Robert Kent, JSU in 2003
27 Casey Therriault, JSU in 2011
24 2 times, last by LaMontiez Ivy, JSU in 2015

**Most passing yards –**
399 James Wade, TSU in 1992 (23-49-399-0-4)
384 Cameron Rosendahl, TSU in 2019 (22-32-384-3-0)
362 Shedeur Sanders, JSU in 2021 (30-40-362-3-0)
360 Shannon Harris, TSU in 2001 (23-46-360-7-1)
338 Robert Kent, JSU in 2001 (29-53-338-3-3)
337 Casey Therriault, JSU in 2011 (27-39-337-3-1)
327 Robert Kent, JSU in 2003 (29-48-327-2-0)

**Most touchdowns –**
7 Shannon Harris, TSU in 2001
4 Kenton Evans, TSU in 2000
4 Casey Therriault, JSU in 2010

**Most interceptions –**
5 Kenton Evans, TSU in 2000
4 James Wade, TSU in 1992
4 Clayton Moore, JSU in 2013
3 Daryl Williams, TSU in 1995
3 Robert Kent, JSU in 2001

**Highest completion pct.** (min. 20 att.) **–**
79.2 Jalen Macon, UAPB in 2023 (19-24)
75.0 Shedeur Sanders, JSU in 2021 (30-40)
72.0 Leon Murray, TSU in 1999 (18-25)
69.6 Grailyn Pratt, JSU in 1995 (16-23)
69.2 Casey Therriault, JSU in 2011 (27-39)

**Most yards per attempt** (min. 20 att.) **–**
12.5 Ricky Jordan, JSU in 1992 (21-262)
12.0 Cameron Rosendahl, TSU in 2019 (32-384)
11.7 Leon Murray, TSU in 1999 (25-292)
10.1 Christian Peters, UAPB in 2025 (32-323)



Jackson State's Cletis Gordon returns a punt 73 yards for a touchdown in the 2004 Classic. He also returned a kickoff for a score in the same game.

**Most yards per completion** (min. 20 att.) **–**
23.8 Ricky Jordan, JSU in 1992 (11-262)
18.4 Mekhi Hagens, UAPB in 2024 (15-276)
17.5 Cameron Rosendahl, TSU in 2019 (22-384)
17.3 James Wade, TSU in 1992 (23-399)
16.7 O'Shay Ackerman-Carter, TSU in 2015 (15-250)




## TOTAL OFFENSE

**Most plays –**
69 Robert Kent, JSU in 2001 (16 rush, 53 pass)
63 James Wade, TSU in 1992 (14 rush, 49 pass)
58 Brent Lyles, JSU in 2017 (13 rush, 45 pass)
56 LaMontiez Ivy, JSU in 2015 (16 rush, 40 pass)
54 Casey Therriault, JSU in 2011 (15 rush, 39 pass)

**Most total offense yards –**
399 James Wade, TSU in 1992 (0 rush, 399 pass)
372 Robert Kent, JSU in 2001 (34 rush, 338 pass)
369 Cameron Rosendahl, TSU in 2019 (15 rush, 384 pass)
355 Robert Kent, JSU in 2003 (28 rush, 327 pass)

## RECEIVING

**Most receptions –**
11 Patrick Robinson, TSU in 1992
11 T.C. Taylor, JSU in 2001
10 Dan Williams, JSU in 2015
10 Steven Newbold, TSU in 2019
9 Tim Manning, JSU in 2003

**Most receiving yards –**
196 Steven Newbold, TSU in 2019
182 Patrick Robinson, TSU in 1992
173 Dan Williams, JSU in 2015
149 JaVonnie Gibson, UAPB in 2024
139 Chris Rowland, TSU in 2019
123 Greg Spann, JSU in 1994

**Most touchdowns –**
2 Charles Jones, GSU in 1993
2 Greg Spann, JSU in 1995
2 Quincy Culberson, JSU in 1996
2 Corey Bradford, JSU in 1997
2 Julius Hull, TSU in 2000
2 Marvin Jones, TSU in 2001
2 T.C. Taylor, JSU in 2001
2 Carlos Wright, TSU in 2001
2 Steven Newbold, TSU in 2019

