BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS: (16)
1946, 1947, 1953, 1954, 1956, 1965, 1966, 1970, 1971, 1973, 1979, 1982, 1983, 1984, 2012, 2013

TENNESSEE STATE FOOTBALL

OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS: (3)
1998, 1999, 2024

SET THE SCENE

Location: Nashville, Tenn.
Stadium: Nissan Stadium
Capacity: 69,143
Surface: AstroTurf
Forecast: Day 81° Sun // Night 59° Clear

TUNE IN

TV: ESPN+
Dan Laing (pxp)
Dean Cokinos (Analyst)

Radio: WNSR 560 AM, 95.9 FM
107.9 FM (Smyrna)
Satellite XM: Ch. 384 | 974 (app)
Stream: TSU Tigers App
WNSR.com, Alexa (Play WNSR)
Greg Pogue (pxp)
Bubba Miller (Analyst)

COACHING STAFF

Reggie Barlow	Head Coach
Cedric Thornton	Assoc Head Coach/ Linebackers
Gregg Williams	Defensive Coordinator
Jerod Kruse	Special Teams / Secondary
Deion Harris	Defensive Line
Dexter Jackson	Safties
Justin Hannah	Defensive Analyst
Shannon Harris	Co-Offensive Coordinator / QB
Toriano Morgan	Co-Offensive Coordinator / RB
Russ Ehrenfeld	Offensive Line
Nick Andrews	Wide Receivers
Eddie Woods	Tight Ends

SUPPORT STAFF

Scott Holsopple	Asst. AD / Sports Performance
Mike Brown	Football Athletic Trainer
Johnny Johnson	Football Operations
Kevin Mashack	Director of Recruiting
Jeremy Taylor	Football Equipment

COMMUNICATIONS

Nick Guerriero
Assistant AD / Communications & Creative
Phone 615-963-6638
Text: 516-849-808
Email: nguerrie@tnstate.edu

@TSUTigersFB @TSUTigersFB TSU_Tigers

WEEK 5 • SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2025 • 3:30 PM

TENNESSEE STATE

1-2, 0-0 BIG SOUTH-OVC
Head Coach: Reggie Barlow
Record at TSU: 1-2 (1st Season)
Career Record: 84–60
Home: 1-2 | Road: 0-0 | Neutral: 0-0
Streak: L2

VS

#11 TENNESSEE TECH

3-0, 0-0 BIG SOUTH-OVC
Head Coach: Bobby Wilder
Record at TTU: 10-5 (2nd Season)
Career Record: 87-61
Home: 3-0 | Road: 0-0 | Neutral: 0-0
Streak: W3

BETWEEN THE LINES

16.0	Points/Game	60.7
34.4	Points Allowed/Game	10.3
126.0	Rush Yards/Game	271.7
130.3	RushYards Allowed/Game	58.0
113.6	Pass Yards/Game	281.3
269.0	Pass Yards Allowed/Game	136.7
191.5	Total Offense/Game	553.0
388.0	Total Defense/Game	194.7

GAME NOTES

Tennessee State returns to Nissan Stadium on Saturday to face undefeated #11 Tennessee Tech in an Ohio Valley-Big South opener. The Tigers look to bounce back after a narrow 23-21 loss to Alabama A&M, while the Golden Eagles ride into Nashville with one of the most productive offenses in the conference.

SERGEANT YORK TROPHY: Tennessee State is looking to reclaim the Sgt. York Trophy, awarded each year to the team with the best head-to-head record among the three Ohio Valley Conference programs from Tennessee: TSU, Tennessee Tech and UT Martin. Named for World War I hero Alvin C. York and first presented in 2007, the trophy has become a symbol of in-state pride and rivalry. The Tigers own five titles, including back-to-back championships in the trophy's first two years (2007 and 2008) and a three-year run from 2011 through 2013. Now more than a decade removed from their last Sgt. York Trophy, TSU aims to add another chapter to its history of success in the series.

TSU AGAINST TENNESSEE TECH: Tennessee State has faced Tennessee Tech 38 times since 1984, with the Tigers trailing 22-16 in the all-time series. The matchup has featured tight contests, with 13 games decided by one possession or less. TSU's biggest statement wins came in the early 2000s, when the Tigers rolled to back-to-back road victories — a 56-23 win in 2000 and a 63-13 rout in 2001. More recently, Tennessee State posted a 44-16 victory at Nissan Stadium in 2016, followed by a 24-10 road win in the spring 2021 season. The rivalry has tilted in Tech's favor in the most recent meetings, beginning with a 35-0 win by the Golden Eagles, their largest margin of victory in the series. Last season, Tech defeated TSU 24-14 in Cookeville.

2025 SCHEDULE AND RESULTS

Cont. on page 5

Aug. 30 // 3:30 PM North Carolina A&T W, 24-21	Sept. 6 // 1:30 PM #1 North Dakota St. L, 3-59	Sept. 13 // 3:30 PM Alabama A&M Legacy Series L, 21-24	Sept. 27 // 3:30 PM #11 Tennessee Tech ESPN+ / 560AM, 95.9 FM, 107.9 FM	Oct. 4 // 2:00 PM at Eastern Illinois ESPN+ / 560AM, 95.9 FM, 107.9 FM	Oct. 11 // 3:00 PM at SEMO ESPN+ / 560AM, 95.9 FM, 107.9 FM	
Oct. 18 // 4:30 PM Howard Homecoming ESPN+ / 560AM	Oct. 25 // 1:30 PM Western Illinois ESPN+ / 560AM, 95.9 FM, 107.9 FM	Nov. 1 // 3:30 PM Lindenwood ESPN+ / 560AM, 95.9 FM, 107.9 FM	Nov. 8 // 1:00 PM at UT Martin ESPN+ / 560AM, 95.9 FM, 107.9 FM	Nov. 15 // 1:30 PM Gardner-Webb ESPN+ / 560AM, 95.9 FM, 107.9 FM	Nov. 22 // 1:00 PM at Charleston Southern ESPN+ / 560AM, 95.9 FM, 107.9 FM	

All times listed are in CT

TSU TWO-DEEP DEPTH CHART & PRONUNCIATIONS

OFFENSE						
LT	63	Veguer Jean-Jumeau	6-7	275	So.	Nashville, Tenn. / Hillsboro
	75	Arlington Williams Jr.	6-4	292	Fr.	Nassau, Bahamas / Anatol Rodgers / Snow
LG	54	Darius Neals	6-4	315	R-so.	Ellenwood, Ga. / Cedar Grove
	55	Breon Brown	6-4	287	R-So.	Richmond, Va. / Varina / James Madison
C	53	Steven Nelson	6-3	270	Fr.	Murfreesboro, Tenn. / Rockvale
	54	Darius Neals	6-4	315	R-so.	Ellenwood, Ga. / Cedar Grove
RG	70	Jesse Igwe	6-2	330	Jr.	Greer, S.C. / Riverside / Gardner-Webb
	69	KJ McCou	6-3	345	R-Sr.	Memphis, Tenn. Desoto Central Florid
RT	73	Joel Van-Tagoe	6-6	310	Jr.	Oklahoma City, Okla. / Oklahoma City / NE Oklahoma A&M
	77	Jakhye Irby	6-8	342	So.	Knoxville, Tenn. / Powell / Butler CC
QB	6	Jonathan Palmer	6-3	210	R-Fr.	Franklin, Tenn. / Page / Gardner-Webb
	8	Caleb McCreary	5-11	186	So.	Wetumpka, Ala. / Montgomery Catholic Prep / Troy
RB	1	Kendric Rhymes	6-0	195	Gr.	Houston, Texas / Heights / Southern
	30	Zack Simmons-Brown	5-10	170	R-Fr.	Columbus. Ga. / Central / Garden City CC
X-WR	14	Tyson Edwards	6-2	189	R-So.	Nashville, Tenn. / Overton / Memphis
	17	Justin Hughes	6-3	200	Sr.	Nashville, Tenn. / Lipscomb Academy / Memphis / Arkansas Baptist
Z-WR	9	Brock Montgomery	6-2	198	So.	Columbia, Tenn. / Riverdale / UConn
	83	LJ Walker	6-0	197	Fr.	Gilbert, Ariz. Perry
SLOT	18	Devaughn Slaughter	6-1	182	Fr.	Indianapolis, Ind. / Indianapolis Cathedral
	0	Jayden Guy	6-0	175	Fr.	Murfreesboro, Tenn. / Blackman
TE	89	Jason Hoath Jr.	6-2	235	Jr.	Columbia, Tenn. / Page
	86	Christian Jones	6-4	230	Sr.	Inola, Okla. / Inola / Missouri Southern State / Northeastern A&M
DEFENSE						
DE	19	Ravon Johnson	6-4	245	Jr.	Grayson, Ga. / Grayson / Alabama A&M
	49	Brandon Collins	6-2	250	Fr.	Nashville, Tenn. / Ensworth
NT	99	Lathun Snipes	6-1	290	Sr.	Elk Grove, Calif. / Monterey Trail / Butte College
	2	Stephon Shivers	6-4	399	Fr.	Brentwood, Tenn. / Brentwood Academy
DT	4	Marlon Huff	6-3	280	So.	Delray Beach, Fla. / Atlantic
	52	Bryce Gray	5-11	285	Fr.	Belleville, Ill. Cardinal Ritter College Prep
BUCK	7	James Stewart	6-3	247	R-Sr.	Antioch, Tenn. / Brentwood Academy / Memphis / MTSU
	18	Jaylon Price	6-3	220	Jr.	Sunflower, Miss. / Ruleville Central / S.W. Mississippi CC.
MIKE	47	Matthew Wilson	6-2	230	Fr.	Tampa, Fla. / Middleton
	36	Caleb Reid	6-3	236	R-Fr.	Newnan, Ga. / Newman / MTSU
WILL	25	Sammy Taylor	6-2	225	R-So.	Nashville, Tenn. / Ensworth
	3	Micah Gay	6-1	205	R-Jr.	Atlanta, Ga. / Johns Creek
NICKEL	27	Byron Davis	6-1	185	Jr.	Nashville, Tenn. / Cane Ridge / Kentucky Wesleyan
	22	DuJuan Sharp III	5-9	180	R-So.	Nashville, Tenn. / Ensworth
CB (L)	21	Jayden Cook	6-0	190	R-So.	Frankfort, Ill. / Lincoln-Way East / Kansas State
	1	Jashon Watkins	6-4	215	Gr.	Nashville, Tenn. East Nashville Magnet Memphis / UMass
FS	13	Dominique Dixon	6-1	195	So.	St. Louis, Ill. / Cardinal Ritter College Prep
	15	Jakobe Freeman	6-11	180	Fr.	Memphis, Tenn. Whitehaven
SS	28	Kaiki Baker	6-3	210	So.	Nashville, Tenn. / Hillsboro
	33	Taeshawn Jefferson	5-11	188	So.	Nashville, Tenn. / Germantown
CB (R)	10	Syncere Safeeullah	6-3	180	So.	Nashville, Tenn. / Hillsboro / IMG / Nebraska
	32	Jayden Coleman	5-10	180	So.	Phenix City, Ala. / Central
SPECIAL TEAMS						
K	4	Freddy Perez	6-3	190	So.	Carrollton, Ga. / Carrollton / Georgia Military
	39	Roman Mathis	6-4	185	Fr.	Joelton, Tenn. / Davidson Academy
KO	4	Freddy Perez	6-3	190	So.	Carrollton, Ga. / Carrollton / Georgia Military
	39	Roman Mathis	6-4	185	Fr.	Joelton, Tenn. / Davidson Academy
P	15	Mark Shenouda	6-1	210	R-So.	Mt. Juliet, Tenn. / Mt. Juliet / Memphis
	39	Roman Mathis	6-4	185	Fr.	Joelton, Tenn. / Davidson Academy
KR	24	Trevon Porter II	5-10	219	Sr,	Chicago Heights, Ill. / Elmhurst / DuPage
	38	Lelan Wilhoite	5-11	185	Gr.	Nashville, Tenn. Siegel Florida A&M
PR	22	Anthony Taylor	5-9	172	Fr.	San Diego, Calif. / Cathedral Catholic
	0	Jayden Guy	6-0	175	Fr.	Murfreesboro, Tenn. / Blackman
LS	43	Kyle Hicks	6-3	231	R-Fr.	Nashville, Tenn. / Hillsboro
	90	Connor Ridderhoff	6-2	240	R-Jr.	Chelsea, Ala. / Chelsea
H	15	Mark Shenouda	6-1	210	R-So.	Mt. Juliet, Tenn. / Mt. Juliet / Memphis
	6	Jonathan Palmer	6-3	210	R-Fr.	Franklin, Tenn. / Page / Gardner-Webb
NOTABLE RESERVES						
QB	10	Byron McNair	6-0	176	Fr.	St. Louis, Mo. / St. Louis / Kansas Wesleyan
RB	31	Trevor Pearson II	5-10	210	R-So.	Montgomery, Ala. / Troy / Prairie View A&M
WR	21	Lucas Harkless	5-10	165	Jr.	Montgomery, Ala. / Montgomery Catholic / Troy
	22	Anthony Taylor	5-9	172	Fr.	San Diego, Calif. / Cathedral Catholic
	81	Terence Dotson	5-10	161	Fr.	Tampa, Fla. / Hillsborough / Wyoming
TE	16	Exavious Reed	6-5	204	R-So.	LaGrange, Ga. / Callaway / Southern Miss

PRONUNCIATION CHART
(Alphabetical order)

Name	First	Last
Shaun Ayers	SHAWN	AIRZ
Kaiki Baker	KYE-kee	BAY-kur
Christopher Barnett		
Alijah Bivans	uh-LYE-juh	BIV-unz
Daniel Bravo		
Plexico Brown	PLEX-ih-co	
Breon Brown	BREE-on	
Terence Carpenter II		
Jayden Colemen		
Brandon Collins		
Jayden Cook		
Shamar Crawford	shuh-MAR	CRAW-furd
Ethan Cunningham		
Nicholas Cyrus		SIGH-rus
Byron Davis		
Dominique Dixon	DAH-muh-neek	DIX-un
Terence Dotson		
Camron Douglas		
Tyson Edwards		
Epoki Fakaosi	eh-POH-kee	fah-kah-OH-see
Darien Farmer	DARE-ee-un	FAR-mur
Jacorris Foreman	juh-KOR-us	FOR-mun
Gavin Forsha	GAV-in	FOR-shuh
Jakobe Freeman	juh-KOH-bee	FREE-mun
Micah Gay	MYE-kah	GAY
Bryce Gray		
Joshua Green		
Demetrius Gore	duh-MEE-tree-us	GOR
Jayden Guy		
Brandon Hale		
Ryder Hagan	RYE-dur	HAY-gun
Parker Harden		
Lucas Harkless	LOO-kus	HARK-lis
Kyle Hicks		
Jason Hoath Jr.		
Robert Howell	RAH-burt	HOW-uhl
Marlon Huff		
Justin Hughes		
Jessee Igwe		EEG-way
Jakhye Irby	jah-KYE	ER-bee
Khy'Lek Jarrett	KYE-lek	JARE-it
Veguer Jean-Jumeau	veh-GAIR	zhahn-zhoo-MOH
Tysean Jefferson	ty-SEE-un	JEH-fur-sun
Taeshawn Jefferson	TAY-shawn	JEH-fur-sun
Ravon Johnson	ruh-VAHN	JAHN-sun
Jalen LaBranche	JAY-lin	luh-BRANCH
Zachariah Lee	zak-uh-RYE-uh	LEE
Joshua Malone		
Juice Majors	JOOS	MAY-jurz
Roman Mathis	ROH-mun	MATH-iss
Coby May	KOH-bee	MAY
KJ McCou	KAY-jay	muh-KOO
Caleb McCreary	KAY-lub	muh-CREE-ree
Byron McNair	BYE-run	mick-NAIR
Brock Montgomery		
Johnothan Moore	JAH-nuh-thun	MORE
Darius Neals		
Jonathan Palmer		
Trevor Pearson	TREV-ur	PEER-sun
Freddy Perez		
Braelen Perry	BRAY-lin	PEH-ree
Taveon Porter	TAY-vee-on	POR-tur
Jaylen Price		
Caleb Reid		REED
Exavious Reed	eg-ZAY-vee-us	
Snap Reed		
Joshua Reece		
Kendric Rhymes	KEN-drik	RHYMZ
Connor Ridderhoff	KAH-nur	RID-ur-hoff
Brent Rowe		
Connor Ruth		
Syncere Safeeullah	sin-SEER	sah-FEE-oo-lah
Ryan Screen		
DuJuan Sharp III		
Mark Shenouda		shuh-NOO-duh
Stephon Shivers	steh-FAHN	SHIH-vurz
Devaughn Slaughter	duh-VAWN	SLAW-tur
Zack Simmons-Brown		
Anthony Smith		
Luthan Snipes	LAY-thun	SNYPES
Amari Southall	uh-MAR-ee	SOUTH-hall
Devon Starling	deh-VAHN	STAR-ling
James Stewart		
Jaylin Suggs		
Joel Van-Tagoe	JOH-uhl	van-TAH-go
Deuce Walker	DOOS	
LJ Walker		
Jashon Watkins	Juh-SHAWN	
Deon Wiggins		
Lelan Wilhoite	LEE-luhn	WILL-hoyt
Arlington Williams Jr.	AR-ling-tun	WIL-yumz junior
Deon Wiggins	DEE-on	WIG-unz
Jelani Willis		
Brandon Wilson		
Germani Wilson	jur-MAHN-ee	
Matthew Wilson		

2025 TSU ROSTER

ALPHABETICAL	
96 SHAUN AYERS	DT
28 KAIKI BAKER	DB
61 CHRISTOPHER BARNETT	OL
35 ALIJAH BIVANS	LB
80 PLEXICO BROOKS	WR
41 DANIEL BRAVO	K
55 BREON BROWN	OL
49 BRANDON COLLINS	DE
32 JAYDEN COLEMAN	DB
21 JAYDEN COOK	DB
58 SHAMAR CRAWFORD	OL
44 ETHAN CUNNINGHAM	RB
13 NICHOLAS CYRUS	QB
27 BYRON DAVIS	DB
14 TYSON EDWARDS	WR
51 EPOKI FAKAOSI	LB
60 DARIEN FARMER	OL
37 JACORRIS FOREMAN	DB
57 GAVIN FORSHA	LB
15 JAKOBE FREEMAN	DB
3 MICAH GAY	LB
94 DEMETRIUS GORE	DT
50 JOSHUA GREEN	DT
52 BRYCE GRAY	DT
0 JAYDEN GUY	WR
12 RYDER HAGAN	QB
8 BRENDAN HALE	DB
78 PARKER HARDEN	OL
21 LUCAS HARKLESS	WR
43 KYLE HICKS	LS
89 JASON HOATH JR.	TE
71 ROBERT HOWELL	OL
17 JUSTIN HUGHES	WR
4 MARLON HUFF	DT
77 JAKHYE IRBY	OL
91 KHY'LEK JARRETT	DE
33 TAESHAWN JEFFERSON	DB
23 TYSEAN JEFFERSON	RB
63 VEGUER JEAN-JUMEAU	OL
19 RAVON JOHNSON	DE
86 CHRISTIAN JONES	TE
17 MIKEECE JONES	DB
26 JALEN LABRANCHE	DB
45 ZACHARIAH LEE	LB
29 JOSHUA MALONE	DB

