

# Hampton, Grambling top Black football list

**By Tony McClean**  
*Special to Sentinel-Voice*  
NEW HAVEN, Conn (NNPA) - Since the end of the 2005 Black College Football season, two powerhouse schools have been on a collision course. At season's end, they were both named co-Black National Champions by SBN, the Sheridan Broadcasting Network. Add to the fact that these same two schools will meet in this year's MEAC-SWAC Challenge in September, it just adds to the excitement of the upcoming HBCU football campaign.

The Pirates of Hampton University and the Tigers of Grambling State University open the 2006 season as the two best teams in Black College Football. All that said, it should be no surprise that they respectively sit 1-2 atop BASN's Inaugural Black College Football Preseason Top 10.

Hampton and Grambling State will face off in the season opener on Sept. 2 in the Ford Challenge at Legion Field in Birmingham, Ala. The game will be broadcast on ESPN2.

The top-ranked Pirates, expected to win their third consecutive MEAC title by the league's coaches and SID's, are also ranked No. 1 in SBN's preseason poll and 13th in the Sports Network's Preseason I-AA poll.

Coach Joe Taylor's squad

(11-1, 8-0 MEAC last year) returns a potent senior class along with a host of four-year starters who are hoping to become the first team to win three straight MEAC crowns since South Carolina State (under the legendary Willie Jefferies) won four straight from 1980-83.

As for Grambling State, Melvin Spear's Tigers finished a perfect 9-0 against SWAC competition and 11-1 overall last season suffering their only loss to Div. IA Washington State (48-7). However, GSU did defeat Alabama A&M (45-6) in the SWAC title game to win their fourth SWAC in the last six years.

The rest of the preseason top five includes the previously mentioned Bulldogs of Alabama A&M (9-3, 7-2) ranked third, South Carolina State (9-2, 7-1) of the MEAC fourth, and defending SIAC champion Albany State (8-2, 8-0) at number five.

Both A&M and SCSU will open the 2006 season on the road on Sept. 2nd. Anthony Jones' Bulldogs, who lost twice to Grambling last year by a combined score of 89-6, will open their season against Tennessee State in the John Merritt Classic at Nashville. Buddy Pough's Bulldogs will visit Wofford in their season opener. SCSU has posted back-to-back 9-2 seasons, but have been left out of the NCAA I-AA play-

offs both years.

SIAC contender Tuskegee (11-1, 8-1) sits at number six. Rounding out the top 10 are Bowie State of the CIAA (8-4, 6-3) at seven, conference rival Fayetteville State (6-4, 4-3) is eighth, Florida A&M of the MEAC (6-5, 5-3) is ninth, and Mississippi Valley State of the SWAC (6-5, 5-4) is at number 10.

*Tony McClean writes for BlackAthlete.net*

# Ex-UNLV star Rider misses sentencing

SAN RAFAEL, Calif. (AP) - Two arrest warrants were issued for former NBA star Isaiah "J.R." Rider after he failed to show up at his sentencing for convictions that include false imprisonment and driving offenses.

Judge Verna Adams waited about an hour after the scheduled Wednesday hearing before issuing the warrants.

Bail was set at \$10,000 each in two separate misdemeanor cases against the basketball player, who retired in 2002.

The 34-year-old Rider pleaded guilty to six misdemeanors and three infractions in

the two cases in Marin County Superior Court.

One involved false imprisonment and battery and the second was for driving with a suspended license and related charges.

He's also wanted in Alameda County, where a bench warrant was issued July 26 when he failed to appear in court on drug charges.

Rider starred at Alameda's Encinal High and at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas before being drafted fifth in 1993 by the Minnesota Timberwolves.

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Tiger Woods holds up the Wanamaker Trophy after winning the 2006 PGA Championship at Medinah Country Club in Medinah, Illinois, on Sunday. This was Wood's 12th major's victory. He's the world's top player.

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