

1. GOOD OLE COACH

The results of a recent NCAA survey of student-athletes showed that head coach influences play a significant role on the overall collegiate experience. A 30% response rate was concluded with 824 FCS Football total players surveyed. The collegiate enrollment range span over the last 14 years (student-athletes who started college in the fall of 1996 at the earliest).

Of the 824 FCS Football players surveyed, here are a few interesting stats to note regarding their head coach experience:

- 56% stated that they could trust their head coach .
- 57% stated that their



Tony Samuel, HC of SE Missouri St. - 2010 Eddie Robinson Award recipient

- head coach defined success by winning fairly.
- 22% stated that their head coach puts them down in front of others.
- 50% stated that winning is more important than good sportsmanship.
- 97% stated that they would not change their head coach experience at all.

We've all seen the NCAA commercials about student-athletes majoring in other things beside sports. Well, if they're not trying to make it into the league after graduation, coaching seems to be a natural route for many FCS players. In the last decade, over 30% of FCS graduate players have gone directly into a coaching roll- whether on prep level or an assistant role on FBS level. Some have broken into NFL coaching, such as former Montana Grizzly linebacker, Brandon Fisher, who is on the defensive coaching staff for the Detroit Lions.

The Underdawg put together a list of current FBS, FCS, and NFL coaches who played FCS Football in their collegiate careers:

Current FBS Team, Head Coach name, FCS School and year(s) played/attended: (20 total)

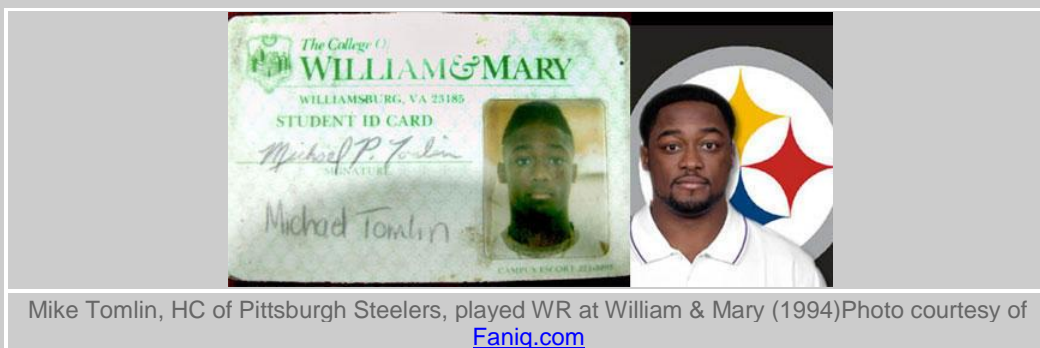
Florida State.....Jimbo Fisher.....Samford U. (1987)
Ga Tech.....Paul Johnson.....Western Carolina (1979)
Virginia.....Mike London.....Richmond (1979-1982)
Texas A&M.....Mike Sherman.....Central Connecticut State (1974-1977)
Louisville.....Charlie Strong.....Central Arkansas (1980-1983)
Rutgers.....Greg Schiano.....Bucknell (1985-1988)
Penn State.....Joe Paterno.....Brown (1946-1949)
Purdue.....Danny Hope.....Eastern Kentucky (1977-1980)
SMU.....June Jones.....Portland State (1975-1976)
Central Florida.....George O'Leary.....New Hampshire (graduated 1968)

[See rest of list](#)

[Current FCS Team, Head Coach name, FCS School and year\(s\) played/attended: \(52 total\)](#)

Montana.....Robin Pflugrad.....Portland St (1979)
Montana State.....Rob Ash.....Cornell (1970-1973)
Northern Arizona.....Jerome Souers.....Portland St (1985); Montana (1986-1988)
Northern Colorado.....Earnest Collins Jr.....Northern Colorado (1991-1994)
Sacramento State....Marshall Sperbeck.....Nevada (1981-1982)
Coastal Carolina.....David Bennett.....Presbyterian (1981-1984)
Presbyterian.....Harold Nichols.....Presbyterian ((1987-1989)
Stony Brook.....Chuck Priore.....Albany (1979-1982)
Delaware.....K.C. Keeler.....Delaware (1978-1980)
Maine.....Jack Cosgrove....Maine (1974-1977)
New Hampshire.....Sean McDonnell.....New Hampshire (1975-1978)
Old Dominion.....Bobby Wilder.....Maine (1983-1986)
Richmond.....Latrell Scott.....Hampton (1994-1998)

[See rest of list](#)



[Current NFL Team, Head Coach name, FCS School and year\(s\) played/attended: \(8 total\)](#)

Cincinnati.....Marvin Lewis.....Idaho State (1978-1980)
Pittsburgh.....Mike Tomlin.....William & Mary (1994)
Detroit.....Jim Schwartz.....Georgetown
Atlanta.....Mike Smith.....East Tennessee State (1977-1981)
New Orleans.....Sean Payton.....Eastern Illinois (early-mid 1980's)
Tampa Bay.....Raheem Morris.....Hofstra (1994-1997)
Dallas.....Jason Garrett.....Princeton (1987-1989)
Washington.....Mike Shanahan.....Eastern Illinois (early 1970's)

Bonus: New Hampshire has the most representation amongst current FCS, FBS, and NFL head coaches (5 total).