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	YR.	HOMETOWN / HIGH SCHOOL / PREVIOUS SCHOOL
0	Jayden Guy	WR	6-0	175	Fr.	Murfreesboro, Tenn. / Blackman
0	Braelen Perry	DL	6-3	290	Sr.	Tuscaloosa, Ala. / Northridge / Prairie View A&M
1	Jashon Watkins	DB	6-4	215	Gr.	Nashville, Tenn. East Nashville Magnet Memphis / UMass
1	Kendric Rhymes	RB	6-0	195	Gr.	Houston, Texas / Heights / Southern
2	Snap Reed	WR	6-2	207	R-Fr.	Memphis, Tenn. / Bartlett
2	Stephon Shivers	DT	6-4	399	Fr.	Brentwood, Tenn. / Brentwood Academy
3	Micah Gay	LB	6-1	205	R-Jr.	Atlanta, Ga. / Johns Creek
4	Marlon Huff	DT	6-3	280	So.	Delray Beach, Fla. / Atlantic
4	Freddy Perez	K	6-3	190	So.	Carrollton, Ga. / Carrollton Georgia Military College
5	Devon Starling	RB	6-1	210	R-Sr.	Nashville, Tenn. / Cane Ridge / Northern Arizona / Memphis
6	Jonathan Palmer	QB	6-3	210	R-Fr.	Franklin, Tenn. / Page Gardner-Webb
6	Jelani Willis	LB	6-1	218	Sr.	Memphis, Tenn. / Bartlett / Western Michigan
7	Juice Majors	WR	5-9	155	Jr.	Nashville, Tenn. / John Overton
7	James Stewart	DE	6-3	247	R-Sr.	Antioch, Tenn. / Brentwood Academy / Memphis / MTSU
8	Brendan Hale	DB	6-1	185	R-Jr.	Orange, Calif. / Orange Lutheran Southern Utah
8	Caleb McCreary	QB	5-11	195	So.	Wetumpka, Ala. / Montgomery Catholic Prep / Troy
9	Brock Montgomery	WR	6-2	198	So.	Columbia, Tenn. / Riverdale / UConn
10	Byron McNair	QB	6-0	185	Fr.	St. Louis, Mo. / St. Louis / Kansas Wesleyan
10	Syncere Safeeullah	DB	6-3	180	So.	Nashville, Tenn. / Hillsboro / IMG Nebraska
11	Brent Rowe	LB	6-1	230	Sr.	Milwaukee, Wisc. / Hendersonville
12	Ryder Hagan	QB	6-2	200	R-So.	Nashville, Tenn. / Overton
13	Nicholas Cyrus	QB	6-5	190	Fr.	Brooklyn, N.Y. / South Shore
13	Dominique Dixon	DB	6-1	195	So.	St. Louis, Ill. / Cardinal Ritter College Prep
14	Tyson Edwards	WR	6-2	189	R-So.	Nashville, Tenn. / Overton / Memphis
14	Brandon Wilson	DB	5-11	185	R-Jr.	Montgomery, Ala. / Park Crossing
15	Jakobe Freeman	DB	6-1	170	Fr.	Memphis, Tenn. / Whitehaven
15	Mark Shenouda	P	6-1	210	R-So.	Mt. Juliet, Tenn. / Mt. Juliet / Memphis
16	Exavious Reed	TE	6-5	220	R-So.	LaGrange, Ga. / Callaway / Southern Miss
17	Justin Hughes	WR	6-3	200	Sr.	Nashville, Tenn. / Lipscomb Academy / Memphis / Arkansas Baptist
17	Mikeece Jones	DB	6-0	185	R-Jr.	Nashville, Tenn. / Hillsboro / Iowa Western
18	Devaughn Slaughter	WR	6-1	185	Fr.	Indianapolis, Ind. / Indianapolis Cathedral
18	Jaylon Price	DE	6-3	220	Jr.	Sunflower, Miss. / Ruleville Central / S.W. Mississippi CC.
19	Ravon Johnson	DE	6-4	245	Jr.	Grayson, Ga. / Grayson / Alabama A&M
19	Joshua Reese	QB	6-4	200	Fr.	Nashville, Tenn. / Cane Ridge
21	Jayden Cook	DB	6-0	190	R-So.	Frankfort, Ill. / Lincoln-Way East / Kansas State
21	Lucas Harkless	WR	5-10	168	Jr.	Montgomery, Ala. / Montgomery Catholic / Troy
22	DuJuan Sharp III	DB	5-9	180	R-So.	Nashville, Tenn. / Ensworth
22	Anthony Taylor	WR	5-9	170	Fr.	San Diego, Calif. / Cathedral Catholic
23	Tysean Jefferson	RB	5-7	170	R-Sr.	Nashville, Tenn. / Beech / Western Kentucky
24	Taveon Porter	RB	5-10	210	Sr.	Chicago Heights, Ill. / Bremen / Elmhurst / College of DuPage
25	Sammy Taylor	LB	6-2	225	R-So.	Nashville, Tenn. / Ensworth
26	Jalen LaBranche	DB	5-8	172	Fr.	Miami, Fla. / Miami Central
27	Byron Davis	DB	6-1	185	Jr.	Nashville, Tenn. / Cane Ridge / Kentucky Wesleyan
28	Kaiki Baker	DB	6-3	210	So.	Nashville, Tenn. / Hillsboro
29	Joshua Malone	DB	5-8	160	Fr.	Gardendale, Ala. / Gardendale
29	Ryan Screen	WR	5-11	155	So.	Fort Meade, Fla. / Fort Meade / Warner
30	Zack Simmons-Brown	RB	5-10	170	R-Fr.	Columbus, Ga. / Central / Garden City CC
31	Trevor Pearson	RB	5-10	215	R-So	Montgomery, Ala. / Trinity Presbyterian / Troy / Prairie View A&M
32	Jayden Coleman	DB	5-10	180	So.	Phenix City, Ala. / Central

2025 TSU ROSTER

NO.	NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	YR.	HOMETOWN / HIGH SCHOOL / PREVIOUS SCHOOL
33	Taeshawn Jefferson	DB	5-11	188	So.	Nashville, Tenn. / Germantown
33	Deuce Walker	RB	5-10	205	R-Fr.	Glendale, Ariz. / Cactus
35	Alijah Bivans	LB	5-11	220	Sr.	Salisbury, Md. / Parkside / Towson
36	Caleb Reid	LB	6-3	236	R-Fr.	Newnan, Ga. / Newman / MTSU
37	Jacorris Foreman	DB	5-11	197	R-So.	Pahokee, Fla. / Everglades Preparatory Academy
37	Johnothan Moore	RB	5-11	200	R-So.	Smyrna, Tenn. / Montgomery Bell Academy
38	Lelan Wilhoite	RB	5-11	185	Gr.	Nashville, Tenn. / Siegel / Florida A&M
39	Roman Mathis	K/P	6-4	185	Fr.	Joelton, Tenn. / Davidson Academy
41	Daniel Bravo	K	5-7	180	So.	Nashville, Tenn. / Antioch
42	Germani Wilson	WR	6-4	180	Fr.	Atlanta, Ga. / May
43	Kyle Hicks	LS	6-3	235	R-Fr.	Nashville, Tenn. / Hillsboro
44	Ethan Cunningham	RB	5-9	185	So.	College Grove, Tenn. / Fred J. Page / North Alabama
45	Zachariah Lee	LB	6-4	225	Fr.	Nashville, Tenn. / John Overton
46	Coby May	K	6-0	165	Gr.	Aurora, Colo. / Eaglecrest / Colorado Mesa
47	Matthew Wilson	LB	6-2	235	So.	Tampa, Fla. / Middleton
49	Brandon Collins	DE	6-2	250	Fr.	Nashville, Tenn. / Ensworth
50	Joshua Green	DT	6-3	280	Fr.	North Little Rock, Ark. / Georgetown
51	Epoki Fakaosi	LB	5-11	220	Jr.	Los Altos Hills, Calif. / Foothills
52	Bryce Gray	DT	5-11	280	Fr.	Belleville, Ill. / Cardinal Ritter College Prep
53	Steven Nelson	OL	6-3	270	Fr.	Murfreesboro, Tenn. / Rockvale
54	Darius Neals	OL	6-4	315	R-So.	Ellenwood, Ga. / Cedar Grove
55	Breon Brown	OL	6-4	287	R-So.	Richmond, Va. / Varina / James Madison
55	Camron Douglas	DL	6-2	265	R-Jr.	Brownsville, Tenn. / Haywood / Tennessee
56	Anthony Smith	OL	6-3	305	Gr.	Lakeland, Fla. / Lakeland / Iowa State
57	Gavin Forsha	LB	6-2	220	Sr.	Nashville, Tenn. / Mt. Juliet Christian / South Alabama
58	Shamar Crawford	OL	6-5	287	R-Jr.	Tampa, Fla. / Riverview / MTSU
60	Darien Farmer	OL	6-0	290	R-So.	Aurora, Ill / West Aurora
61	Christopher Barnett	OL	6-4	300	Fr.	Snellville, Ga. / Blackman
63	Veguer Jean-Jumeau	OL	6-7	275	So.	Nashville, Tenn. / Hillsboro
69	KJ McCou	OL	6-3	335	R-Sr.	Memphis, Tenn. / Desoto Central / Florida A&M
70	Jesse Igwe	OL	6-2	330	Fr.	Greer, S.C. / Riverside Gardner-Webb
71	Robert Howell	OL	6-5	315	Fr.	Trussville, Ala. / Hewitt-Trussville
73	Joel Van-Tagoe	OL	6-6	310	Jr.	Oklahoma City, Okla. / Oklahoma City Northeastern Oklahoma A&M
75	Arlington Williams Jr.	OL	6-4	300	Fr.	Nassau, Bahamas / Anatol Rodgers / Snow
77	Jakhye Irby	OL	6-8	342	So.	Knoxville, Tenn. / Powell / Butler CC
78	Parker Harden	OL	6-5	350	Fr.	Pickerington, Ohio / Pickerington Central
80	Plexico Brooks	WR	6-0	175	Fr.	Middletown, N.Y / Pine Bush
81	Terence Doston	WR	5-10	170	Fr.	Tampa, Fla. / Hillsborough / Wyoming
83	LJ Walker	WR	6-0	198	Fr.	Gilbert, Ariz. / Perry
84	Amari Southall	WR	6-0	180	R-So.	Nashville, Tenn. / Hillsboro
85	Deon Wiggins	WR	5-10	175	R-Fr.	Pompano Beach, Fla. / Blanche-Ely
86	Christian Jones	TE	6-4	230	Sr.	Inola, Okla. / Inola / Missouri Southern State / Norteastern A&M
87	Connor Ruth	TE	6-3	230	So.	Knoxville, Tenn. / Knoxville Catholic
89	Jason Hoath Jr.	TE	6-3	245	Jr.	Columbia, Tenn. / Page
90	Connor Ridderhoff	LS	6-2	240	R-Jr.	Chelsea, Ala. / Chelsea
91	Khy'Lek Jarrett	DE	5-4	218	Fr.	Hamilton, Ohio / Princeton
94	Demetrius Gore	DT	6-0	260	Fr.	Miami, Fla. / Jam Prep
96	Shaun Ayers	DT	6-4	305	So.	Rocky Point, N.Y. / St. Thomas Moore / Sacred Heart
97	Terence Carpenter II	DE	6-3	225	R-So.	Memphis, Tenn. / Blackman
99	Lathun Snipes	DL	6-1	290	Gr.	Elk Grove, Calif. / Monterey Trail / Butte College

7	JUICE MAJORS	WR
	ALPHABETICAL (CONT.)	
46	COBY MAY	K
39	ROMAN MATHIS	K/P
10	BYRON MCNAIR	QB
8	CALEB MCCREARY	QB
69	KJ MCCOU	OL
37	JOHNOTHAN MOORE	RB
9	BROCK MONTGOMERY	WR
54	DARIUS NEALS	OL
53	STEVEN NELSON	OL
6	JONATHAN PALMER	QB
31	TREVOR PEARSON	RB
4	FREDDY PEREZ	K
24	TAVEON PORTER	RB
18	JAYLON PRICE	DE
36	CALEB REID	LB
2	SNAP REED	WR
16	EXAVIOUS REED	TE
19	JOSHUA REESE	QB
90	CONNOR RIDDERHOFF	LS
11	BRENT ROWE	LB
87	CONNOR RUTH	TE
10	SYNCERE SAFEEULLAH	DB
22	DUJUAN SHARP III	DB
15	MARK SHENOUDA	P
2	STEPHON SHIVERS	DT
81	TERENCE DOSTON	WR
97	TERENCE CARPENTER II	DE
18	DEVAUGHN SLAUGHTER	WR
56	ANTHONY SMITH	OL
30	ZACK SIMMONS-BROWN	RB
84	AMARI SOUTHALL	WR
7	JAMES STEWART	DE
25	SAMMY TAYLOR	LB
22	ANTHONY TAYLOR	WR
73	JOEL VAN-TAGOE	OL
83	LJ WALKER	WR
33	DUECE WALKER	RB
1	JASHON WATKINS	DB
85	DEON WIGGINS	WR
38	LELAN WILHOITE	RB
75	ARLINGTON WILLIAMS JR.	OL
42	GERMANI WILSON	WR
47	MATTHEW WILSON	LB
14	BRANDON WILSON	DB

NOTES

WEEK 3 BY THE NUMBERS:

7: TSU converted 7 of 15 third downs, extending drives and helping the Tigers finish with 21 first downs.

21: TSU picked up 21 first downs, edging Alabama A&M's total of 19.

41: The Tigers logged 41 rushing attempts, reinforcing their ground-game emphasis.

76: Zack Simmons-Brown totaled 76 rushing yards, highlighted by a 27-yard touchdown run.

111: Kendric Rhymes rushed for 111 net yards on 24 carries, adding 22 receiving yards and a touchdown grab.

157: QB Byron McNair threw for 157 yards on 17-of-27 passing with a touchdown and an interception.

179: The Tigers totaled 179 net rushing yards, showing a balanced and physical ground attack.

WEEK 2 BY THE NUMBERS:

1: Defensive back Byron Davis picked off his first pass of the season in the fourth quarter, giving TSU its second interception in as many weeks.

4: The Tigers recorded four first downs against North Dakota State. On the season, TSU is averaging 13.5 first downs per game.

8: Punter Mark Shenouda booted eight punts for an average of 42.4 yards, including a 52-yarder. Through two games, Shenouda is averaging 43.8 yards per punt.

16: Wide receiver Tyson Edwards hauled in a 16-yard catch, TSU's longest reception of the day. Edwards has recorded a reception in each of the first two games this season.

42: TSU totaled 42 yards on kickoff returns, highlighted by Lelan Wilhoite's season-long 24-yard return.
31x: Zack Simmons-Brown's 31-yard rush in the third quarter marked the Tigers' longest offensive play of the afternoon and his longest career run.

45: Freddy Perez connected on a 45-yard field goal in the fourth quarter for TSU's lone points. The senior has now hit from 40+ yards in back-to-back games after making a 42-yarder in the season opener.

53: Kendric Rhymes finished with a team-best 53 all-purpose yards (43 rushing, 10 receiving). Rhymes has now led TSU in total yards from scrimmage in both games this season.

61: Three different Tiger quarterbacks combined for 61 passing yards on 8 completions. Tennessee State has now completed passes to nine different receivers across the first two contests.

70: TSU posted 70 net rushing yards against the Bison. Through two games, the Tigers are averaging 134.5 rushing yards per contest.

WEEK 1 BY THE NUMBERS:

1: Tennessee State won the turnover battle with a +1 margin with three fumble recoveries compared to an interception and a lost fumble.

2: The Tigers forced two fumbles in the second quarter and capitalized with a 41-yard field goal by Freddy Perez, briefly taking a 10–7 lead.

4: Tennessee State recorded four sacks in the game, coming from James Stewart, Byron Davis, Ravon Johnson, and Bryce Gray.

11: Quarterback Jonathan Palmer connected with DeVaughn Slaughter for an 82-yard touchdown strike on the Tigers' first offensive play of the game, tying the score just 11 seconds after NC A&T's opening touchdown.

38: With six seconds remaining, Lathun Snipes blocked a 38-yard NC A&T field goal attempt. Matthew Wilson scooped up the ball and returned it 35 yards to secure the Tigers' victory.

41: Kicker Freddy Perez drilled a 41-yard field goal in the second quarter following a fumble recovery, giving TSU a 10–7 lead. He finished perfect on the night (1-for-1 FG, 3-for-3 PAT).

44: Punter Mark Shenouda averaged 44.0 yards on eight punts, dropping four inside the 20-yard line to help swing field position.

62: The Tiger defense tallied 62 total tackles, led by Kaiki Baker (9) and James Stewart (6). Stewart added 2.5 tackles for loss, one sack, and a forced fumble to pace the defense.

129: DeVaughn Slaughter finished with 129 all-purpose yards, highlighted by his 102 receiving yards and an 82-yard touchdown catch, along with 35 yards on kickoff returns.

174: Kendric Rhymes rushed for 174 yards on 21 carries in his TSU debut, including explosive touchdown runs of 60 and 51 yards that came in the second half.

8,865: The Tigers opened the 2025 season and the John A. Merritt Classic in front of 8,865 fans at Nissan Stadium.

PRESEASON BY THE NUMBERS:

5: Offensive line coach Russ Ehrenfeld brings a wealth of experience and a proven track record in developing NFL talent. Ehrenfeld holds the distinction of having coached the last five NFL draft picks under his tutelage. His first came in 2000 with Michael Thompson (Atlanta Falcons), followed by Kadeem Edwards (Tampa Bay Buccaneers, 2014), Demetrius Rhaney (St. Louis Rams, 2014), Robert Myers (Baltimore Ravens, 2015), Anthony Morris (Oakland Raiders, 2015), and Lachavious Simmons (Chicago Bears, 2020). Known for his expertise in developing linemen at multiple positions, Ehrenfeld has consistently prepared players to compete at the next level.

