

Issue No. 30 - Week of 8/29/2012

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Labor Day Weekend in Orlando, Florida will see another good old-fashioned, smash-mouth contest between two HBCU schools. The **Bethune-Cookman Wildcats** of the MEAC will battle the **Alabama State Hornets** of the SWAC at the 8th annual "MEAC/SWAC Challenge" sponsored by Disney. This game has the makings of being a classic as both teams are [ranked in the top 10 in HBCU football](#). The game will be played at the Florida Citrus Bowl. Kickoff is 12pm ET on Sunday, 9/2/2012 and will be aired on ESPN.

Here are a few facts about the MEAC/SWAC Challenge:

- MEAC leads the head-to-head series 5-2
- Southern University is the only SWAC team to have won the Challenge
- The first 3 games were played in Birmingham, AL and last 4 games were played in Orlando, FL
- Out of the 7 games played, a SWAC team has only lead at halftime once

Here's more on MEAC/SWAC:

- Before it was known as the "MEAC/SWAC Challenge", the annual postseason matchup between the two conferences was called The Heritage Bowl.
- The MEAC has a winning percentage of .537; the SWAC at .484
- Head-to-head, the SWAC leads the MEAC, 259-236 (with 13 ties)
- The SWAC has the most Hall of Famers at 42; MEAC has 30

Out of 31 head-to-head stats, which conference has the edge...MEAC or SWAC? [Click here to see the results](#)

The SportsNetwork has good breakdown on [MEAC](#) and [SWAC](#) players, schedules, rankings, and more. Click the highlighted links to read more.

Need stat proof to back up your FCS football debate? Visit ["FCS Hodge Podge"](#) to get quick facts!

Back to the Future

The FCS has three teams coming into play for 2013. Mercer, Stetson, and UNC Charlotte are ramping up their recruits, coaching staff, and facilities and reviving their football programs. Although they'll be new to the FCS, these programs are not new to football. Take a look....

Mercer University

Located in Macon, Georgia (main campus)

Mascot: Bears

Head coach: Bobby Lamb

- Mercer's last football game was played in 1941 (loss to Chattanooga, 40-13)
- Mercer won its first football game in the fall of 1892 against Georgia Tech in the Yellow Jackets' first-ever college football game, 12-6.
- Mercer will be joining the Pioneer conference





Stetson University

Located in Deland, Florida

Mascot: Hatters

Head coach: Roger Hughes

- Stetson has not had a football team since the 1956 season.
- Stetson was the first organized football team in the state of Florida (1894)
 - Stetson will be joining the Pioneer conference

UNC- Charlotte

Located in Charlotte, NC

Mascot: 49'ers

Head coach: Brad Lambert

- UNCC first played a 5 game schedule in 1947, three of the teams were Appalachian State (Teachers College), Presbyterian, and Davidson.
- UNCC played it's final game in 1948
- The 49'ers will play 2013 & 2014 as an FCS independent FCS and will compete in its first FBS season in Conference USA in 2015. Charlotte will be bowl eligible for football in the 2016 season.



[Click each pic to see how these programs are preparing for FCS football in 2013!](#)

Trivia Results: Roland James of New Orleans, LA answered last week's trivia. The only FCS team that will face 3 FBS teams in 2012 is Nicholls State. The Colonels will face Oregon State, South Alabama, and Tulsa.

Trivia Question: Keeping with the theme of HBCU football from this week's digest, what HBCU head coach has the best winning percentage of all time?

[Enter your trivia answer](#) here. Trivia answer and winner will be announced on the next digest.

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