**Most yards per reception** (min. 5 rec.) **–**
29.8 JaVonnie Gibson, UAPB in 2024 (5-149)
22.8 Marcellos Wilder, JSU in 2011 (5-114)
21.0 Jimmy Smith, JSU in 1990 (5-105)
21.0 La Shan Ausmer, JSU in 1994 (5-105)
20.5 Greg Spann, JSU in 1994 (6-123)

**Longest reception –**
75 Antonius Kimbrough, JSU in 1992
67 Keith Corbin, JSU in 2021
64 Patrick Smith, TSU in 2015
64 Chris Sanders-McCollum, TSU in 2015
63 Isiah Bliss, JSU in 1992

## SCORING

**Most points –**
18 Darrell Asberry, JSU in 1994 (3 rush)
18 Marvin Jones, TSU in 2001 (1 rush, 2 pass)
18 Javarris Williams, TSU in 2006 (3 rush)
18 Trabis Ward, TSU in 2012 (3 rush)

**Most points kicking –**
16 Joey Hudak, TSU in 2001
14 Jamin Godfrey, TSU in 2013
12 Seth Goodowens, TSU in 1999

**Most field goals –**
4 Jamin Godfrey, TSU in 2013
3 Joey Hudak, TSU in 2001
3 Alejandro Mata, JSU in 2022

**Longest field goal –**
50 Seth Goodowens, TSU in 1999
50 Eric Perri, JSU in 2007
49 Christian Jacquemin, JSU in 2017
49 Antonio Zita, TSU in 2019

**Most point-after-touchdowns –**
7 Joey Hudak, TSU in 2001
7 Adrian Salazar, JSU in 2019

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Longest punt –**
66 Darby Williamson, JSU in 2014
64 Dominic Addison, JSU in 2002
61 Brett Bennett, JSU in 2007
61 Brett Bennett, JSU in 2009
60 2 times, last by Dominic Addison, JSU in 2005

**Longest punt return –**
81 Warren Newman, JSU in 2021
73 Cletis Gordon, JSU in 2004
72 Ernest Pate, JSU in 1992 (no TD)
67 Jarrett Morrow, TSU in 2003
63 Julius Hull, TSU in 2000 (no TD)

**Punt returns for touchdown –**
20 Ahmed Safeullah, TSU in 2003 (blocked)
67 Jarrett Morrow, TSU in 2003
73 Cletis Gordon, JSU in 2004
40 Josh Miller, JSU in 2016 (blocked)
0 Ben Thomas, JSU in 2016 (blocked)
56 Patrick Smith, TSU in 2017
81 Warren Newman, JSU in 2021

**Longest kickoff return –**
100 Avion Black, TSU in 1999
100 Josh Littles, JSU in 2019
96 Chris Rowland, TSU in 2019
91 Patrick Robinson, TSU in 1992 (no TD)
89 Cletis Gordon, JSU in 2004

**Kickoff returns for touchdown –**
100 Avion Black, TSU in 1999
89 Cletis Gordon, JSU in 2004
89 Terrell Kennedy, JSU in 2017
100 Josh Littles, JSU in 2019
96 Chris Rowland, TSU in 2019

**Most tackles –**
15 Ariane McCree, JSU in 2013
14 Nate Wellington, TSU in 1993
14 Charlie Crawford, JSU in 1997
13 6 times, last by Joseph Scott, JSU in 2004

**Most sacks –**
4½ James Houston, JSU in 2021
3 Ebenezer Ogundeko, TSU in 2016
3 Keandre Booker, TSU in 2024

**Most interceptions –**
3 Picasso Nelson, JSU in 1995
2 5 times, last by De'Ante Saunders, TSU in 2014

**Interceptions returned for touchdown –**
75 Lamar Carter, TSU in 1998
35 Dom. Rodgers-Cromartie, TSU in 2004
39 Ty'Ron Johnson, TSU in 2008
43 Eugene Clifford, TSU in 2008
78 Ryan Griffin, JSU in 2013
50 Daniel Fitzpatrick, TSU in 2013
45 De'Ante Saunders, TSU in 2014
25 Ezra Robinson, TSU in 2016