8: Mark Shenouda is Tennessee State's lone returning punter for the 2025 season. In 2024, he appeared in 10 games and punted 40 times for 1,608 yards, averaging 40.2 yards per punt with a long of 60. Shenouda consistently helped control field position, placing 13 punts inside the 20-yard line and recording seven fair catches. He also had eight punts travel 50 or more yards, showcasing both distance and accuracy, while avoiding any blocked punts.

13: Devon Starling played three seasons at Tennessee State before transferring to Northern Arizona for the 2023 season. At TSU, he totaled over 1,900 all-purpose yards and 15 touchdowns, earning OVC Co-Freshman of the Year honors as a freshman. Starling led the Tigers in rushing in multiple seasons and was a consistent threat in the passing game, while also contributing on special teams. In 2023 at Northern Arizona, he led the Lumberjacks with 726 rushing yards and seven total touchdowns, including three 100-yard rushing games. He added 210 receiving yards on 22 catches, averaged 85.1 all-purpose yards per game, and contributed four tackles on defense, showcasing his versatility and playmaking ability.

15: Ravon Johnson will face his former team, Alabama A&M, later this season in Week 3. Johnson played one season at Alabama A&M in 2024, appearing in all 15 games. He finished the year with 15 total tackles, including three solo stops and 12 assists, and added one pass defended, providing a steady presence in the

NOTES

Bulldogs' secondary.

16: Braelen Perry played two seasons at Prairie View A&M before joining Tennessee State. Over his collegiate career, he appeared in 16 games, recording 16 total tackles, including three solo stops and 13 assists. Perry also added 0.5 tackles for loss, contributing consistently on the defensive front and providing depth and experience to TSU's defense.

17: Jelani Willis played four seasons at Western Michigan, including a redshirt in 2021. In 2024, he appeared in six games and recorded 11 tackles, highlighted by three tackles each against Bethune-Cookman and Eastern Michigan. Willis contributed in 2023 with six tackles over 11 games and added a kickoff return for three yards. He also saw action in two games in 2022.

22: Brandon Hale joins Tennessee State after three seasons at Southern Utah. In 2024, he appeared in six games for the Thunderbirds, recording 12 tackles, including eight solo stops. Hale played in all 11 games in 2023, adding nine tackles (six solo, three assisted), and made two appearances in 2022, recording one tackle and catching an interception against Lincoln (Calif.).

24: Of the 24 players hailing from Nashville (area), 11 different high schools are represented. Five schools produced multiple teammates: John Overton High School — 4 players; Hillsboro High School — 5 players; Ensworth School — 3 players; Cane Ridge High School — 3 players; Fred J. Page High School (Franklin)

Hillsboro: Kaiki Baker, Kyle Hicks, Veguer Jean-Jumeau, Syncere Safeeullah, Amari Southall
Overton: Tyson Edwards, Ryder Hagan, Zachariah Lee, Juice Majors
Ensworth: Brandon Collins, DuJuan Sharp III, Sammy Taylor
Cane Ridge: Byron Davis, Joshua Reese, Devon Starling
Fred J. Page: Jonathan Palmer, Jason Hoath Jr., Ethan Cunningham
Brentwood Academy: Stephon Shivers, James Stewart
Lipscomb: Justin Hughes
Beech: Tysean Jefferson
Mt. Juliet Christian: Gavin Forsha
Antioch: Daniel Bravo
Montgomery Bell Academy: Johnothan Moore

25: Kendric Rhymes joins Tennessee State after four productive collegiate seasons, including three at Southern and one at Kilgore College. A dynamic offensive weapon, Rhymes rushed for 645 yards and seven touchdowns in 2024 at Southern, adding 10 receptions for 95 yards and one score. Over his Southern career, he totaled 1,568 rushing yards and 20 touchdowns, with 48 catches for 351 yards and five receiving scores. He began his career at Kilgore, posting 317 yards and two touchdowns as a freshman, including a season-best 255-yard game.

28: The number of NCAA Division I transfers on this seasons roster: **Shaun Ayers** — Sacred Heart; **Alijah Bivans** — Towson; **Breon Brown** — James Madison; **Jayden Cook** — Kansas State; **Shamar Crawford** — MTSU; **Ethan Cunningham** — North Alabama; **Byron Davis** — Kentucky Wesleyan; **Terence Dotson** — Wyoming; **Camron Douglas** — Tennessee; **Tyson Edwards** — Memphis; **Gavin Forsha** — South Alabama; **Brendan Hale** — Southern Utah; **Lucas Harkless** — Troy; **Justin Hughes** — Memphis / Arkansas Baptist; **Jesse Igwe** — Gardner-Webb; **Ravon Johnson** — Alabama A&M; **Caleb McCreary** — Troy; **KJ McCou** — Florida A&M; **Brock Montgomery** — UConn; **Jonathan Palmer** — Gardner-Webb; **Trevor Pearson** — Troy / Prairie View A&M; **Braelen Perry** — Prairie View A&M; **Exavious Reed** — Southern Miss; **Caleb Reid** — MTSU; **Syncere Safeeullah** — Nebraska; **Devon Starling** — Northern Arizona / Memphis; **James Stewart** — Memphis / MTSU; **Jelani Willis** — Western Michigan

40: Players from Tennessee — Kaiki Baker, Daniel Bravo, Terence Carpenter II, Brandon Collins, Ethan Cunningham, Byron Davis, Camron Douglas, Tyson Edwards, Gavin Forsha, Jakobe Freeman, Jayden Guy, Ryder Hagan, Kyle Hicks, Jason Hoath Jr., Jakhye Irby, Veguer Jean-Jumeau, Taeshawn Jefferson, Tysean Jefferson, Zachariah Lee, Juice Majors, Roman Mathis, KJ McCou, Brock Montgomery, Johnothan Moore, Steven Nelson, Jonathan Palmer, Joshua Reese, Snap Reed, Connor Ruth, Syncere Safeeullah, DuJuan Sharp III, Stephon Shivers, Amari Southall, Jaylin Suggs, Devon Starling, James Stewart, Sammy Taylor, Justin Hughes, and Jelani Willis.

40: Gavin Forsha enters Tennessee State after three seasons of collegiate experience at South Alabama and Kansas State. A versatile linebacker, Forsha recorded 27 tackles and 2.5 tackles for loss in 2024 at South Alabama before a season-ending injury, highlighted by a career-high eight tackles at Arkansas State. At Kansas State in 2022, he played in nine games, notching 10 tackles, 2.5 TFLs, a sack, and a pass breakup.

51: Players that entered TSU as true freshman — Kaiki Baker, Christopher Barnett, Daniel Bravo, Plexico Brooks, Terence Carpenter II, Jayden Coleman, Brandon Collins, Nicholas Cyrus, Dominique Dixon, Darien Farmer, Jakobe Freeman, Micah Gay, Demetrius Gore, Bryce Gray, Joshua Green, Jayden Guy, Ryder Hagan, Parker Harden, Kyle Hicks, Jason Hoath Jr., Jackson Howell, Marlon Huff, Khy'Lek Jarrett, Veguer Jean-Jumeau, Taeshawn Jefferson, Jalen LaBranche, Zachariah Lee, Juice Majors, Joshua Malone, Roman Mathis, Johnothan Moore, Darius Neals, Steven Nelson, Snap Reed, Joshua Reese, Connor Ridderhoff, Brent Rowe, Connor Ruth, DuJuan Sharp III, Stephon Shivers, Devaughn Slaughter, Amari Southall, Jaylin Suggs, Anthony Taylor, Sammy Taylor, Duece Walker, LJ Walker, Deon Wiggins, Brandon Wilson, Germani Wilson, Matthew Wilson

54: James Stewart enters Tennessee State after four collegiate seasons at Memphis and MTSU. At MTSU, he totaled 46 tackles over two seasons, including seven tackles for loss, 1.5 sacks, and a forced fumble in 2024, highlighted by 2.5 TFLs and a sack against New Mexico State. Stewart earned Defensive Lineman of the Week honors in 2023 and contributed in key wins throughout his career.

WHERE TO WATCH & LISTEN: TSU football can be heard on WNSR's flagship stations: 560 AM, 95.9 FM (Nashville), and 107.9 FM (Smyrna), and streamed online at WNSR.com. The broadcast is also available globally on Sirius XM. WNSR provides comprehensive pregame and postgame analysis, exclusive interviews with coaches and players, and behind-the-scenes content to enhance fan engagement. "The Voice of the Tigers," Greg Pogue, returns for his 14th season behind the mic and will be joined by veteran Arena Football League head coach and former Titans scout Dean Cokinos for home games, and TSU Assistant Athletic Director Nick Guerriero for road games. All TSU home games will be streamed live on ESPN+, and the action can also be accessed through the TSU Tigers app. Dan Laing returns for his third season as play-by-play announcer, joined in the booth by Arena Football Hall of Famer and Nashville Kats head coach Darren Arbet. Dean Cokinos will also serve as an analyst throughout the season.

NATIONAL RANKINGS, GENERAL INFORMATION, RECENT SCHEDULES

TSU NATIONALLY RANKED (SPORTS NETWORK-STATS POLL / COACHES POLL)

	'25
Preseason	RV/RV
Week 1	--/--
Week 2	--/--
Week 3	--/--
Week 4	--/--
Week 5	
Week 6	
Week 7	
Week 8	
Week 9	
Week 10	
Week 11	
Week 12	
Week 13	
FINAL	

	'24	'23	'22	'21	'20	'19	'18	'17	'16	'15	'14
Preseason	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	RV/RV	RV/--	--/--	15/17
Week 1	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	23/24	RV/--	--/--	14/16
Week 2	--/RV	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	22/24	RV/--	--/--	22/22
Week 3	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	20/20	RV/--	--/--	20/20
Week 4	--/RV	RV/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	24/24	RV/RV	--/--	21/20
Week 5	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	RV/RV	RV/RV	--/--	21/20
Week 6	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	RV/RV	RV/RV	--/--	25/25
Week 7	RV/--	RV/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	25/25	--/--	RV/RV
Week 8	RV/RV	RV--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	25/RV	--/--	RV/RV
Week 9	25/RV	RV/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	RV/RV	--/--	--/--
Week 10	25/RV	RV/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	RV/RV	--/--	--/--
Week 11	RV/RV	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	RV/RV	--/--	--/--
Week 12	RV/RV	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	RV/RV	--/--	--/--
Week 13	21/19	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	RV/RV	--/--	--/--
FINAL	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	RV/RV	--/--	--/--

	'13	'12	'11	'10	'09	'08	'07	'06	'05	'04	'03
Preseason	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	RV/RV	RV/--	--/--	15/17
Week 1	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	23/24	RV/--	--/--	14/16
Week 2	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	22/24	RV/--	--/--	22/22
Week 3	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	25/RV	--/--	20/20	RV/--	--/--	20/20
Week 4	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	23/25	--/--	24/24	RV/RV	--/--	21/20
Week 5	--/--	--/24	--/--	--/--	--/--	RV/RV	--/--	RV/RV	RV/RV	--/--	21/20
Week 6	--/23	18/20	--/--	--/--	--/--	RV24	--/--	RV/RV	RV/RV	--/--	25/25
Week 7	24/22	17/18	--/--	--/--	--/--	22/21	--/--	--/--	25/25	--/--	RV/RV
Week 8	21/21	21/21	--/--	--/--	--/--	19/19	--/--	--/--	25/RV	--/--	RV/RV
Week 9	23/24	18/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	25/RV	--/--	--/--	RV/RV	--/--	--/--
Week 10	RV/RV	24/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	22/22	--/--	--/--	RV/RV	--/--	--/--
Week 11	RV/RV	23/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	18/18	--/--	--/--	RV/RV	--/--	--/--
Week 12	25/25	RV/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	25/RV	--/--	--/--	RV/RV	--/--	--/--
Week 13	19/17	RV/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	RV/RV	--/--	--/--	RV/RV	--/--	--/--
FINAL	17/17	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	RV/RV	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--

	'02	'01	'99	'98	'97	'96	'95	'94	'93	'92	'91
Preseason	--/--	--/--	13	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--
Week 1	--/--	--/--	14	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--
Week 2	--/--	--/--	12	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--
Week 3	--/--	--/--	8	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--
Week 4	--/--	25	7	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--
Week 5	--/--	22	5	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--
Week 6	--/--	18	4	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--
Week 7	--/--	15	2	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--
Week 8	--/--	13	2	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--
Week 9	--/--	15	2	19	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--
Week 10	--/--	14	2	16	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--
Week 11	--/--	24	1	11	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--
Week 12	--/--	RV	1	10	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--
Week 13	--/--	25	11	12	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--
FINAL	--/--	25	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--

	'90	'89	'88	'87	'86	'85	'84	'83	'82	'81	'80
Preseason	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--
Week 1	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	8	--/--	10	16	--/--	--/--	--/--
Week 2	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	7	--/--	RV	13	--/--	--/--	--/--
Week 3	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	9	--/--	9	8	18	--/--	--/--
Week 4	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	7	--/--	7	12	6	--/--	--/--
Week 5	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	8	--/--	3	12	5	--/--	--/--
Week 6	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	7	--/--	3	13	3	T-7	--/--
Week 7	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	5	--/--	3	8	4	5	--/--
Week 8	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	9	--/--	2	12	3	5	--/--
Week 9	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	9	--/--	1	18	3	7	--/--
Week 10	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	8	--/--	RV	17	4	6	--/--
Week 11	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	14	--/--	--/--	--/--	--/--	6	--/--

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of School....Tennessee State University (TSU)
City/Zip....Nashville, Tenn. 37209
Founded....1912
Enrollment....8,088
Nickname....Tigers
School Colors....Reflex Blue and White
Affiliation....NCAA Division I
Conference....Ohio Valley Conference (OVC)
Stadium....Nissan Stadium (69,143)
Surface....Tifsport Bermuda Sod

Interim President....Dwayne Tucker
Director of Athletics....Dr. Mikki Allen
Athletics Department #....615-963-1248
Asst. AD / Communications....Nick Guerriero
SID Phone #....615-963-6638
Official Web Site....TSUTigers.com

TSU FOOTBALL

First Season....1912
All-Time Record:....521-311-33
First Year in OVC:....1988
OVC Record:....117-139
OVC Championships:....3 (Last-2024)
NCAA FCS Playoff Appearances:....6 (Last-2024)
HBCU National Championships:....16 (Last-2013)
Cumulative All-Americans:....339
Pro Football Hall of Famers:....Richard Dent 2011, Claude Humphrey 2014

FUTURE SCHEDULED GAMES

9/9/28....at North Carolina A&T....TBA

2024 RESULTS — 9-4 — (4-1 H, 4-3 A, 1-0 N) — 6-2 OVC — (3-1 H, 3-1 A)

8/31....MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE....W, 41-21
9/7....at North Dakota State....L, 3-52
9/14....vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff....W, 41-28
9/21....at Tennessee Tech*....L, 14-24
9/28....CHARLESTON SOUTHERN*....W, 13-9
10/5....at Lindenwood*....W, 24-20
10/12....EASTERN ILLINOIS*....W, 41-17
10/19....at Howard....W, 27-14
11/2....UT MARTIN*....L, 21-28
11/9....at Western Illinois*....W, 45-20
11/16....at Gardner-Webb*....W, 23-20
11/23....SEMO*....W, 28-21
11/30....vs. Montana!....L, 27-41

2023 RESULTS — 6-5 — (4-1 H, 1-4 A, 1-0 N) — 2-4 OVC — (2-1 H, 0-3 A)

9/2....at Notre Dame....L, 3-56
9/9....vs. Arkansas-Pine Bluff....W, 24-14
9/16....GARDNER-WEBB*....W, 27-25
9/30....at UT Martin*....L, 10-20
10/7....at Kennesaw State....W, 27-20
10/14....NORFOLK ST.....W, 24-17
10/21....LINCOLN....W, 54-0
10/28....LINDENWOOD*....W, 43-20
11/4....at Charleston Southern*....L, 21-35
11/11....at Eastern Illinois*....L, 17-30
11/18....TENNESSEE TECH*....L, 0-35

2022 RESULTS — 4-7 — (2-3 H, 2-3 A, 0-1 N) — 2-3 OVC — (1-2 H, 1-1 A)

9/3....at Eastern Washington....L, 29-36
9/10....vs. Jackson St.....L, 3-16
9/17....at Middle Tennessee....L, 6-49
10/1....LANE....L, 27-28
10/8....BETHUNE-COOKMAN....W, 41-17
10/15....TENNESSEE TECH*....W, 30-14
10/22....EASTERN ILLINOIS*....W, 28-0
10/29....at Murray State*....L, 3-19
11/5....SEMO*....L, 0-42
11/12....UT MARTIN*....L, 3-20
11/19....at Texas A&M-Commerce....W, 22-14

2021 RESULTS — 5-6 — (3-1 H, 2-3 A, 0-2 N) — 3-3 OVC — (2-1 H, 1-2 A)

9/10....vs. Grambling.St.....L, 10-16
9/11....vs. Jackson St.....L, 16-38
9/18....KENTUCKY ST.....W, 41-7
9/25....at SEMO*....L, 14-47
10/2....at Austin Peay....W, 24-22
10/16....TENNESSEE TECH*....W, 20-13
10/23....at Eastern Illinois*....W, 28-0
10/30....MURRAY STATE*....W, 27-21
11/6....at UT Martin*....L, 20-41
11/13....AUSTIN PEAY*....L, 7-36
11/20....at Mississippi State....L, 10-55

COACHING STAFF



REGGIE BARLOW
HEAD COACH

Tennessee State University named Reggie Barlow as the 23rd head football coach in program history on March 23, 2025.

A proven leader with extensive coaching experience and a championship pedigree, Barlow brings a wealth of knowledge and a history of success at both the professional and collegiate levels.

Barlow joins TSU after a standout tenure as head coach of the UFL's D.C. Defenders, where he led the team to a league-best 9-1 record and a championship game appearance in 2023. His remarkable leadership earned him 2023 XFL Coach of the Year honors.

Under his guidance, the Defenders produced seven All-XFL players, including Offensive Player of the Year Jordan Ta'amu, the most of any team in the league. His squad dominated on the ground, leading the league in rushing yards (1,490) and rushing touchdowns (18), while defensively ranking second in sacks (29) and first in pick-sixes (4).

Before his success with the Defenders, Barlow served as head coach at Virginia State University for six seasons. He made history in 2017 leading the Trojans to their first unbeaten season in school history and winning the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Championship. His efforts earned him CIAA Coach of the Year honors.

Barlow began his collegiate coaching career at his alma mater Alabama State University as quarterback coach for two seasons and head coach for eight seasons. During his time at the helm, he led the Hornets to a 49-42 record and three SWAC East Division titles while developing standout quarterbacks like Super Bowl XLVII champion Tarvaris Jackson. His influence went beyond wins and losses, as his teams also excelled in the classroom, boasting an 80% graduation rate.