Note: Some schools were not FCS members during years shown.

BACK WHEN In 1906, a touchdown pass had to be completed short of the goal line and run across. A completion beyond the goal line was a touchback.
(Source: The Sporting Life 1916, side lights on football. Published in "[The College Football Historian](#)" August 2011 Vol. 4 No. 7; Tex Noel, Editor)

2. TRUE HERITAGE

Lovers of HBCU football anticipate this year's MEAC/SWAC Challenge, which showcases teams

from these two FCS conferences. This year will mark the 7th consecutive game of the "challenge", which began in 2005.

Those who follow these conferences, particularly the "challenge" game, know that this rivalry started well before 2005. These conferences originally met in the Pelican Bowl (they were then Div II) from 1972- 1975 (excluding 1973). The games were to determine the national black college champion. Low attendance in the final year (just under 7,000) led to the discontinuance of the Pelican Bowl.

[Here are a few facts from the Pelican Bowl series:](#)

* SWAC won all three contests

* The first game in 1972, played in Durham, NC, marked the first time in 30 years that a bowl game was played in the state of North Carolina (at that time)

[See more about the Pelican Bowl games of the 1970's](#)

Sixteen years later, the Heritage Bowl was born and picked up the spirit of the former Pelican Bowl. It was hoped that the Heritage Bowl would crown a true HBCU national champion, however at times the conference champions declined the automatic bowl bid in order to participate in post-season playoffs. Thus, the conference runner-up would play in the Heritage Bowl. These games were played in three locations over nine years. Like the Pelican Bowl, low attendance, along with stagnant sponsorship support, led to the Heritage Bowl's demise in 1999.

[Here are a few facts from the Heritage Bowl series:](#)

* SWAC won 6 of the 9 contests

* The January 1994 contest between Southern and SC State was the 3rd bowl game ever played at the Georgia Dome.

[See more about the Heritage Bowl games of the 1990's](#)

The decision to revive the MEAC/SWAC rivalry sparked mass appeal from coaches, players, fans, and, to sustain longevity, sponsors and media partnerships. The games are now regular season contests with nationwide exposure to these programs and are (typically) played on the opening weekend of each season. The first site of the "challenge" was held in Birmingham, AL. Since 2008, it has taken place at the Florida Citrus Bowl in Orlando, FL.

[Here are a few facts on the MEAC/SWAC Challenge:](#)

* MEAC leads series 4-2

* The MEAC/SWAC Challenge game is the largest HBCU regular season event on ESPN2 programming.

From the Pelican Bowl, to the Heritage Bowl, to the now MEAC/SWAC Challenge, bragging rights are still on the line for players, coaches, and fans of these two FCS conferences. Either side has much to argue, as there have been many valuable and unforgettable memories and accolades to share. From the dominance of Grambling State with legendary head coach Eddie Robinson, to Florida A&M's first and only national championship representing HBCU's....from notable players like Jerry Rice and Walter Payton, to Robert Porcher and Harry Carson. There's much history and pride in HBCU football and in these FCS conferences.



ESPN2 will air Bethune-Cookman vs. Prairie View A&M on 9/4/2011 at 12 noon EST

To appease the mass appeal, The Underdawg has compiled a 31 category comparison encompassing a variety of stats. The categories cover an equal balance of player, team, coach, performance, and some miscellaneous data. The stat challenge reveals a slight edge to the MEAC conference. Research shows that the SWAC has greater player and team statistics, and the MEAC having more accomplishments with team competition and playoff results. The MEAC has had more winning consistency amongst its teams, particularly in recent decades. This largely due to its more wide-spread national recruiting efforts and post-season automatic bid eligibility. Although the SWAC is one of two conferences in FCS football that does not participate in post-season play, it still relishes in conference championships and brings large crowds together. The SWAC has led FCS attendance records 19 of the last 20 years.

[Here are a few highlights of the MEAC/SWAC stat comparison:](#)

* Career Total Offensive Player between the 2 conferences is Steve McNair of Alcorn State (16,823 yds)

* Best Scoring Defensive team between the 2 conferences is SC State (1978 team; 6.5 avg pts allowed)

* Although the MEAC has had more post-season success, Jackson St of the SWAC has the most post-season appearances of teams of both conferences (12)

[See the full, 31 category MEAC/SWAC stat comparison](#)

This year's matchup will be between Bethune-Cookman (MEAC) and Prairie View A&M (SWAC). The MEAC/SWAC Challenge is presented by Disney and will be aired on ESPN2 on Sunday, September 4, 2011 at noon EST.

Bonus: The first post-season bowl game featuring Black college teams was sponsored by Prairie View A&M in 1929.

Trivia Results: Several readers took a shot at last week's trivia, but none were correct. The oldest and newest football programs to date are Princeton (1869) and UT-San Antonio (2011), respectively.

Trivia Question: Which FCS team (not teams) participated in the first televised college football game and when?

Visit TheUnderdawg.com and enter your answer in the "Contact Us" section. Trivia answer and winner will be announced on the next digest.