**Longest interception return –**
78 Ryan Griffin, JSU in 2013
75 Lamar Carter, TSU in 1998
71 De'Ante Saunders, TSU in 2013 (no TD)

# FROM THE SOUTHERN HERITAGE CLASSIC Presented by FedEx TO THE NFL

Since the first Southern Heritage Classic was staged in 1990, 55 players have gone on to play in the National Football League. Perhaps the two most prominent of those athletes are wide receiver Jimmy Smith, who collected 862 career receptions in 12 seasons, and Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie, who went from the TSU campus to the Super Bowl in the span of about nine months.

**Brent Alexander** (DB), TSU – Arizona, Carolina, Pittsburgh, NY Giants (1994-2005)
**Ashley Ambrose** (CB), MVSU – Indianapolis, Cincinnati, New Orleans, Atlanta (1992-2004)
**Bennie Anderson** (OL), TSU – Baltimore, Buffalo, Miami (2001-06)
**Rashard Anderson** (DB), JSU – Carolina (2000-01)
**Eric Austin** (DB), JSU – Tampa Bay (1996)
**Daylen Baldwin** (WR), JSU – Cleveland (2022)
**Tim Barnett** (WR), JSU – Kansas City (1991-93)
**Marcus Benard** (LB), JSU – Cleveland, Arizona (2009-14)
**Avion Black** (WR), TSU – Buffalo, Houston (2000-02)
**Isaiah Bolden** (CB), JSU – New England (2024)
**Terrell Bonds** (DB), TSU – Baltimore (2020)
**Corey Bradford** (WR), JSU – Green Bay, Houston, Detroit (1998-2006)
**Curtis Caesar** (WR), GSU – NY Jets (1995)
**Cedric Davis** (CB), TSU – Arizona (1995)
**Lamar Divens** (DT), TSU – Baltimore, Tampa Bay, San Francisco (2008-12)
**Marcus Dowdell** (WR), TSU – New Orleans, Arizona (1992-96)
**Kadeem Edwards** (OL), TSU – Tampa Bay (2014)
**Randy Fuller** (DB), TSU – Denver, Pittsburgh, Atlanta, Seattle (1994-99)
**Cletis Gordon** (CB), JSU – San Diego, Dallas, Carolina (2006-11)
**Tracy Greene** (TE), GSU – Kansas City, Pittsburgh (1994-95)
**Lester Holmes** (OL), JSU – Philadelphia, Oakland, Arizona (1993-2000)
**JAMES HOUSTON** (LB), JSU – Detroit, Cleveland, Dallas (2022- )
**Ronald Humphrey** (RB), MVSU – Indianapolis (1994-95)
**Ligarius Jennings** (CB), TSU – Cincinnati (2001-02)
**Domonique "D.J." Johnson** (CB), JSU – NY Giants, Tampa Bay, Philadelphia, Washington (2009-12)
**Jaymar Johnson** (WR), JSU – Minnesota, Arizona (2008-11)
**Chris Jones** (WR), JSU – Minnesota (2005)
**Roger Jones** (CB), TSU – Tampa Bay, Cincinnati, Tennessee (1991-97)
**Eric Joyce** (DB), TSU – Chicago (2002)
**Antonius Kimbrough** (WR), JSU – Denver (1993-94)
**Anthony Levine** (DB), TSU – Green Bay, Baltimore (2010-21)
**Paul McJulien** (K), JSU – Green Bay, LA Rams (1991-93)
**Sylvester Morris** (WR), JSU – Kansas City (2000)
**Roderick Mullen** (DB), GSU – Green Bay (1995-99)
**Toby Myles** (OL), JSU – NY Giants, Cleveland, Oakland (1999-2001)
**Cecil Newton** (OL), TSU – Baltimore (2011)
**Marlo Perry** (LB), JSU – Buffalo (1994-99)
**Demetrius Rhaney** (OL), TSU – St. Louis/LA Rams, Washington (2014-17)
**Rico Richardson** (WR), JSU – Houston, Tennessee (2013-15)
**Patrick Robinson** (WR), TSU – Cincinnati, Arizona (1993-94)
**Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie** (CB), TSU – Arizona, Philadelphia, Denver, NY Giants, Oakland, Washington (2008-19)
**Chris Rowland** (WR), TSU – Atlanta (2020)
**SHEDEUR SANDERS** (QB), JSU – Cleveland (2025- )
**De'Ante Saunders** (DB), TSU – Cleveland (2015)
**Simon Shanks** (LB), TSU – Arizona (1995)
**Lachavious Simmons** (OL), TSU – Chicago (2021)
**Fernando Smith** (DL), JSU – Minnesota, Jacksonville, Baltimore, St. Louis (1994-2000)
**Jimmy Smith** (WR), JSU – Dallas, Jacksonville (1992-2005)
**Lawrence Smith** (OL), TSU – Buffalo (2004)
**Robert Staten** (FB), JSU – Tampa Bay (1996)
**Larry Tharpe** (OT), TSU – Detroit, Arizona, Pittsburgh (1992-2000)
**Michael Thompson** (OL), TSU – Atlanta (2000-02)
**Dan Williams** (DE), TSU – Denver, Kansas City (1993-2000)
**Javarris Williams** (RB), TSU – Kansas City, Houston, Washington (2009-12)
**Bernard Wilson** (NT), TSU – Tampa Bay, Arizona (1993-98)