As a player, Barlow was a standout wide receiver and return specialist at Alabama State before being selected in the fourth round of the 1996 NFL Draft by the Jacksonville Jaguars. During his NFL career, he played for the Jaguars, Oakland Raiders, and Tampa Bay Buccaneers, leading the league in punt return yards in 1998 and earning a Pro Bowl alternate selection. He capped his playing career by winning Super Bowl XXXVII with the Buccaneers in 2002.

COORDINATORS



GREGG WILLIAMS
DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR

Gregg Williams brings more than 30 years of professional football coaching experience, including a Super Bowl title and multiple stints as a defensive coordinator and head coach in the NFL. Williams served as the defensive coordinator and secondary coach for the D.C. Defenders of the UFL/XFL from 2023 to 2025. His extensive NFL resume includes coaching stops with the New York Jets, Cleveland Browns, Los Angeles/St. Louis Rams, New Orleans Saints, Buffalo Bills, Washington Redskins, Jacksonville Jaguars and Tennessee Titans.He was head coach of the Buffalo Bills from 2001 to 2003 and served as interim head coach of the Cleveland Browns in 2018, posting a 5–3 record.Williams was the defensive architect behind the New Orleans Saints' Super Bowl XLIV championship run in 2009. In Music City, Williams is most remembered for guiding the Tennessee Titans to an AFC Championship appearance in 1999 as defensive coordinator. He spent seven seasons working under former Titans head coach Jeff Fisher, who later reunited with Williams during their time with the Rams.Throughout his career, Williams has coached two AP Defensive Rookie of the Year winners — Jevon Kearse (Titans, 1999) and Aaron Donald (Rams, 2014) — and developed a reputation as one of the game's most innovative defensive minds.



SHANNON HARRIS
CO-OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR / QB

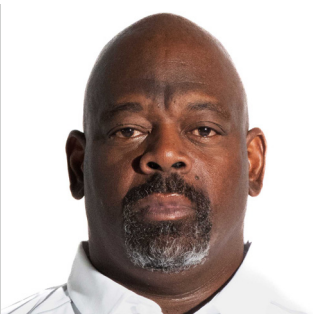
Shannon Harris, fresh off winning the UFL Championship with the D.C. Defenders, has been named Co-Offensive Coordinator and Quarterbacks Coach at Tennessee State University. Harris will also serve as permanent head coach of the Defenders for the 2026 season, marking his third stint with TSU. A former starting quarterback, captain, and Team MVP for the Tigers, Harris began his coaching career at his alma mater (2002–09) before building an extensive résumé with stops at Hampton, Alabama State, Alcorn State, and Virginia State. At Alcorn, he helped guide the Braves to three straight SWAC Championship appearances, a 2015 league title, and the inaugural Celebration Bowl, while mentoring multiple all-conference players. He later returned to TSU as Offensive Coordinator (2019–20) and served as Offensive Coordinator and Interim Head Coach at Virginia State (2021–22). Harris has also gained NFL experience with the Tennessee Titans as a coaching intern.



TRIANO MORGAN
CO-OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR / RB

Toriano Morgan enters his first season as Co-Offensive Coordinator and Running Backs Coach at Tennessee State after serving as head coach at Edward Waters. With more than 20 years of coaching experience at the high school and collegiate levels, Morgan has developed 35 all-conference players and helped send 13 to the NFL.Nicknamed "Mr. 180" for his ability to transform programs, Morgan led Edward Waters to its first winning season in over two decades and guided the Tigers to a top-10 HBCU national ranking in 2023. Under his leadership, the offense produced record-setting performances, including quarterback Jyron Russell becoming the program's all-time leading passer and earning BoxToRow National Player of the Week honors. Morgan also served as Assistant Head Coach, Offensive Coordinator, and Quarterbacks Coach at Virginia State, helping the Trojans to an 8-2 record and a second-place finish in the CIAA Northern Division. He previously revitalized programs at Virginia Union University and Dillard High School, earning a reputation for innovative, high-powered offenses. In 2022, Morgan was selected for the NFL Coaching Academy and named to FootballScoop's Rising Star Coaches Watch List.

COACHING STAFF / RECRUITING



CEDRIC THORNTON, ASSOC. HC / LINEBACKERS
Cedric Thornton brings more than 20 years of coaching experience to Tennessee State, including recent roles as defensive tackles coach and special teams coordinator at Alabama A&M, and defensive coordinator at Grambling State and Alcorn State. At Alcorn, he helped lead the Braves to two SWAC championships and Celebration Bowl appearances, developing multiple all-conference and All-America players while overseeing nationally ranked defenses in sacks, tackles for loss, and turnovers.At Grambling, Thornton mentored standout players like Sundiata Anderson and freshman Keyshawn Johnson, a 2023 Stats Perform FCS Freshman All-American. He also served as defensive coordinator at Alabama State, where his 2014 unit ranked among the top 15 nationally in scoring defense, passing defense, and takeaways, including a program-first shutout since 1994.



DEION HARRIS / DEFENSIVE LINE
Deion Harris, who most recently served as linebackers coach for the D.C. Defenders, has been named linebackers coach at TSU. Harris began his coaching career as a graduate assistant at Virginia State and rose through the ranks of the UFL, where he helped develop one of the league's top linebacker units.



JEROD KRUSE, SPECIAL TEAMS / SECONDARY
Jerod Kruse, a 24-year coaching veteran, joins Tennessee State as Defensive Secondary Coordinator and Special Teams Coordinator after serving as the Research and Strategy Coach for the Cleveland Browns in 2024. He previously spent 2021–23 on the Kansas City Chiefs' staff, working on advanced game planning, and also consulted for EA Sports on Madden and NCAA video games. Kruse's NFL experience includes two stints with the Cleveland Browns (2017–18, 2024), where he helped elevate the defensive secondary into the league's top 10 and mentored Pro Bowl cornerback Denzel Ward. At the collegiate level, he served as Secondary Coach and Co-Defensive Coordinator at FIU (2019–20), William Jewell (head coach and defensive coordinator), Southeastern Louisiana, Emporia State, and Baker University, developing multiple NFL players and conference-leading defenses.



DEXTER JACKSON, SAFTIES
Former NFL safety and Super Bowl MVP Dexter Jackson brings a wealth of experience and championship pedigree to the Tennessee State football coaching staff, serving as the Tigers' safeties coach. Jackson was named Super Bowl XXXVII MVP after recording two interceptions in the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' 48-21 win over the Oakland Raiders. He played 10 seasons in the NFL, primarily with the Buccaneers, and also had stints with the Arizona Cardinals and Cincinnati Bengals. Over his career, Jackson totaled 17 interceptions and more than 450 tackles. A native of Quincy, Florida, Jackson played collegiately at Florida State from 1995 to 1998. He earned second-team All-ACC honors as a junior and senior, finishing his Seminoles career with 194 tackles, seven interceptions, 16 pass breakups and four blocked field goals.



RUSS EHRENFELD, OFFENSIVE LINE
Russ Ehrenfeld enters his 10th year of his fourth stint at Tennessee State after spending last season with the DC Defenders of the UFL. A highly experienced offensive line coach, Ehrenfeld has developed numerous professional players, including four NFL draft picks in a two-year span—Kadeem Edwards, Demetrius Rhaney, Robert Myers, and Anthony Morris—the first time in TSU history that four linemen were drafted in such a short period. During his tenure at TSU, Ehrenfeld has coached multiple All-Ohio Valley Conference selections and All-Americans, including Chidi Okeke and Jessamen Dunker, several of whom earned opportunities in the NFL. His offensive lines have consistently ranked among the conference's best in rushing and fewest sacks, setting the foundation for TSU's high-powered offenses.Prior to his current stint, Ehrenfeld spent three seasons at Chattanooga, helping the Mocs allow just nine sacks in 2009—third fewest nationally—and coaching multiple all-league linemen and tight ends. He previously coached TSU's offensive line from 1997–99, helping the Tigers win back-to-back OVC championships in 1998 and 1999, with four linemen from the 1999 squad advancing to the NFL.



EDDIE WOODS, TIGHT ENDS
Joining the offensive staff as Tight Ends coach is Eddie Woods, a legendary high school coach in Middle Tennessee and TSU football alum. Woods compiled a 77-30 record in nine seasons at Cane Ridge High School and is credited with developing dozens of Division I athletes. He brings a no-nonsense approach and a strong commitment to player accountability.



NICK ANDREWS, WIDE RECEIVERS
Nick Andrews, who will serve as wide receivers coach. A former standout at Alabama State and a two-time All-SWAC receiver, Andrews most recently served as defensive coordinator at powerhouse Clay-Chalkville (Ala.) High School. His deep understanding of both sides of the ball makes him a valuable asset to TSU's passing attack.



JUSTIN HANNAH, DEFENSIVE ANALYST
Justin Hannah will serve as a defensive analyst. Hannah played professionally in the Arena Football League before coaching at his alma mater, Tuskegee University, and most recently served as head coach at Murphy High School in Mobile, Alabama.

2025 TSU FOOTBALL SUPPORT STAFF



KEVIN MASHACK
Recruiting Director
2nd Season



JOHNNY JOHNSON
Football Operation
1st Season



SCOTT HOLSOPPLE
AD Sports Performance
5th Season



MIKE BROWN
Football Trainer
1st Season



JEREMY TAYLOR
Equipment Manager
14th Season



WILL JACKSON
Assistant Sports Performance Coach
4th Season



DUJUAN SHARP II
Assistant Sports Performance Coach
3rd Season

Football Regroups After Bye, Prepares for #11 Tennessee Tech

by Nick Guerriero, Asisstant AD

Tennessee State got a rare early season pause in its schedule last week, and head coach Reggie Barlow made sure the Tigers used it wisely. After a demanding start that featured two classics and the top ranked opponent in the first three games, the bye week offered time to heal, refocus and reset ahead of a critical rivalry showdown Saturday at Nissan Stadium against #11 Tennessee Tech.

"Coming off of a bye week, we had a chance to get some work in," Barlow said. "We practiced about three days, really tried to get some guys back healthy and healed up, but also improve our skill set and personnel. The guys came in and worked hard. Coaches did a good job, and we were able to get out and do some recruiting too."

The early slate — which included top-ranked powerhouse North Dakota State, North Carolina A&T and a matchup with Alabama A&M — tested TSU immediately. While the results were mixed, Barlow believes that kind of competition will pay off as the Tigers move into conference play.

"All these guys want to know how they measure up against the better teams," Barlow said. "We got a chance to play against North Dakota State, obviously they're a really solid program. Now we get another opponent in the top 25. All these games are challenging, but our group will be ready to rock and roll."

On the field, the Tigers have leaned on their ground game to establish rhythm. Running back Kendric Rhymes leads TSU with 228 rushing yards through three games, averaging 4.8 yards per carry. Fellow back Zack Simmons-Brown has chipped in 104 yards and a touchdown, helping the offense surpass 500 total rushing yards.

The passing game has split between quarterbacks. Byron McNair has completed 19 of 31 passes for 169 yards and one touchdown since taking over as starter, while Jonathan Palmer, who opened the season under center, has gone 16-for-34 for 161 yards. On the outside, Devaughn Slaughter leads the team with 121 receiving yards, while Rhymes has doubled as a reliable target with 77 yards and a touchdown reception.

Special teams have provided consistency as well. Punter Mark Shenouda is averaging 41.9 yards per kick, while kicker Freddy Perez has connected on two field goals from beyond 40 yards.

The Tigers now turn their attention to Tennessee Tech, a team off to one of the hottest starts in the country. The Golden Eagles are 3-0 and have outscored opponents by an average of 60.7 to 10.3, the best scoring margin nationally. They lead the FCS in scoring offense and rank seventh in scoring defense — fourth among teams that have played at least three games.

Tennessee Tech quarterback Kekoa Visperas has directed the offense with efficiency, throwing for 736 yards and eight touchdowns on 68 percent passing with just one interception. The run game has been just as dynamic, with Quintell Quinn averaging 80.7 yards per game and four touchdowns, and Q'Daryius Jennings adding 65 yards per outing with four more scores. Freshman Maurice Sims has contributed 119 yards, highlighted by a 78-yard run. The Golden Eagles' depth has been evident, with nine different receivers catching touchdown passes; Luke Shields leads with two, while Maury Sullivan has a team-high 14 receptions for 162 yards.

"They've been outstanding this season in terms of scoring the ball and defense," Barlow said. "They're a solid football team, and we've got to get ourselves prepared to play. Their quarterback is completing nearly 70 percent of his passes with eight or nine touchdowns and just one interception. He's doing a good job with the ball."

The rivalry only raises the stakes. Since 1984, TSU and Tennessee Tech have met 38 times, with the Golden Eagles holding a 22-16 edge in the all-time series. The Tigers have delivered statement wins of their own, including a 63-13 rout in 2001, a 44-16 victory at Nissan Stadium in 2016 and a 24-10 road win in the spring 2021 season. But Tech has claimed the last two meetings, including a 35-0 shutout in 2023 and a 24-14 win last year in Cookeville.

This matchup also plays into the Sgt. York Trophy race, which is awarded annually to the team with the best head-to-head record among Tennessee's OVC programs: TSU, Tech and UT Martin. The Tigers have captured the trophy five times, with back-to-back titles in 2007 and 2008 followed by a three-year run from 2011 to 2013. More than a decade later, they are eager to reclaim that honor, and a win over Tech would provide a valuable foothold.

Still, Barlow remains confident in his team's direction. McNair is settling into the starting role, Rhymes has emerged as a reliable playmaker, and the defense has shown the ability to force opponents into long-yardage situations.

"Byron did some good things," Barlow said. "Obviously, there are things he needs to improve on, but I trust he'll work on those as we prepare for our next opponent. He's a solid player, loves football, hardworking guy. We expect him to make all the necessary adjustments."

The mission is clear: break through against a high-powered Tennessee Tech squad and prove that lessons learned against ranked opponents can translate into wins in the OVC-Big South race. The bye week offered time to regroup. Now the Tigers look to carry that preparation onto the field.

Football Sets Sights on Victory in Historic Legacy Series Opener

by Nick Guerriero, Asisstant AD

Tennessee State has had little time to dwell on last week's loss to one of the nation's best. The Tigers will need every bit of focus Saturday when they turn the page and welcome Alabama A&M to Nissan Stadium for the debut of the Legacy Series.

The four-year agreement, announced in February, pairs two of the South's most tradition-rich HBCU programs in an annual matchup that will alternate between Nashville and Huntsville through 2028. The Tigers and Bulldogs first met in 1930, with TSU holding a 21–8 edge in the all-time series. The teams haven't faced each other since 2010, when Tennessee State claimed a 27–14 victory. Saturday's meeting at Nissan Stadium marks the beginning of a new chapter in this storied rivalry, with kickoff set for 3:30 PM.

For Tennessee State head coach Reggie Barlow, the chance to highlight history while testing his team against a familiar opponent is a rare opportunity.

"They had a shootout versus Alcorn State and was able to pull out the victory," Barlow said of Alabama A&M's home-opening win. "Really good team, quarterback [Cornelious Brown IV] playing well, got a lot of guys on defense running to the ball. So should be a fun matchup and i'm looking forward to it."

Saturday's game marks the first meeting between the schools in 15 years. TSU leads the all-time series 21–8, but Alabama A&M enters with momentum after Brown IV accounted for five touchdowns and 260 passing yards in a 41–31 victory over Alcorn State.

The Tigers, meanwhile, are trying to rebound from a loss to defending national champion North Dakota State. Barlow said the test offered value beyond the final score.

"Getting a chance to play against North Dakota State really was an honor for us. You always wanna see how you measure up against teams and programs like that," Barlow said. "In the second half, our guys went out, they stayed in the fight, they competed hard, and was able to play with some pride at the end of the game. So that made us proud that we finished like that. That game, I think, will help us down the road when we come up against another opponent like that that has great talent, great program and all that stuff."

TSU opened the year with a narrow 24–21 win over North Carolina A&T in the John A. Merritt Classic, a game that highlighted some of the Tigers' emerging playmakers. Running back Kendric Rhymes, a transfer from Southern, rushed for 174 yards and two scores in his debut. His coach sees him as more than just a weapon in the backfield.

"Obviously, he's a really good football player, even better person, comes to work every day with great attitude, positive attitude," Barlow said. "Playing in the SWAC, he's had his chances and opportunities to play against Alabama A&M," George said. "Like I said, he knows they're a tough team."

Quarterback Jonathan Palmer has thrown for 161 yards and one touchdown through the first two games, while freshman receiver Devaughn Slaughter has shown flashes as a deep threat, hauling in five catches for 106 yards and a score. The Tigers will need more consistency offensively to keep pace with Alabama A&M's high-powered attack.

Defensively, Tennessee State will look to build on flashes of toughness shown in the second half against North Dakota State. The Tigers know the key will be slowing down Brown and cutting down big plays, and if they can carry that fight into four quarters, they'll give themselves a strong chance to make the Legacy Series opener a memorable one.

Beyond the on-field matchups, Saturday also carries meaning for the program and its supporters. TSU has promoted the Legacy Series as a showcase for HBCU excellence and an opportunity to strengthen ties between two universities with proud football traditions. Barlow said the atmosphere will be just as important as the competition.

"We're looking forward to our fans coming out, being part of this game, cheering on our student-athletes, and bringing the noise," Barlow said. "I know our supporters will be there to back us."

For Big Blue, the Legacy Series opener offers a chance to reset, show resilience after a tough loss, and celebrate the program's place in HBCU football history. With tradition on one side, momentum on the other, and pride on the line, Saturday's matchup could be an early turning point in the Tigers' season.

From Blocked Kick to Big Stage: Football Ready for Bison Showdown

by Nick Guerriero, Asisstant AD

The stage is set for one of the biggest challenges Tennessee State football has faced in recent years. Fresh off a dramatic Week 1 victory over North Carolina A&T in the John A. Merritt Classic, the Tigers now welcome the nation's top-ranked team and defending FCS national champion, North Dakota State, to Nissan Stadium on Saturday.

For TSU, the matchup comes with both confidence and urgency. The Tigers have now won back-to-back season openers and claimed their third straight Merritt Classic. But the real test begins against a program that has set the gold standard for FCS dominance.

Running back Kendric Rhymes wasted no time making his presence felt in his TSU debut. The transfer powered his way to 174 rushing yards and two touchdowns, earning recognition as HBCU National Co-Player of the Week. His punishing runs, particularly in the second half, gave the Tigers the spark they needed to pull ahead.

"I think Kendric Rhymes … rhymes with Big Time," said Barlow. "He plays the game the right way. Coach Harris and staff did a great job getting him the ball."

The Tigers' offense found its rhythm after halftime, piling up 173 of their 252 total yards and scoring 14 points — all on the ground from Rhymes.

There were fireworks through the air as well. Quarterback Jonathan Palmer, the hometown product, connected early with fellow newcomer Devaughn Slaughter on an 82-yard strike that electrified the crowd. Slaughter finished with four catches for 102 yards and a touchdown, plus 35 yards on kickoff returns — a performance that earned him OVC-Big South Freshman of the Week honors.

"I tell people he's been here before," Barlow said of Slaughter. "He doesn't carry himself like a freshman. He's big, he's strong, and he wants the ball all the time."

TSU's defense also made its mark, stifling the Aggies for much of the night. North Carolina A&T managed just 219 total yards — with 173 of those coming in the fourth quarter — and scored only once.

Kaiki Baker paced the unit with nine tackles, while James Stewart earned John A. Merritt Classic Defensive Player of the Game honors after recording six tackles, one forced fumble, and a sack. Byron Davis and Ravon Johnson also forced fumbles, with Syncere Safeeullah recovering both.

"I thought the defense played very hard and physical," said defensive coordinator Gregg Williams. "These guys have bought in. James played outstanding, but I thought there were a lot of guys who stood out."

The defining moment came with just six seconds remaining. Clinging to a three-point lead, TSU faced a tense finish as the Aggies lined up for a potential game-tying 38-yard field goal from the 21-yard line. That's when Lathun Snipes broke through and blocked the kick, sealing the Tigers' victory in dramatic fashion.

Special teams provided steady contributions throughout the night under new coordinator Jerod Kruse, going a perfect 3-for-3 on extra points while adding a field goal.

"It was a situation where, at the end of the game, we ran a block we'd shown earlier," said Kruse. "In that moment, guys pushed a little harder and moved the line back. Snipes got his right hand up, and once he blocked it, the rest was history."

While the Tigers look to build on their momentum, they know Saturday's opponent represents the pinnacle of FCS football. North Dakota State, winners of 10 of the last 13 national championships, opened its 2025 campaign with a dominant 38-0 win at The Citadel. The Bison showcased their trademark physicality, piling up 519 yards of offense despite being held scoreless in the first quarter. Quarterback Cole Payton led the ground attack with 103 rushing yards, while running back Barika Kpeenu added 80 yards and two touchdowns.

The showdown at Nissan Stadium offers TSU both a measuring stick and an opportunity. For a program eager to climb back into the national conversation, facing the defending champions provides exactly the kind of stage the Tigers have been building toward.

And the atmosphere should be every bit as electric as the matchup. The Merritt Classic crowd brought the energy in Week 1, and with the Bison faithful known for traveling well, Saturday's game is expected to deliver a charged environment inside Nissan Stadium. For the Tigers, it's not only about competing with the champions — it's about doing so in front of a showcase crowd on their home stage.

Kruse Brings NFL Pedigree, Development Focus to Secondary

by Nick Guerriero, Asisstant AD

When Jerod Kruse joined Tennessee State this summer as special teams coordinator and secondary coach, he immediately recognized the Tigers had something many college programs lack: depth in the defensive backfield.

"Coming from the NFL, you're used to traveling with seven or eight defensive backs," Kruse said. "Now, we've got 11 or 12 guys who can all contribute in some way. That's a blessing."

That depth, combined with Kruse's emphasis on teaching and player development, could play a major role in TSU's push for consistency in 2025. After years of tutelage under around Gregg Williams' defensive system, the secondary is expected to anchor a Tigers defense that prides itself on physical play and speed.

Kruse is not building the group alone. Former Super Bowl MVP Dexter Jackson, who played more than a decade in the NFL, works closely with the defensive backs, while analyst Justin Hannah provides additional support after professional stints in the CFL and NFL camps. Together, the staff is creating an environment centered on accountability and growth.

"These guys have taken coaching really well," Kruse said. "We coach them hard in practice, then on game day we want them to play fast and confident. That balance has helped them grow through camp."

A longtime collaborator with current TSU defensive coordinator Gregg Williams, Kruse has carried a consistent philosophy throughout his career: players respond to coaches who make them better.

"Our philosophy has always been that players will follow you if they believe you can help them improve," Kruse said. "Gregg has turned more undrafted free agents into Pro Bowlers than just about anyone in the last 25 years. That's development. That's what we're bringing to TSU—finding each player's strength and holding them accountable to it."

Kruse's coaching toolbox also includes an innovative background with technology. He has consulted with EA Sports on the Madden video game series, helping design scheme adjustments. That experience, he said, has given him a new perspective on how young players learn the game.

"Practice mode is an incredible teaching tool," Kruse said. "Players can run formations, recognize alignments and communicate in real time with a joystick in hand. The brain doesn't distinguish between mental reps and physical reps, so you can stack learning without adding wear and tear on the body."

Those methods align with Tennessee State's broader embrace of analytics and artificial intelligence. Kruse saw the trend firsthand in his recent stint with the Cleveland Browns, where AI-driven teaching tools and virtual meeting rooms became part of daily preparation.

"AI is the buzzword right now, and everybody is figuring out how it fits," he said. "Some of the technology can break down film faster, and virtual teaching models can help players get more reps without taking more hits. At the end of the day, it's all about making them better and keeping them healthy."

For Kruse, the message to his players at TSU is simple: they are here because they have talent, and it's his job to maximize it.

"They wouldn't be here if they didn't have something special," Kruse said. "Our job is to figure out what that is, develop it, and put them in positions to succeed. If they believe you can make them better, they'll give you everything they've got."

As the Tigers prepare for the 2025 season, Kruse's blend of NFL experience, innovative teaching, and emphasis on player development may be exactly what helps turn depth into dominance.

Special Teams Poised for Growth with Barlow at the Helm

by Nick Guerriero, Asisstant AD

Special teams has long been called football's "hidden third," but at Tennessee State, it's beginning to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with offense and defense. The Tigers are betting that a renewed focus on this phase of the game will give them a competitive edge.

The shift comes with the arrival of Jerod Kruse, TSU's new special teams coordinator and secondary coach, alongside the rare perspective of head coach Reggie Barlow—a former NFL standout return specialist. Together, they are building a unit capable of flipping fields, swinging momentum, and winning games.

Before becoming a coach, Barlow spent seven seasons in the NFL with the Jacksonville Jaguars and Tampa Bay Buccaneers, establishing himself as a dynamic playmaker in the return game. He totaled 92 kickoff returns for 1,855 yards and one touchdown, and 158 punt returns for 1,639 yards and two touchdowns, averaging 23.2 yards per kickoff and 10.4 yards per punt. For Tennessee State, those numbers are more than statistics—they serve as a blueprint.

"Coach Barlow knows exactly what it looks like to change a game on special teams," Kruse said. "That perspective trickles down to our players. It's not just about kicking and covering—it's about creating opportunities."

Kruse's approach emphasizes flexibility across the unit. "Sometimes it's a crapshoot," he said. "One guy today, another guy tomorrow, depending on the game. We've looked at a bunch of players back there."

That extends to the kicking game, where Kruse stresses consistency and resilience as much as mechanics. "There's no kicker in the world who's ever been 100% on PATs or field goals," he said. "Short memories—if you miss, you have to move on to the next play because you're only as good as your next one."

Kruse highlighted the impact of punter Mark Shenouda. "Mark got some kicks in last year, so he's really the only returning specialist," Kruse said. "What I've really liked about him is his approach with the group overall and his role as the veteran leader of the specialist units. He's taken it upon himself to hold the group accountable to the standards we set, and he knows that if anything's wrong, I go to him first. He's embraced the coaching, stepped into the leadership role, and the rest of the guys have followed in a really positive way."

A key part of that development is finding the right fit for critical roles. Kruse said the Tigers are testing multiple players in return positions, with guidance from Barlow and assistant Nick Andrews, both of whom excelled in similar roles during their careers. "It's nice to have guys like Nick Andrews and Coach Barlow, who know what it takes," Kruse said. "We've worked with several players, and we haven't locked in on one yet. The good thing is we have multiple guys we're developing to be proficient."

"When I got here in May, they'd already done some really good things in the past," Kruse said. "We're making a few slight adjustments in technique and approach, but the group has been extremely coachable. From mid-May to now, and adding a few in early August, the growth over the last few weeks has been exactly what we wanted."

The message is clear: if you want to play for Tennessee State, don't overlook special teams.

That philosophy has carried into training camp, where competition remains fierce for jobs in the kicking and return game. No starting spots have been locked in, and the staff treats these roles with the same importance as starting quarterback or middle linebacker.

Kruse said his approach in camp is to challenge players and help them progress step by step. "We've put them in difficult situations, but we've progressed them through a system," he said. "We're starting to filter out what works and what doesn't. Our job as coaches is to find what they do well and accelerate it. Don't ask them to do something outside their skill set and expect top performance."

For a program building its foundation under Barlow, special teams represents more than execution. It's about momentum, hidden yards, and seizing opportunities that often decide close games. With Kruse's detailed teaching and Barlow's NFL-tested vision, Tennessee State believes it has finally found a formula to make the "hidden third" impossible to ignore.

Harris Returns Home With Alumni Spirit and Renewed Championship Confidence

by Nick Guerriero, Asisstant AD

When Shannon Harris walks into the Tennessee State football offices, the walls are the same, the hallways are familiar, and the memories come rushing back. For the former Tigers quarterback and longtime assistant, returning to his alma mater feels like stepping back home — but with a program moving forward in new ways.

Harris is entering his third stint on the TSU staff, this time as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach. He first traded his cleats for a whistle in 2003 as a graduate assistant and went on to serve in nearly every offensive role through 2009. He returned in 2018 as an analyst, was elevated to offensive coordinator in 2019–20, and left the program in 2021 following the arrival of then-head coach Eddie George.

Now, four years later, Harris is back on Jefferson Street, bringing with him fresh perspective — and hardware. He spent the past two seasons with the DC Defenders of the United Football League, helping guide the team to a championship in 2025 and earning UFL Coach of the Year honors.

"To go from being a head coach at that level and now back as an assistant, I think everyone should experience that," Harris said. "It makes you better. You understand why head coaches say certain things, and you manage the game differently. It's made me a much stronger coordinator, and I'm excited to bring that here."

What excites Harris just as much as the playbook is the renewed spirit of TSU's alumni and fan base. From his playing days in the early 2000s, Harris recalls the old tradition of former players — some coming straight from work shifts — gathering along the practice field fence to cheer on the team.

That culture, he said, is coming alive again under head coach Reggie Barlow.

"With Coach Barlow's vision, you can definitely see the excitement," Harris said. "I've seen more former players at scrimmages in the last year than I had in the last 15 or 20. Guys are reengaged, and that matters to this program. It feels like the TSU I remember."

Barlow has made embracing TSU's alumni a priority. From open practices to community events, he has worked to ensure former players feel connected — something Harris said makes a difference for both recruiting and gameday atmosphere.

That connection will be tested and showcased in 2025 as the Tigers host an unprecedented eight home games, the most in program history. For a fan base that once packed Nissan Stadium with crowds of 20,000 to 30,000 during Harris's playing career, the expanded home schedule is an opportunity to show out again.

"It's huge for our fan base," Harris said. "We don't have to go to Memphis or Atlanta anymore — those fans can come here. With the type of schedule we have, and bringing Alabama A&M, North Dakota, and others right here, it's a chance to get the city involved and give our players the support they deserve."

Last season, TSU averaged just over 8,000 fans per game — a number Harris believes can grow with consistency and alumni engagement.

"Coming off a championship season and with eight home games, there's no reason not to fill it up," Harris said. "I've been part of those nights when 40,000 people were in the stands. These young guys deserve that same energy."

Harris's coaching journey — from TSU to Alabama State, Alcorn State, Virginia State, and the UFL — has been marked by steady growth. His return is more than just another job move; it's a homecoming rooted in pride and responsibility.

"This place means everything to me," Harris said. "When I walk around campus, I see the same buildings and remember the same moments from when I played here. But I also see the growth Dr. (Mikki) Allen has brought to athletics. It's not just football — the whole department is moving forward. To be back as part of that is special."

As TSU prepares for the new season, Harris represents both continuity and fresh momentum — an alum returning home with championship experience, charged with leading an offense that will be central to the Tigers' aspirations.

"It's not just about football," Harris said. "It's about reconnecting the alumni, engaging the city, and making this program something everyone is proud of. That's why I came back. And I believe the support is here to make it happen."

Andrews Reunites With Barlow, Harris to Lead Young TSU Receivers

by Nick Guerriero, Asisstant AD

Special teams has long been called football's "hidden third," but at Tennessee State, it's beginning to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with offense and defense. The Tigers are betting that a renewed focus on this phase of the game will give them a competitive edge.

The shift comes with the arrival of Jerod Kruse, TSU's new special teams coordinator and secondary coach, alongside the rare perspective of head coach Reggie Barlow—a former NFL standout return specialist. Together, they are building a unit capable of flipping fields, swinging momentum, and winning games.

Before becoming a coach, Barlow spent seven seasons in the NFL with the Jacksonville Jaguars and Tampa Bay Buccaneers, establishing himself as a dynamic playmaker in the return game. He totaled 92 kickoff returns for 1,855 yards and one touchdown, and 158 punt returns for 1,639 yards and two touchdowns, averaging 23.2 yards per kickoff and 10.4 yards per punt. For Tennessee State, those numbers are more than statistics—they serve as a blueprint.

"Coach Barlow knows exactly what it looks like to change a game on special teams," Kruse said. "That perspective trickles down to our players. It's not just about kicking and covering—it's about creating opportunities."

Kruse's approach emphasizes flexibility across the unit. "Sometimes it's a crapshoot," he said. "One guy today, another guy tomorrow, depending on the game. We've looked at a bunch of players back there."

That extends to the kicking game, where Kruse stresses consistency and resilience as much as mechanics. "There's no kicker in the world who's ever been 100% on PATs or field goals," he said. "Short memories—if you miss, you have to move on to the next play because you're only as good as your next one."

Kruse highlighted the impact of punter Mark Shenouda. "Mark got some kicks in last year, so he's really the only returning specialist," Kruse said. "What I've really liked about him is his approach with the group overall and his role as the veteran leader of the specialist units. He's taken it upon himself to hold the group accountable to the standards we set, and he knows that if anything's wrong, I go to him first. He's embraced the coaching, stepped into the leadership role, and the rest of the guys have followed in a really positive way."

A key part of that development is finding the right fit for critical roles. Kruse said the Tigers are testing multiple players in return positions, with guidance from Barlow and assistant Nick Andrews, both of whom excelled in similar roles during their careers. "It's nice to have guys like Nick Andrews and Coach Barlow, who know what it takes," Kruse said. "We've worked with several players, and we haven't locked in on one yet. The good thing is we have multiple guys we're developing to be proficient."

"When I got here in May, they'd already done some really good things in the past," Kruse said. "We're making a few slight adjustments in technique and approach, but the group has been extremely coachable. From mid-May to now, and adding a few in early August, the growth over the last few weeks has been exactly what we wanted."

The message is clear: if you want to play for Tennessee State, don't overlook special teams.

That philosophy has carried into training camp, where competition remains fierce for jobs in the kicking and return game. No starting spots have been locked in, and the staff treats these roles with the same importance as starting quarterback or middle linebacker.

Kruse said his approach in camp is to challenge players and help them progress step by step. "We've put them in difficult situations, but we've progressed them through a system," he said. "We're starting to filter out what works and what doesn't. Our job as coaches is to find what they do well and accelerate it. Don't ask them to do something outside their skill set and expect top performance."

For a program building its foundation under Barlow, special teams represents more than execution. It's about momentum, hidden yards, and seizing opportunities that often decide close games. With Kruse's detailed teaching and Barlow's NFL-tested vision, Tennessee State believes it has finally found a formula to make the "hidden third" impossible to ignore.

Russ Ehrenfeld Returns to Tennessee State with NFL Track Record

by Nick Guerriero, Asisstant AD

Russ Ehrenfeld is back at Tennessee State University for the fourth time, and his connection to the Tigers runs deep. The offensive line coach has spent 16 seasons with the program across multiple stints and has developed a reputation for producing NFL-caliber players, whether through the draft or free agency.

"I just love Tennessee State. I love what it stands for. I love the young people that come to school here," Ehrenfeld said. "The people that I have worked with here and the people I'm currently working with are great. I just have a great love and affection for TSU."

Ehrenfeld first arrived on campus in 1997 and was part of two Ohio Valley Conference championship teams. The 1999 squad achieved a national No. 1 ranking, cementing the Tigers' place in college football history. "The walls were built by a lot of great people, a lot of great football players, a lot of great athletes overall that have put this place on the map," he said, reflecting on TSU's legacy.

Known as "the NFL guy," Ehrenfeld has guided dozens of Tigers to professional careers. "Once you start coaching and you are around other coaches and they mentor you, or you buy into what they're emphasizing, you just become a student of the game," he said. "I've been very blessed to work with some great players who bought into what I was teaching. Then the light turned on, the switch turned on, and they just kept working hard."

Recruiting is a cornerstone of Ehrenfeld's approach. He blends old-school techniques — visiting a prospect's home or speaking with family — with modern strategies using social media and film. "I came up originally with Splice and Film, and then it went to VHS to Disks. That changed it. But there's a loyalty. Guys can be in the portal and play for you for one season, then get in the portal again. So that makes a difference," he said.

Ehrenfeld's professional experience in leagues like the XFL and UFL gives him a unique perspective. "We had guys from Stanford, James Madison, Mizzou, Oregon State, Georgia — all different backgrounds," he said. "Those guys buying into what I was teaching, and me meeting them halfway, is how we became successful."

His love for Nashville also runs deep. A New Jersey native who attended college in Chattanooga, Ehrenfeld appreciates the city's growth and culture. "There's some great pizza places here now that weren't here 25, 30 years ago. Monell's in Germantown is a spot I like, and the 51st Deli up on 51st Street," he said. "The music, Lower Broadway, it's all great. I've been fortunate; I have a nephew in the music industry at a very high level, and I've been able to see some great shows. I enjoy that."

As Ehrenfeld settles into his latest tenure at TSU, his focus remains on the offensive line and developing players ready for the next level. His career, which spans college and professional football, his dedication to Tennessee State, and his love for Nashville make him a cornerstone of the Tigers' program.

Morgan's Déjà Vu: Experience and Heart Return Home

by Nick Guerriero, Asisstant AD

Toriano Morgan walked across Tennessee State's campus recently and felt as if he had traveled back in time. "Making my walk to lunch today, I kind of felt like it was 2000 and I was a senior walking to the cafeteria," Morgan said. "The buildings have changed a little bit, the campus has grown a lot. But for the most part, it still has that homely feeling."