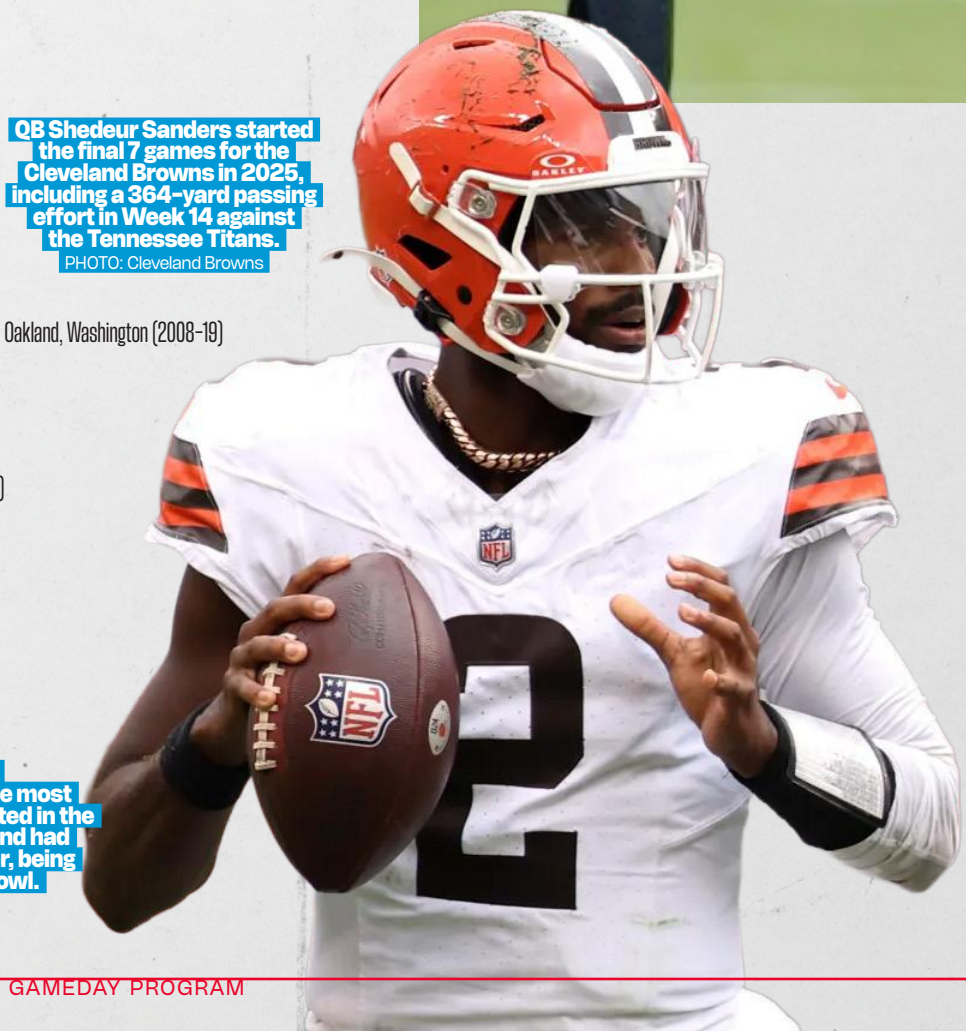
*SOURCE: pro-football-reference.com (NAME IN RED = Active Player)*