Morgan, a former TSU wide receiver and team captain, has returned to his alma mater as co-offensive coordinator and running backs coach under head coach Reggie Barlow. It is a homecoming more than two decades in the making for a coach with more than 20 years of experience at the high school and collegiate levels. "To be back and be able to serve in a school that's been great to me is just amazing," Morgan said. "This program groomed me as a player and transitioned me into coaching. I couldn't write a better story."

A native of Fort Lauderdale, Morgan began his coaching career at Tennessee State in 2002 as a graduate assistant before moving on to stints at Dillard High School, Virginia Union , and Virginia State.

Most recently, he served as head coach at Edward Waters University, where he earned the nickname "Mr. 180" for turning programs around. Under his leadership, the Tigers recorded their first winning season in more than two decades and entered the HBCU D2 national polls for the first time as a full SIAC member in 2023.

Morgan's success has been recognized nationally. In 2022, he participated in the NFL's Coaching Academy, was named to FootballScoop's Rising Star Coaches Watch List, and was selected as head coach for the nationally televised HBCU Pigskin All-Star Classic. Throughout his coaching career, he has guided 35 all-conference players and helped 13 athletes reach the NFL. Known for his innovative offensive strategies, Morgan developed record-setting units at Edward Waters, including quarterback Jyron Russell, who became the school's modern-day all-time leading passer, and Johnny Jones, an All-American honoree.

Returning to Nashville, Morgan has been struck by the growth of both the city and the university. "Going downtown, the biggest building used to be the Batman building. Now you can't even see it because there are so many bigger ones," he said. "That expansion shows the growth of the city and the commitment of Tennessee State to grow as well."

On the field, Morgan has been impressed by the leadership of TSU's veteran players, who have helped set the tone for younger athletes. "Those guys have had team success and individual success, so they're able to show the younger guys exactly how to do it," he said. "From day one, we've set our expectations and our goals, and everyone has fallen in line." He emphasizes preparation and execution as central tenets of the team's philosophy. "It's about doing it the way we practice and letting the chips fall where they may," Morgan said.

The 2025 schedule features eight home games, a rarity for TSU in recent years. Morgan said that home-field advantage is significant not only for performance but also for the legacy of Tennessee State football. "There's no place like home," he said. "It's unacceptable for TSU football not to play well and to lose at home in front of our fans. Having eight home games on familiar turf gives us something to defend, and that's truly going to work in our favor."

The Tigers' schedule also features marquee HBCU matchups alongside non-conference tests, including perennial FCS power North Dakota State. Morgan sees these games as an opportunity to showcase both TSU football and the broader TSU experience. "Families can come out, tailgate, and young Tigers can see what it's all about," he said. "That's where it starts — making that impression so they want to grow up and be part of this tradition and legacy."

For Morgan, being back at Tennessee State is the culmination of a career built on both success and loyalty to his roots. "You couldn't script it any better," he said. "I'm blessed to be here and to help carry this program forward."

Cedric Thornton Brings HBCU Legacy and Leadership to TSU

by Nick Guerriero, Asisstant AD

For Cedric Thornton, coming to Tennessee State as associate head coach and linebackers coach is about more than football—it's about family, legacy, and a lifelong bond with Reggie Barlow.

Thornton, who has previously held head coaching roles and built programs at multiple levels, described his bond with TSU head coach Reggie Barlow as lifelong. "Family, look out for family. My Lord and I, we've known each other since we were 18 years old. He's a brother to me, always will be a brother to me," Thornton said. When Barlow reached out to bring him to TSU, Thornton said it was impossible to ignore the call.

Being named associate head coach at a university with the storied history of John Merritt was meaningful on multiple levels. "It means a lot. It means my head coach sees something in me and the leadership passing. This school has a lot of history. My father-in-law, my mother-in-law, both went to school here. Father-in-law played ball here. It probably means more to them than it does to me because now their grandson gets to come be around," Thornton said.

While the title carries prestige, he emphasized that his focus is on serving wherever needed. "The title's a title. I'm a football coach. I just do whatever the boss man asks me."

Thornton's connection to TSU runs beyond coaching; it is personal and familial. "I'm a guy, man, and I love our schools. I'm an HBCU guy. I love our schools. Like I said, it just means a little bit more because I have some family ties to the university," he said.

Walking through campus, Thornton sees the history and legacy of those who came before him—from John Merritt to Coach Gilliam and countless others—reinforcing the sense of responsibility he feels as a coach and mentor.

For Thornton, the presence of alumni and community members at games and practices carries more weight than any paycheck. "I can go to work for a dollar, but their presence means a lot. Just to see those guys get the encouragement from them, it means a lot," he said, reflecting on the volunteers and alumni who devote time and energy to support TSU athletes.

Thornton also sees the role of the community in fostering team spirit and connection. "With the history of this school, with all the great things and people that have been through here, I don't understand how it can be hard to get behind them. The moment we get to the point to realizing that, regardless of who's standing on the sideline, those young men are still wearing blue and white… support them," he said. He noted that even though TSU is not his alma mater, he stands respectfully during the alma mater and daily recitations of the Tiger Creed as a sign of reverence for the university and its traditions.

As TSU football enters a season with a first-year staff and eight home games, Thornton sees an opportunity to strengthen the bond between players, coaches, alumni, and fans. For him, returning to a place intertwined with his family and lifelong friendships is a reminder that coaching is about more than wins and losses—it's about legacy, community, and family.

Music City Miracle to Roar City: Gregg Williams' Homecoming at Nissan Stadium

by Nick Guerriero, Asisstant AD

Gregg Williams stood near midfield at Nissan Stadium, the summer sun cutting across the empty seats as Tennessee State wrapped up a scrimmage. He tugged at his whistle, his eyes sweeping across the field he once called home during some of the most unforgettable moments in Tennessee Titans history.

Just stepping onto the turf, he said, brought a rush of memories.

"It made me smile just walking in here today," Williams said. "And I need to smile as much as I can in life. I've got great memories of living here — one of my favorite cities of the 10 NFL cities I've lived in. And there were some big-time games when I walked in here that we were in. I can't wait to be in some big-time games with these young men right here."

For Williams, the new defensive coordinator at Tennessee State, this season is more than just another job. It's a homecoming of sorts — a return to Music City, to the same stadium where he helped lead the Titans to a Super Bowl appearance during the famed 1999 season and the "Music City Miracle."

Williams spent a decade with the Houston Oilers/Tennessee Titans franchise, carving out a reputation as one of the NFL's fiercest defensive minds. His units were physical, disciplined, and relentless — a reflection of his own fiery presence on the sideline. He later went on to become the head coach of the Buffalo Bills (2001–03) and interim head coach of the Cleveland Browns (2018), with stops at nearly a dozen NFL franchises, including this writer's favorite, the New York Jets.

But when he looks back on his career, Williams is quick to point to one name: Jeff Fisher.

"Jeff was one of the best guys I've ever worked with," Williams said. "We grew together. Those were some of the best years of my life."

Fisher and Williams spent more than a decade and a half together with the Oilers/Titans and again with the St. Louis/Los Angeles Rams, forging a partnership that helped define an era of football in Nashville.

Now, at 67, Williams isn't chasing the next NFL job. Instead, he's pouring his energy into teaching — and that, he says, is where he finds the most joy.

"The three happiest places I am in life…One, with my family. Two, inside the white lines — I'm a competitionaholic — and three, helping young men and young women be who they want to be," Williams said. "At this stage of my career, I only want to coach with people I like being around. Reggie [Barlow] is a big-time coach. I enjoy helping him grow too. So, this is a family moment, along with helping as many men and women as we can grow up in this profession."

Williams first crossed paths with TSU head coach Reggie Barlow and offensive coordinator Shannon Harris in the XFL and UFL, where they spent the past two seasons with the D.C. Defenders. When Barlow got the call to take over the Tigers, Williams didn't hesitate to follow.

It also helped that Tennessee State wasn't unfamiliar territory.

"In 1997, we practiced on Tennessee State's campus," Williams said. "And in 1998, we practiced in a bankrupt mall parking lot on the grass. We finally got here in 1999. I remember great things and some phenomenal players that came from this university during the times I've been in the league since 1989. I've always thought greatly about Eddie George [former TSU head coach] and his staff, too, because five of those guys have been on my staff. I think the world of them."

Williams sees his role at Tennessee State as both a teacher and a mentor, not just to players but also to young coaches eager to break into the profession. His passion for development has long been a part of his DNA, from his early days coaching high school football in Missouri to building NFL defenses.

"I love this stage of it," Williams said. "Because I get to help these guys chase their goals — whether that's the NFL, coaching, or whatever profession they choose. This place has always produced competitors."

Nashville itself has changed dramatically since Williams last lived here. The skyline is taller, the city busier, the football scene even more competitive. But for Williams, the city's spirit remains the same.

"You don't think the music industry isn't competitive? Or some of the billion-dollar companies here?" Williams said. "This place has a ton of competition in it. And those kinds of young men have prospered coming out of here. So, I want to help as many young men as we can here on this team — and young women in the different departments of this program — to grow and keep going, because that's Nashville."

Of course, returning to Nashville also means reconnecting with old haunts. Asked about his favorite places to eat, Williams' face softened as he recalled one in particular.

"Jimmy Buffett's [Margaritaville] place downtown," he said with a smile. "Jimmy was a very close friend of mine. He helped a lot with my foundation for children. I always loved going down there."

Inside Nissan Stadium, though, the pull is strongest. Williams says the rush of competition hasn't dulled, even after more than three decades of coaching at the highest levels.

"I love being inside the lines," Williams said. "That hasn't changed. To get another chance to do it here, in Music City, it's pretty special."

As the Tigers wrapped up their final scrimmage, Williams lingered on the turf at Nissan Stadium, whistle in hand, watching players jog to the sideline. For a man who once called the NFL's brightest stages home, the empty seats and echo of footsteps offered something just as meaningful — another chance to compete, another chance to teach, and another chapter in a city that still feels like home.

ALL-TIME NFL DRAFT PICKS & TIGERS IN THE PROS

TSU TIGERS FIRST ROUND NFL PICKS			
1968	*3rd Pick*	*Claude Humphrey*	*Atlanta Falcons*
1969	*25th Pick*	*Eldridge Dickey*	*Oakland Raiders*
1969	*23rd Pick*	*Jim Marsalis*	*Kansas City Chiefs*
1971	*15th Pick*	*Vernon Holland*	*Cincinnati Bengals*
1974	*1st Pick*	*Ed "Too" Tall Jones*	*Dallas Cowboys*
1974	*4th Pick*	*Waymond Bryant*	*Chicago Bears*
2008	*16th Pick*	*Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie*	*Arizona Cardinals*

DRAFTED TIGERS PER NFL TEAM	
Arizona Cardinals	2
Atlanta Falcons	4
Baltimore Colts	5
Baltimore Ravens	1
Buffalo Bills	4
Chicago Bears	5
Cincinnati Bengals	4
Cleveland Browns	5
Dallas Cowboys	3
Denver Broncos	3
Detroit Lions	6
Green Bay Packers	3
Houston Oilers	3
Indianapolis Colts	1
Jacksonville Jaguars	1
Kansas City Chiefs	7
Los Angeles Rams	4
Miami Dolphins	6
Minnesota Vikings	5
New England Patriots	2
New Orleans Saints	2
New York Giants	1
New York Jets	4
Oakland Raiders	4
Philadelphia Eagles	7
Pittsburgh Steelers	4
San Diego Chargers	6
San Francisco 49ers	8
St. Louis Cardinals	1
St. Louis Rams	1
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	2
Washington Redskins	2

ALL-TIME TIGERS IN THE PROS	
Name	Teams (Year)
A	
Joe "747" Adams — QB	San Francisco 49ers (1981); Saskatchewan Roughriders (1982–1983); Toronto Argonauts (1983); Ottawa Rough Riders (1984)
Brent Alexander —S	Arizona Cardinals (1994-97); Carolina Panthers (1998-99); Pittsburgh Steelers (2000-03); NY Giants (2004-05)
Hubbard Alexander — C	Coach: TSU (1962-63); Vanderbilt (1975-87); UMiami (1979-88); Dallas Cowboys (1989-97); Minnesota Vikings (1998-99); New Orleans Saint (2000-03) 3× Super Bowl champion (XXVII, XXVIII, XXX) 2× National champion (1983, 1987)
Bennie Anderson — RB	St. Louis Rams (2000); Chicago Enforcers (2001); Baltimore Ravens (2001–2004); Buffalo Bills (2005); Miami Dolphins (2006)
B	
Larry Barnes — RB	San Diego Chargers (1977-1978); St Louis Cardinals (1978); Philadelphia Eagles (1978-1979)
Bill Bass —RB	Chicago Rockets (1947); Montreal Alouettes (1948); Toronto Argonauts (1950–53); Ottawa Rough Riders (1954); Toronto Balmy Beach Beachers (1955)
Avion Black — WR / KR	Buffalo Bills (2000–2001); Houston Texans (2002)
Terrell Bonds — CB	Memphis Express (2019); Baltimore Ravens (2019–2020); Miami Dolphins (2021)* Pittsburgh Maulers (2022); Tennessee Titans (2022)*; San Antonio Brahmas (2023–present)
Sam Bowers —TE	New York Jets (1980–1981)*; Toronto Argonauts (1981); New Jersey Generals (1983–1985); Chicago Bears (1987)
Clifford Brooks —DB	Cleveland Browns (1972–1974); Philadelphia Eagles (1975–1976); Buffalo Bills (1975–1976); New York Jets (1976)
Waymond Bryant — LB	Chicago Bears (1974–1977)
C	
Alex Carter —DE	Buffalo Bills (1985–1986)*; Miami Dolphins (1987)*; Cleveland Browns (1987); Edmonton Eskimos (1988); Ottawa Rough Riders (1989)*
Eugene Clifford —S	Baltimore Ravens (2011)*; Texas Revolution (2013)
Al Coleman — DB	Minnesota Vikings (1967); Des Moines Warriors (1967); Charleston Rockets (1968); Cincinnati Bengals (1969–1971); Philadelphia Eagles (1972–1973)
D	
Dave Davis — WR	Green Bay Packers (1971–1972); Pittsburgh Steelers (1973); New Orleans Saints (1974)
Oliver Davis —CB	Cleveland Browns (1977–1980); Cincinnati Bengals (1981–1982)
Rosey Davis —DE	New York Giants (1965–1967)
Sonny Davis — RB	Philadelphia Eagles (1971); The Hawaiians (1974–1975)
Richard Dent — RB	Chicago Bears (1983–1993); San Francisco 49ers (1994); Chicago Bears (1995); Indianapolis Colts (1996); Philadelphia Eagles (1997) 2× Super Bowl champion (XX, XXIX) Super Bowl MVP (XX) First-team All-Pro (1985) 3× Second-team All-Pro (1984, 1988, 1990) 4× Pro Bowl (1984, 1985, 1990, 1993) 2× NFL forced fumbles leader (1984, 1985) NFL sacks leader (1985) 100 greatest Bears of All-Time
Eldridge Dickey — QB / WR	Oakland Raiders (1968–1971); AFL champion (1968)

ALL-TIME TIGERS IN THE PROS

Lamar Divens —NT	San Diego Chargers (2008)*; Baltimore Ravens (2008–2010); Tampa Bay Buccaneers (2011)*; Tennessee Titans (2012)*; San Francisco 49ers (2013)*
Larry Dorsey —WR	San Diego Chargers (1976–1977); Kansas City Chiefs (1978)
Marcus Dowdell —WR	New Orleans Saints (1992–1993); Arizona Cardinals (1995–1996)
Elbert Drungo — G / T	Houston Oilers (1969–1977); Buffalo Bills (1978)
E	
Cid Edwards —RB	St. Louis Cardinals (1967–1971); San Diego Chargers (1972–1974); Chicago Bears (1975)
Kadeem Edwards —G	Tampa Bay Buccaneers (2014); Jacksonville Jaguars (2015); Dallas Cowboys (2016–2018)
Steve Edwards —OF / DL	Philadelphia Eagles (2002)*; Chicago Bears (2002–2005); New York Giants (2006); Baltimore Ravens (2007)*; Philadelphia Soul (2008) Arizona Rattlers (2008); California Redwoods (2009); Arizona Rattlers (2011); Chicago Rush (2013)
Cleveland Elam	San Francisco 49ers (1975–1978); Detroit Lions (1979)
Onzy Elam — LB	New York Jets (1987–1988); Dallas Cowboys (1989)
Homer Elias —G	Detroit Lions (1978–1984)
F	
Charley Ferguson —TE	Cleveland Browns (1961); Minnesota Vikings (1962); Buffalo Bills (1963–1969)
Rodney Fritz —DL	Huntington Hammer (2011); Tulsa Talons (2011)*; Winnipeg Blue Bombers (2011–2013); Toronto Argonauts (2013)*; San Jose Saber-Cats (2014–2015); Los Angeles KISS (2016); Arizona Rattlers (2016); Baltimore Brigade (2018); Albany Empire (2019)
Randy Fuller —CB	Denver Broncos (1994); Pittsburgh Steelers (1995–1997); Atlanta Falcons (1998); Seattle Seahawks 1999
G	
Chuck Gavin —DE	BC Lions (1959); Denver Broncos (1960–1963)
Joe Gilliam — QB	Pittsburgh Steelers (1972–1975); New Orleans Saints (1976–1977)*; Pittsburgh Wolf Pak (1978); Baltimore Eagles (1979); New Orleans Blue Knights (1981); Denver Gold (1983)*; Washington Federals (1983)
H	
Mike Hegman —LB	Dallas Cowboys (1976–1988) Super Bowl champion (XII)
Geremy Hickbottom — QB	Cologne Crocodiles (2023)*; Massachusetts Pirates (2023)*; DC Defenders (2023–present)
Sylvester Hicks — DE	Kansas City Chiefs (1978–1981)
Jarrick Hillery — WR / Db	Nashville Kats (2000–2001); Georgia Force (2002–2003); Carolina Cobras (2003–2004); Nashville Kats (2004–2006); Georgia Force (2007)
Joe Hills —WR	Tennessee Titans (2011)*; Spokane Shock (2012); Tampa Bay Storm (2012–2014); Hamilton Tiger-Cats (2014)*; Pittsburgh Power (2015)*; Jacksonville Sharks (2015–2016); Dalian Dragon Kings (2016)*; Tampa Bay Storm (2017); Jacksonville Sharks (2017); Florida Tarpons (2018); Albany Empire (2018); Baltimore Brigade (2019)
John Holland —WR	Minnesota Vikings (1974); Buffalo Bills (1975–1977); Hamilton Tiger-Cats (1979–1980; Calgary Stampeders (1981); Ottawa Rough Riders (1982)
Vernon Holland —T	Cincinnati Bengals (1971–1979); Detroit Lions (1980); New York Giants (1980)
Claude Humphrey —DE	Atlanta Falcons (1968–1978); Philadelphia Eagles (1979–1981); NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year (1968) 5× First-team All-Pro (1971–1974, 1977) 3× Second-team All-Pro (1969, 1970, 1976) 6× Pro Bowl (1970–1974, 1977) Atlanta Falcons Ring of Honor
Herman Hunter —RB	Philadelphia Eagles (1985); Detroit Lions (1986); Houston Oilers (1987)
J	
Ligarius Jennings — CB	Detroit Lions (2001)*; Cincinnati Bengals (2001–2002); Amsterdam Admirals (2002, 2004)
Daniel Johnson —LB	Green Bay Packers (1978)
Lee Johnson — WR	San Francisco 49ers (1969–1970)
Ed "Too Tall" Jones — DE	Dallas Cowboys (1974–1978, 1980–1989); 1974 NFL Draft 1st Overall Pick Super Bowl champion (XII) First-team All-Pro (1982) 2× Second-team All-Pro (1981, 1983) 3× Pro Bowl (1981–1983)
Joe "Turkey" Jones —DE	Cleveland Browns (1970–1973); Philadelphia Eagles (1974–1975); Cleveland Browns (1975–1978); Washington Redskins (1979–1980)
Mike Jones — WR	Minnesota Vikings (1983–1985); New Orleans Saints (1986–1987); Kansas City Chiefs (1988); New England Patriots (1989); New Orleans Saints (1989)
Roger Jones —CB	Tampa Bay Buccaneers (1991–1993); Cincinnati Bengals (1994–1997); Tennessee Oilers (1997)
Eric Joyce — DB	Arizona Cardinals (2002)*; Chicago Bears (2002)
K	
Jim Kelly — TE	Chicago Bears (1974)
Greg Kindle — G / T	St. Louis Cardinals (1974–1975); Atlanta Falcons (1976–1977); Winnipeg Blue Bombers (1978–1979)
Larry Kinnebrew — RB	Cincinnati Bengals (1983–1987); Buffalo Bills (1989–1990)
L	
Izzy Lang —RB	Philadelphia Eagles (1964–1968); Los Angeles Rams (1969)
Donald Laster —T	Washington Redskins (1982); Detroit Lions (1984)
A.C. Leonard —DL / TE	Minnesota Vikings (2014)*; Brooklyn Bolts (2014); New Orleans VooDoo (2014–2015)*; BC Lions (2015); Hudson Valley Fort (2015)*; Jacksonville Sharks (2016)*; Saskatchewan Roughriders (2016–2017); Ottawa Redblacks (2018); Saskatchewan Roughriders (2019–2022); Edmonton Elks (2023–present)
Anthony Levine —S	Green Bay Packers (2010–2011)*; Baltimore Ravens (2012–2021)
M	
Jim Marsalis —CB	Kansas City Chiefs (1969–1975); New Orleans Saints (1977) Super Bowl champion (IV); AFL champion (1969); PFW AFL Defensive Rookie of the Year (1969); First-team All-Pro (1970); 2× Pro Bowl (1969, 1970)
Loaird McCreary —TE / WR	Miami Dolphins (1976–1978); New York Giants (1979); Oklahoma Outlaws (1984)
Frank McRae — DT	Chicago Bears (1967)
Jerrold McRae —WR	Kansas City Chiefs (1978); Philadelphia Eagles (1979)
Willie Mitchell —CB	Kansas City Chiefs (1964–1970); Houston Oilers (1971)
Steve Moore — T	New England Patriots (1983–1987)

ALL-TIME TIGERS IN THE PROS

Anthony Morris —T	Oakland Raiders (2015); Montreal Alouettes (2017–2018); Memphis Express (2019); Los Angeles Wildcats (2020); TSL Conquerors (2021)
Leon Murray — QB	Washington Redskins (2000)*; Orlando Rage (2001)*; New York Giants (2001)*; Berlin Thunder (2001); Edmonton Eskimos (2002)*; Georgia Force (2003–2004); Nashville Kats (2005–2006); Detroit Fury (2007)*; Philadelphia Soul (2007); New York Dragons (2007)
Robert Myers —G	Baltimore Ravens (2015)*; Indianapolis Colts (2015)*; Baltimore Ravens (2015)*; Denver Broncos (2015); Seattle Seahawks (2016)*; Memphis Express (2019); Seattle Dragons (2020)*; Team 9 (2020)*; Seattle Dragons (2020); New Jersey Generals (2022–present)
N	
Cecil Newton —C	Jacksonville Jaguars (2009–2010); Hartford Colonials (2011)*; New Orleans Saints (2011)*; Green Bay Packers (2011)*; Baltimore Ravens (2011–2012)*
O	
McDonald Oden —TE	Cleveland Browns (1980–1982)
Chidi Okeke —T	Washington Redskins (2019)*; Kansas City Chiefs (2019)*; Miami Dolphins (2019)*; Saskatchewaxn Roughriders (2021)*; Tampa Bay Buccaneers (2021)*; Pittsburgh Maulers (2022); San Antonio Brahmas (2023–present)
P	
Rodney Parker —WR	Atlanta Falcons (1978)*; Saskatchewan Roughriders (1978–1979); Philadelphia Eagles (1980–1982); Philadelphia Stars (1983–1984; San Antonio Gunslingers (1984); Pittsburgh Maulers (1984)
Frank Pillow — WR	Tampa Bay Buccaneers (1988–1990); Winnipeg Blue Bombers (1992)
Anthony Pleasant — DE	Cleveland Browns (1990–1995); Baltimore Ravens (1996); Atlanta Falcons (1997); New York Jets (1998–1999); San Francisco 49ers (2000); New England Patriots (2001–2003); 2× Super Bowl champion (XXXVI, XXXVIII)
David Pool —DB	Buffalo Bills (1990); New England Patriots (1991–1992); Buffalo Bills (1993); Miami Dolphins (1994)
R	
Brian Ransom —QB	Houston Oilers (1983–1985); Montreal Alouettes (1986)
Gilbert Renfroe —QB	Ottawa Rough Riders (1986); Toronto Argonauts (1987–1989); Atlanta Falcons (1990); Minnesota Vikings (1990); Atlanta Falcons (1991)*; Calgary Stampeders (1991); Detroit Drive (1992–1993); BC Lions (1992) Shreveport Pirates (1994)*
Demetrius Rhaney —C	St. Louis / Los Angeles Rams (2014–2016; Jacksonville Jaguars (2017)*; Washington Redskins (2017–2018); Memphis Express (2019); Hamilton Tiger-Cats (2019); Buffalo Bills (2019)*; Houston Roughnecks (2020)
Shaun Richardson — LB	San Francisco 49ers* (2008); Edmonton Eskimos (2009); Kansas City Command (2012)
Patrick Robinson — WR	Cincinnati Bengals (1993); Arizona Cardinals (1994)
Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie —CB	Arizona Cardinals (2008–2010); Philadelphia Eagles (2011–2012); Denver Broncos (2013); New York Giants (2014–2017); Oakland Raiders (2018); Washington Redskins (2019); Tampa Nightcrawlers (A7FL) 2023; Second-team All-Pro (2016); 2× Pro Bowl (2009, 2015)
Chris Rowland —WR	Atlanta Falcons (2020–2021); Tennessee Titans (2021)*; Philadelphia Stars (2022–present)
S	
De'Ante Saunders —DB	Cleveland Browns (2015)
Simon Shanks — LB	Arizona Cardinals (1995)
Anthony Shelton —DB	San Diego Chargers (1990–1991); Shreveport Pirates (1994); Winnipeg Blue Bombers (1994); Shreveport Pirates (1995)
Lachavious Simmons —T / G	Chicago Bears (2020–2022); Arizona Cardinals (2022–present)*
Nate Simpson —RB	Green Bay Packers (1977–1979)
Ahmaad Smith —DB	Mississippi MudCats (2007) Texas Copperheads (2007) Team Tennessee (2008) BC Lions (2008)* Toronto Argonauts (2010)* Iowa Barnstormers (2009–2010) Pittsburgh Power (2011–2012)*
Fletcher Smith —S	Kansas City Chiefs (1966–1967); Cincinnati Bengals (1968–1971); Jacksonville Express (1975)
Noland Smith — WR / KR	Kansas City Chiefs (1967–1969); San Francisco 49ers (1969)
Ollie Smith —WR	Baltimore Colts (1973–1974); Green Bay Packers (1976–1977)
Tony Stargell —CB	New York Jets (1990–1991); Indianapolis Colts (1992–1993); Tampa Bay Buccaneers (1994–1995); Kansas City Chiefs (1996); Chicago Bears (1997)
Joe Sweet —WR	Los Angeles Rams (1972-75)
T	
Malcolm Taylor —DE	Houston Oilers (1982–1986); Los Angeles Raiders (1987–1988); Atlanta Falcons (1989)
Larry Tharpe —T	Detroit Lions (1992–1994); Arizona Cardinals (1995); New England Patriots (1996); Detroit Lions (1997–1998); Pittsburgh Steelers (2000)
Jim Thaxton —TE / WR	San Diego Chargers (1973–1974); Cleveland Browns (1974); New Orleans Saints (1976–1977); St. Louis Cardinals (1978)
Michael "Moon" Thompson —T	Atlanta Falcons (2000–2002)
Bill Tucker —RB	San Francisco 49ers (1967–1970); Chicago Bears (1971)
W	
Charlie Wade —WR	Miami Dolphins (1973); Chicago Bears (1974) Green Bay Packers (1975); Kansas City Chiefs (1977) Super Bowl champion (VIII)
Carl Wafer —DE	New York Giants (1974); Green Bay Packers (1974)
Dwight Wheeler —T	New England Patriots (1978–1983); Los Angeles Raiders (1984); San Diego Chargers (1987); Los Angeles Raiders (1987–1988)
Javarris Williams —RB	Kansas City Chiefs (2009); Seattle Seahawks (2010)*; Houston Texans (2011–2012)*; Dallas Cowboys (2012)*; Washington Redskins (2012)*
Remond Willis —DL	Calgary Stampeders (2009)*; Milwaukee Iron (2010); Winnipeg Blue Bombers (2009, 2010–2011); Saskatchewan Roughriders (2011); Portland Thunder (2015)
Bernard Wilson —LB	Detroit Lions (1992–1993)*; Tampa Bay Buccaneers (1993–1994); Arizona Cardinals (1994–1998)
Devin Wilson —WR	Richmond Raiders (2015); Saskatchewan Roughriders (2015); Cleveland Gladiators (2016); Jacksonville Sharks (2017); Cleveland Gladiators (2017); Maine Mammoths (2018); Jacksonville Sharks (2019–2023)
Larry Woods — DT	Detroit Lions (1971–1972); Miami Dolphins (1973); New York Jets (1974–1975); Seattle Seahawks (1976)
Robert Woods — T	New York Jets (1973–1977); New Orleans Saints (1977–1980); Birmingham Stallions (1983–1984); Memphis Showboats (1985)
Will Wynn — DE	Philadelphia Eagles (1973–1976); Washington Redskins (1977)
* Offseason and/or practice squad member only	

TSU NFL & AFL DRAFT PICKS

Year	Round	Pick	Team	Player	Position
1952 NFL Draft	28	333	Detroit Lions	Hal Turner	DE
1953 NFL Draft	28t	329	Chicago Bears	Jim Caldwell	T
1961 NFL Draft	8	103	Pittsburgh Steelers	George Balthazar	OT
1964 NFL Draft	18	240	Philadelphia Eagles	Izzy Lang	RB
1965 NFL Draft	8	112	Baltimore Colts	Rosey Davis	DE
1965 NFL Draft	16	217	Washington Redskins	Bob Reed	OG
1966 NFL Draft	4	59	Detroit Lions	Willie Walker	WR
1966 NFL Draft	6	92	Chicago Bears	Frank McRae	DT
1966 NFL Draft	7	103	Detroit Lions	Johnnie Robinson	DB
1966 NFL Draft	12	185	Baltimore Colts	Jim Carer	OG
1967 NFL Draft	3	65	San Francisco 49ers	Bill Tucker	RB
1967 NFL Draft	4	87	Minnesota Vikings	Al Coleman	DB
1967 NFL Draft	6	156	Kansas City Chiefs	Noland Smith	WR
1967 NFL Draft	10	252	Los Angeles Rams	Leon Moore	DB
1967 NFL Draft	10	260	Dallas Cowboys	Eugene Bowen	RB
1967 NFL Draft	12	315	New Orleans Saints	John Robinson	WR
1967 NFL Draft	13	318	Buffalo Bills	Howard Finley	DB
1968 NFL Draft	1	3	Atlanta Falcons	Claude Humphrey	DE
1968 NFL Draft	1	25	Oakland Raiders	Eldridge Dickey	WR
1968 NFL Draft	4	108	Green Bay Packers	John Robinson	WR
1968 NFL Draft	6	141	San Francisco 49ers	Lee Johnson	WR
1968 NFL Draft	8	216	Baltimore Colts	Tommy Davis	DT
1969 NFL Draft	1	23	Kansas City Chiefs	Jim Marsalis	DB
1969 NFL Draft	3	65	Houston Oilers	Elbert Drungo	OT
1969 NFL Draft	5	129	Baltimore Colts	King Dunlap	DT
1969 NFL Draft	8	186	Pittsburgh Steelers	Joe Cooper	WR
1969 NFL Draft	11	284	Oakland Raiders	Harold Rice	DE
1969 NFL Draft	12	295	Washington Redskins	Bob Shannon	DB
1969 NFL Draft	12	313	Atlanta Falcons	Harry Carpenter	OG
1970 NFL Draft	2	36	Cleveland Browns	Joe Jones	DE
1970 NFL Draft	5	117	New York Giants	Claude Brumfield	OG
1970 NFL Draft	16	393	Miami Dolphins	Charlie Williams	OG
1971 NFL Draft	1	15	Cincinnati Bengals	Vern Holland	OT
1971 NFL Draft	4	100	Detroit Lions	Larry Woods	DT
1971 NFL Draft	6	143	San Diego Chargers	Jacob Mayes	RB
1971 NFL Draft	7	168	Green Bay Packers	Dave Davis	WR
1971 NFL Draft	8	197	Cincinnati Bengals	Fred Herring	DB
1971 NFL Draft	10	238	Oakland Raiders	Bill West	DB
1971 NFL Draft	11	264	Philadelphia Eagles	Sonny Davis	RB
1971 NFL Draft	11	273	San Diego Chargers	Don Pinson	DB
1971 NFL Draft	17	435	Los Angeles Rams	Joe Sweet	WR
1972 NFL Draft	2	45	Cleveland Browns	Cliff Brooks	DB
1972 NFL Draft	11	268	New York Jets	Robert Stevenson	LB
1972 NFL Draft	11	273	Pittsburgh Steelers	Joe Gilliam	QB
1973 NFL Draft	2	38	New York Jets	Robert Woods	OT
1973 NFL Draft	4	84	San Diego Chargers	Jim Thaxton	TE
1973 NFL Draft	4	85	Baltimore Colts	Ollie Smith	WR
1973 NFL Draft	5	113	Denver Broncos	Charles McTorry	DB
1973 NFL Draft	7	159	Philadelphia Eagles	Will Wynn	DE
1973 NFL Draft	12	305	San Francisco 49ers	Larry Pettus	OT
1973 NFL Draft	13	318	San Diego Chargers	Alfred Reese	RB
1973 NFL Draft	17	442	Miami Dolphins	Charlie Wade	WR
1974 NFL Draft	1	1	Dallas Cowboys	Too Tall Jones	DE
1974 NFL Draft	1	4	Chicago Bears	Waymond Bryant	LB
1974 NFL Draft	2	29	Minnesota Vikings	John Holland	WR
1974 NFL Draft	2	33	St. Louis Cardinals	Greg Kindle	OT
1974 NFL Draft	2	42	Denver Broncos	Carl Wafer	DE
1974 NFL Draft	13	331	Buffalo Bills	Ed Gatewood	LB
1975 NFL Draft	4	85	San Francisco 49ers	Cleveland Elam	DT
1975 NFL Draft	7	173	Dallas Cowboys	Mike Hegman	LB
1975 NFL Draft	9	218	San Francisco 49ers	James Johnson	DB
1975 NFL Draft	14	339	Miami Dolphins	James Lewis	DB