**Five-time Pro Bowler Jimmy Smith played 12 seasons in the NFL and eclipsed 1,000 yards receiving nine times.**
PHOTO: Jacksonville Jaguars



**Linebacker James Houston registered a sack in his first 4 NFL games, becoming just the third player ever to accomplish that feat.**
PHOTO: Dallas Cowboys



**QB Shedeur Sanders started the final 7 games for the Cleveland Browns in 2025, including a 364-yard passing effort in Week 14 against the Tennessee Titans.**
PHOTO: Cleveland Browns



**Defensive back Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie was the most recent Classic player selected in the 1st round of the NFL Draft and had a successful 12-year career, being twice selected to the Pro Bowl.**
PHOTO: Arizona Cardinals

# SIMMONS BANK LIBERTY STADIUM




In a rapidly evolving national sports landscape, the City of Memphis, with the State of Tennessee and the University of Memphis, have completed renovations to Simmons Bank Liberty Stadium as part of a $350 million project that also includes the FedExForum.

The sizable upgrade of the football stadium seeks to enhance the fan experience. This includes several innovative premium seating options, restroom and concessions upgrades and a "Halo Space" surrounding the facility.

Construction began after the 2023 football season and was completed in August 2026.

This positions the city, as well as the stadium facility itself, to attract high-visibility events, which through tourism, boosts the local economy.

The previous major upgrade to the stadium took place in 2012 with the installation of a $2.5 million JumboTron scoreboard.

The grounds around the stadium were significantly improved in 2010 with the removal of many of the old fairgrounds structures in favor of a greenway and tailgating area known as Tiger Lane.

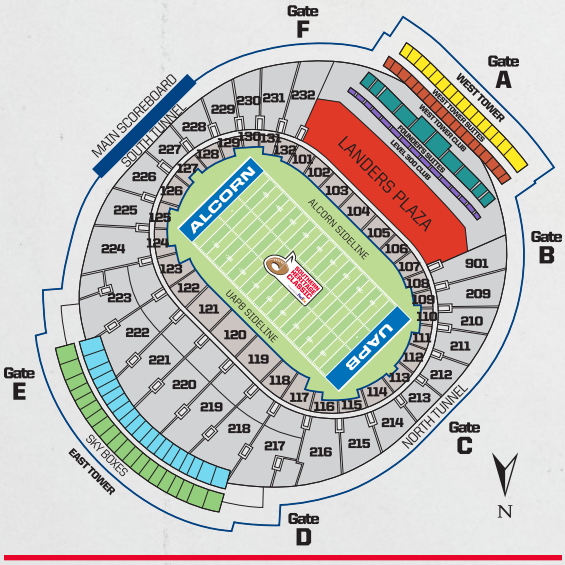
The original cost of construction was $3.7 million back in the mid-1960s, and a major $19.5 million renovation in 1987 brought the seating capacity from 51,000 to 62,380.

Formerly the Memphis Memorial Stadium in honor of the area's citizens who served in World War I, World War II and the Korean War, the facility was built in part to help lure the Liberty Bowl post-season college football game from the Northeast.

The first event held at the facility was on Sept. 18, 1965, when Ole Miss defeated Memphis State, 34-14. It was renamed the Liberty Bowl in 1976 and was given its first naming rights deal with Little Rock, Ark.-based Simmons Bank in the summer of 2022.

It has hosted a number of professional football teams in its time, starting with the Memphis Southmen of the World Football League in 1974-75. The USFL's Showboats called the Liberty Bowl home for their two years (1984-85). A refreshed version of the Showboats returned in Spring 2023. The Canadian Football League expansion Mad Dogs played here in the 1995 campaign, their only season. The XFL's Maniax were tenants during the 2001 season, and more recently, the Express of the Alliance of American Football (AAF) in 2019.

The transient NFL team now known as the Tennessee Titans played its 1997 home games at the Liberty Bowl after leaving Houston en route to Nashville.




The brief soccer boom of the mid-1970s gave the city a team in the North American Soccer League between 1978-80. The Rogues did not post a winning record in any of their three years and moved to Calgary after the 1980 season.

The stadium even hosted an exhibition baseball game involving the Atlanta Braves and Milwaukee Brewers during the 1975 season, as a promotion by the Blues minor-league team. The right-field fence was just 174 feet from home.

The field was resurfaced in 2012 and again in 2022, both with AstroTurf products incorporating the latest technology.

The newer version installed in 2022, called RootZone 3D3, adds to the durability while reducing stress to players' joints.

The stadium's most memorable events include the final game coached by Alabama's Paul 'Bear' Bryant in the 1982 Liberty Bowl, the frigid 1983 Liberty Bowl game between Doug Flutie's Boston College Eagles and the Notre Dame Fighting Irish, and the University of Memphis' 21-17 upset of sixth-ranked Tennessee in 1996. That game attracted a record 65,885 fans.

## STADIUM FACTS

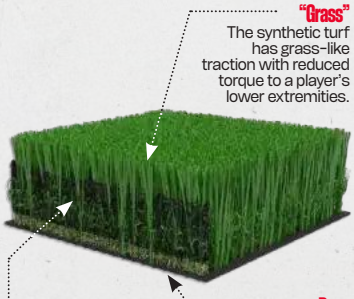
**Current Seating Capacity** *45,632*
**Field Surface** *AstroTurf RootZone 3D3*
**Opened** *Sept. 18, 1965*
**Owner** *The University of Memphis*
**Operated by** *The Univ. of Memphis*
**Address** *335 Glenn Rogers Sr. St. Memphis, TN 38104*
**Original construction cost** *$3.7 million*
**Cost of 1987 upgrade** *$19.5 million*
**Public address** *Keith Payne*

## TOP SBLS CROWDS FOR A SPORTING EVENT:

**65,885** 1996, Memphis vs. Tennessee
**65,483** 1991, Memphis vs. Ole Miss
**65,234** 1992, Memphis vs. Tennessee
**64,187** 1987, Memphis vs. Ole Miss
**63,816** 2007, Central Florida vs. Miss. St.
**63,121** 2000, Memphis vs. Tennessee
**62,742** 2010, Arkansas vs. East Carolina
**61,783** 2006, Memphis vs. Tennessee
**61,497** 1991, Air Force vs. Miss. State
**61,171** 1997, Jackson St. vs. Tennessee St.

## PLAYERS COMPETE ON ADVANCED ASTROTURF

In the summer of 2022, the Stadium installed a high-tech new product called AstroTurf RootZone 3D3, replacing the old AstroTurf which was in use since 2012. The most visible difference between the new and old versions is the decrease in the amount of the infill pellets, which will increase the look and feel to a more natural, grass-like texture.






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