TSU NFL & AFL DRAFT PICKS

Year	Round	Pick	Team	Player	Position
1976 NFL Draft	2	49	Miami Dolphins	Loaird McCreary	TE
1976 NFL Draft	3	64	San Diego Chargers	Larry Dorsey	WR
1976 NFL Draft	4	98	Miami Dolphins	Mel Mitchell	OG
1976 NFL Draft	7	200	Miami Dolphins	John Owens	DE
1976 NFL Draft	14	385	Philadelphia Eagles	Melvin Shy	DB
1977 NFL Draft	4	102	Cleveland Browns	Oliver Davis	DB
1977 NFL Draft	5	122	Green Bay Packers	Nate Simpson	RB
1977 NFL Draft	6	145	Philadelphia Eagles	Kevin Russell	DB
1977 NFL Draft	6	151	San Diego Chargers	Larry Barnes	RB
1977 NFL Draft	11	282	Buffalo Bills	Nate Jackson	RB
1978 NFL Draft	2	29	Kansas City Chiefs	Sylvester Hicks	DE
1978 NFL Draft	2	46	Los Angeles Rams	Stan Johnson	DT
1978 NFL Draft	4	85	Kansas City Chiefs	Danny Johnson	LB
1978 NFL Draft	4	102	New England Patriots	Dwight Wheeler	C
1978 NFL Draft	4	107	Detroit Lions	Homer Elias	OG
1978 NFL Draft	5	112	Kansas City Chiefs	Jerrold McRae	WR
1978 NFL Draft	6	152	Atlanta Falcons	Rod Parker	WR
1979 NFL Draft	10	261	Cleveland Browns	John Smith	WR
1979 NFL Draft	11	276	San Francisco 49ers	Billy McBride	DB
1979 NFL Draft	11	301	Los Angeles Rams	Jesse Deramus	DT
1981 NFL Draft	12	322	San Francisco 49ers	Joe Adams	QB
1982 NFL Draft	5	121	Houston Oilers	Malcolm Taylor	DE
1982 NFL Draft	9	233	Minnesota Vikings	Bryan Howard	DB
1982 NFL Draft	12	309	Washington Redskins	Don Laster	OT
1983 NFL Draft	3	80	New England Patriots	Steve Moore	OT
1983 NFL Draft	6	159	Minnesota Vikings	Mike Jones	WR
1983 NFL Draft	6	165	Cincinnati Bengals	Larry Kinnebrew	RB
1983 NFL Draft	8	203	Chicago Bears	Richard Dent	DE
1983 NFL Draft	10	266	Minnesota Vikings	Walter Tate	C
1984 NFL Draft	5	120	Indianapolis Colts	Golden Tate	WR
1985 NFL Draft	11	289	Philadelphia Eagles	Herman Hunter	RB
1987 NFL Draft	3	75	New York Jets	Onzy Elam	LB
1987 NFL Draft	8	205	Pittsburgh Steelers	Charles Buchanan	DE
1988 NFL Draft	11	279	Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Frank Pillow	WR
1990 NFL Draft	3	56	New York Jets	Tony Stargell	DB
1990 NFL Draft	3	73	Cleveland Browns	Anthony Pleasant	DE
1990 NFL Draft	11	289	San Francisco 49ers	Anthony Shelton	DB
1990 NFL Draft	11	300	Philadelphia Eagles	Tyrone Watson	WR
1992 NFL Draft	6	145	Detroit Lions	Larry Tharpe	OT
1992 NFL Draft	10	276	New Orleans Saints	Marcus Dowdell	WR
1993 NFL Draft	7	187	Houston Oilers	Patrick Robinson	WR
1994 NFL Draft	4	123	Denver Broncos	Randy Fuller	DB
1995 NFL Draft	5	150	Arizona Cardinals	Cedric Davis	DB
1996 NFL Draft	7	227	Jacksonville Jaguars	Clarence Jones	WR
1996 NFL Draft	7	245	Kansas City Chiefs	Darrell Williams	DB
2000 NFL Draft	4	100	Atlanta Falcons	Michael Thompson	OT
2000 NFL Draft	4	121	Buffalo Bills	Avion Black	WR
2008 NFL Draft	1	16	Arizona Cardinals	Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie	DB
2009 NFL Draft	7	212	Kansas City Chiefs	Javarris Williams	RB
2014 NFL Draft	5	143	Tampa Bay Buccaneers	Kadeem Edwards	OG
2014 NFL Draft	7	250	St. Louis Rams	Demetrius Rhaney	C
2015 NFL Draft	5	176	Baltimore Ravens	Robert Myers	OG
2015 NFL Draft	7	218	Oakland Raiders	Anthony Morris	OT
2020 NFL Draft	7	227	Chicago Bears	Lachavious Simmons	OG
1947 AAFC Draft			Chicago Rockets	Bill Bass	RB
1961 AFL Draft	16	--	Boston Patriots	George Balthazar	OT
1965 AFL Draft	12	--	Houston Oilers	Bob Reed	OG
1966 AFL Draft	7	--	Oakland Raiders	Frank McRae	DT
1966 AFL Draft	8	--	Kansas City Chiefs	Fletcher Smith	DB
1966 AFL Draft	9	--	Buffalo Bills	James Carter	DE

WEEK 5

2025 FOOTBALL

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2025 OVC-Big South Football Association Standings

	OVC-Big South					Overall									
Team	W	L	PCT	PF	PA	W	L	PCT	PF	PA	Home	Road	Neu	L10	Streak
Lindenwood	1	0	1.000	35	28	2	2	.500	91	110	1-0	1-2	0-0	2-2	W2
Tennessee Tech	0	0	.000	0	0	3	0	1.000	182	31	3-0	0-0	0-0	3-0	W8
Gardner-Webb	0	0	.000	0	0	2	2	.500	122	169	1-0	1-2	0-0	2-2	L1
Eastern Illinois	0	0	.000	0	0	1	2	.333	68	94	1-1	0-1	0-0	1-2	L2
Tennessee State	0	0	.000	0	0	1	2	.333	48	103	1-2	0-0	0-0	1-2	L2
Southeast Missouri	0	0	.000	0	0	1	3	.250	99	163	1-1	0-2	0-0	1-3	L2
Western Illinois	0	0	.000	0	0	1	3	.250	92	176	1-0	0-3	0-0	1-3	L1
UT Martin	0	0	.000	0	0	0	4	.000	44	148	0-1	0-3	0-0	0-4	L5
Charleston Southern	0	1	.000	28	35	0	4	.000	38	127	0-1	0-3	0-0	0-4	L14

Week 5 Schedule

SATURDAY, SEPT. 27	TIME	WATCH	SERIES
LINDENWOOD at Miami (Ohio)	2:30pm CT	ESPN+	1st meeting
EASTERN ILLINOIS at WESTERN ILLINOIS *	3:00pm CT	ESPN+	WIU leads, 42-25-4
#11/13 TENNESSEE TECH at TENNESSEE STATE *	3:30pm CT	ESPN+	TSU leads, 22-16
South Carolina State at CHARLESTON SOUTHERN	6:00pm ET	ESPN+	SCSU leads, 8-0
SOUTHEAST MISSOURI at UT MARTIN *	6:00pm CT	ESPN+	seried tied, 20-20

All Times subject to change
* - OVC-Big South Association game
OVC-Big South Association member in ALL CAPS

2-Minute Offense

OPENING KICKOFF: Tennessee Tech is ranked No. 11/13 this week, marking the 17th consecutive week that an Association member has appeared in the National Top 25 poll -- extending a league record that began Sept. 16, 2024. The previous best for the Association was 14-straight weeks in the 2023 campaign (preseason poll to final poll). Tennessee Tech has its highest ranking since Sept. 27, 1994 (No. 11).

1st DOWN: Tennessee Tech is the first team in the Association's brief history to open a season 3-0, and is one of nine FCS programs at least 3-0 at this point of the 2025 season. It is Tech's first 3-0 start since 1977 (started 8-0). The Golden Eagles' current 8-game win streak is tied for the longest active streak in the Football Championship Subdivision, and is the longest overall winning streak in the Association's three years of existence.

2nd DOWN: Tennessee Tech leads the FCS in scoring offense (60.7 points per game), and ranks third in both total offense (553.0 yards per game) and total defense (194.7 yards allowed per game).

3rd DOWN: Lindenwood QB **NATE GLANTZ** rushed for a career-high 104 yards in the Lions' Week 4 win over Stony Brook, which was the second 100-yard rushing game in his Lindenwood career -- becoming the first Association quarterback with multiple 100-yard rushing games in the league's young history.

4th DOWN: Charleston Southern LB **STEVE ZAYACHKOWSKY** tied the Association single-game record with his 19 total tackles at William & Mary in Week 4. He tallied seven solo stops and 12 assisted tackles to become the third player in the Association's three-year history with 19 tackles in a contest.

About the OVC-Big South Football Association

This is the third season of the OVC-Big South Football Association. On Feb. 22, 2022, the Big South Conference and Ohio Valley Conference announced the creation of an association of their football member institutions that began play with the 2023 NCAA Division I football season. The initial agreement of at least four years was enhanced on June 12, 2024 that will provide an opportunity to extend the original partnership through 2030 and beyond. The unique agreement combines the two conferences' football membership to ensure NCAA championship access and stability for the multisport conferences. In creating the association, presidents from each of the multisport conferences pointed to the similiarities of the OVC and the Big South, with their complementary geographies and intercollegiate athletic philosophies, as key to making this association possible.

Slant Routes

*** CHARLESTON SOUTHERN:** The Buccaneers are looking to avoid starting 0-5 for the first time since 2022 (0-5) ... The Bucs last faced South Carolina State in 1999, and the previous three meetings (1997, 1998, 1999) were one-possession setbacks.

*** EASTERN ILLINOIS:** The Panthers are looking to start 1-0 in Association games for the first time, and last opened 1-0 in conference games in 2022 (OVC) ... EIU won last year's match-up against WIU, 45-38 at home.

*** GARDNER-WEBB:** The Runnin' Bulldogs are idle this week, and return to action next Saturday in their Association opener against Charleston Southern in the annual "North-South BBQ Bowl" game.

*** LINDENWOOD:** The Lions are looking to win three consecutive games for the first time since winning four-straight in 2022 ... Miami (Ohio) will mark Lindenwood's third and final first-time opponent of the season, and second FBS foe this year.

*** SOUTHEAST MISSOURI:** The Redhawks are looking to start 1-0 in Association games for the third consecutive season ... SEMO won last year's meeting with UT Martin in double-overtime, 45-42, which was the conference opener for both teams.

*** TENNESSEE STATE:** The Tigers are looking to start 1-0 in Association games for the first time since 2023 ... Tennessee State last defeated TTU in 2022 (W, 30-14 in Cookeville).

*** TENNESSEE TECH:** The Golden Eagles are looking to start 1-0 in Association games for the second consecutive year ... Tech has won the last two meetings with TSU, including last year's conference opener (24-14).

*** UT MARTIN:** The Skyhawks are looking to avoid starting 0-5 for the first time since 2007 (0-6) ... UTM is seeking its first 1-0 Association start since 2023.

*** WESTERN ILLINOIS:** The Leathernecks are looking to start 1-0 in Association games for the second-straight year ... WIU last defeated EIU in 2016 (W, 38-21 in Charleston).

2025 OVC-BIG SOUTH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

2025 Association Preseason Poll

(as voted by head coaches; first-place votes in parentheses)

1.	Tennessee Tech (5)	57
2.	UT Martin (2)	56
3.	Southeast Missouri (2)	53
4.	Lindenwood	39
5.	Western Illinois	30
T-6.	Eastern Illinois	24
T-6.	Gardner-Webb	24
8.	Tennessee State	23
9.	Charleston Southern	18

2025 National Polls - Sept. 22

STATS PERFORM

RK	TEAM	RECORD	PTS
1	North Dakota State (51)	3-0	1,395
2	South Dakota State (4)	3-0	1,341
3	Tarleton State (1)	5-0	1,285
4	Montana State	2-2	1,190
5	Montana	3-0	1,189
6	Rhode Island	4-0	1,025
7	Illinois State	3-1	966
8	Idaho	2-2	935
9	UC Davis	2-1	909
10	Lehigh	4-0	835
11	Southern Illinois	3-1	789
12	Abilene Christian	2-2	749
13	***TENNESSEE TECH***	***3-0***	***737***
14	North Dakota	2-2	614
15	Northern Arizona	3-1	612
16	Monmouth	3-1	608
17	South Dakota	2-2	520
18	West Georgia	4-0	406
19	Jackson State	2-1	369
20	Villanova	1-2	288
21	Sacramento State	2-2	242
22	Lamar	2-1	233
23	Austin Peay	2-2	217
24	Youngstown State	3-1	124
25	Presbyterian	4-0	123

Others (OVC-Big South Only): Gardner-Webb (26), Southeast Missouri (19)

AFCA FCS COACHES POLL

RK	TEAM	RECORD	PTS
1	North Dakota State (25)	3-0	649
2	South Dakota State (1)	3-0	622
3	Tarleton State	5-0	598
4	Montana	3-0	552
5	Illinois State	3-1	546
6	Montana State	2-2	525
7	Rhode Island	4-0	492
8	UC Davis	2-1	418
9	Lehigh	4-0	402
10	Idaho	2-2	381
11	***TENNESSEE TECH***	***3-0***	***370***
12	Southern Illinois	3-1	363
13	Abilene Christian	2-2	308
14	Monmouth	3-1	296
T-15	North Dakota	2-2	267
T-15	Northern Arizona	3-1	267
17	Jackson State	2-1	235
18	South Dakota	2-2	173
19	Youngstown State	3-1	149
20	West Georgia	4-0	142
21	Sacramento State	2-2	128
22	Villanova	1-2	118
23	Mercer	2-1	82
24	UIW	1-3	61
25	Austin Peay	2-2	52

Others (OVC-Big South Only): Gardner-Webb (5)

OVC-Big South Football Association in the National Polls

Week of	CSU	EIU	GWU	LIN	SEMO	TSU	TTU	UTM	WIU
Preseason	-- / --	-- / --	-- / --	-- / RV	RV / RV	RV / RV	21 / 22	RV / RV	-- / --
Sept. 1	-- / --	-- / --	RV / RV	-- / --	RV / --	RV / RV	17 / 20	RV / RV	-- / --
Sept. 8	-- / --	-- / --	RV / RV	-- / --	RV / RV	RV / --	15 / 16	RV / --	-- / --
Sept. 15	-- / --	-- / --	RV / RV	-- / --	RV / RV	RV / --	12 / 12	RV / --	-- / --
Sept. 22	-- / --	-- / --	RV / RV	-- / --	RV / --	-- / --	13 / 11	-- / --	-- /--
Sept. 29									
Oct. 6									
Oct. 13									
Oct. 20									
Oct. 27									
Nov. 3									
Nov. 10									
Nov. 17									
Nov. 24									
Final									

The Stats Perform FCS poll is listed first, followed by the AFCA FCS Coaches Poll RV - Received Votes

OVC-Big South Football Association vs. Division I Opponents

vs. FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP SUBDIVISION *(9-10, .474)*

Big Sky	**0-1**
Eastern Washington	0-1
CAA Football	**2-1**
North Carolina A&T	1-0
Stony Brook	1-0
William & Mary	0-1
Mid-Eastern Athletic	**0-0**
Howard	
South Carolina State	
Missouri Valley Football	**0-6**
Indiana State	0-1
Illinois State	0-1
North Dakota State	0-2
Southern Illinois	0-2
Pioneer	**3-1**
Davidson	1-0
Dayton	1-0
Valparaiso	1-0
St. Thomas-Minn.	0-1
Southern	**3-0**
Chattanooga	1-0
The Citadel	1-0
Western Carolina	1-0
Southwestern Athletic	**0-1**
Alabama A&M	0-1
United Athletic	**1-0**
North Alabama	1-0

vs. FOOTBALL BOWL SUBDIVISION

Atlantic Coast	**0-1**
Georgia Tech	0-1
Big Ten	**0-2**
Illinois	0-1
Northwestern	0-1
Big 12	**0-1**
Oklahoma State	0-1
Conference USA	**0-2**
Missouri State	0-1
UTEP	0-1
Mid-American	**0-1**
Ohio	0-1
Miami (Ohio)	
Southeastern	**0-1**
Vanderbilt	0-1
Alabama	
Kentucky	
Sun Belt	**0-3**
Appalachian State	0-1
Arkansas State	0-1
Coastal Carolina	0-1

2025 OVC-BIG SOUTH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Coaches Weekly Zoom

OVC-Big South Football Association head coaches conduct a weekly video conference via Zoom during the regular-season, and will extend into the postseason with the league's playoff coaches. The sessions are on Tuesdays (beginning Aug. 26) between 9:50am CT / 10:50am ET to 1:40pm CT / 2:40pm ET, with each head coach appearing for a maximum of 10 minutes. For information on how to access the Zoom, please contact **KYLE SCHWARTZ** (615-690-6685 or kschwartz@ovc.org). The schedule of coach appearances is below.

9:50 CT / 10:50 ET - Chris Wilkerson, EIU
10:00 CT / 11:00 ET - Cris Reisert, GWU
10:10 CT / 11:10 ET - Reggie Barlow, TSU
10:40 CT / 11:40 ET - Jason Simpson, UTM
11:00 CT / 12:00 ET - Gabe Giardina, CSU
11:20 CT / 12:20 ET - Tom Matukewicz, SEMO
11:30 CT / 12:30 ET - Jed Stugart, LIN
11:40 CT / 12:40 ET - Joe Davis, WIU
1:30 CT / 2:30 ET - Bobby Wilder, TTU



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FCS Football on X (formerly Twitter):
@NCAA_FCS
@ESPNCFB
@FCS_Insider
@HEROSportsNews
@FCS_STATS
@FCS_Football

Relevant Hashtags:
#FCS
#FCSonGameDay
#FearTheFCS (vs. FBS opponent)
#FCSFacts
#FCSPlayoffs
#FCSChamp

2025 OVC-BIG SOUTH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Players of the Week – Sept. 22

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Nate Glantz, Lindenwood, QB • 6-2, 201, R-Sr. • Elkhorn, Neb.

Glantz accounted for 353 yards of total offense and three touchdowns as Lindenwood topped Stony Brook 30-27 and pick up its second-straight victory. The redshirt senior completed 20-of-29 passes for 249 yards and two scores and rushed 13 times for a career-high 104 yards (8.0 ypc) and another touchdown. On the Lions second play of the game, he connected with Rico Bond for a 30-yard touchdown and after rushing for a seven-yarder midway through the second quarter, he connected with Bond on a 34-yarder just before halftime. Nationally, Glantz ranks ninth in total offense (287.0 yards/game), 10th in passing yards (1,030) and rushing touchdowns (5), 12th in points responsible for (60), 17th in completions (19.5/game) and 18th in total touchdowns (5).

Others Nominated: *Quasean Holmes (Gardner-Webb), Jax Leatherwood (Southeast Missouri), Markell Holman (Western Illinois)*

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Steve Zayachkowsky, Charleston Soutern, LB • 5-10, 215, Jr. • Indian Trail, N.C.

Zayachkowsky tallied 19 tackles (7 solo) at William & Mary on Saturday. The 19 stops tied the OVC-Big South Football Association record for tackles in game and marked the most by a Buccaneer since the 2006 season. The 19 tackles are the second-most by a Division I (FBS or FCS) player in 2025.

Others Nominated: *Cahari Haynes (Gardner-Webb), Tajay Passmore (Lindenwood), Malini Ti'a (Western Illinois)*

SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Antonio Chadha, Western Illinois, K • 5-9, 200, Jr. • Bryn Mawr, Pa.

Chadha was perfect on his kick attempts in a high scoring game at Eastern Washington. The sophomore connected on a 39-yard in the first quarter and was 4-of-4 on point after attempts. Chadha also had six kickoffs, four of which went for touchbacks.

Others Nominated: *Anthony Lowe (Gardner-Webb)*

FRESHMAN OF THE WEEK

Rico Bond, Lindenwood, WR • 6-1, 177, R-Fr. • St. Louis, Mo.

Bond had a season-best eight catches for 119 yards and two touchdowns as Lindenwood won its home opener in topping Stony Brook 30-27. The redshirt freshman caught a 30-yard touchdown pass from Nate Glantz just 1:49 into the game and added his second score on a 34-yard catch just before halftime to put the Lions ahead 27-3. Bond has now scored in three-straight games and is averaging 73.0 yards per game, which is second in the Association and 39th nationally (fourth nationally among freshmen).

Others Nominated: *Hakeem Watters (Charleston Southern), Cason Carswell (Western Illinois)*

2025 Players of the Week

OFFENSIVE

Sept. 1	***NATE HAMPTON, GWU***
Sept. 8	Jax Leatherwood, SEMO
Sept. 15	Kekoa Visperas, TTU
Sept. 22	Nate Glantz, LIN
Sept. 29	
Oct. 6	
Oct. 13	
Oct. 20	
Oct. 27	
Nov. 3	
Nov. 10	
Nov. 17	
Nov. 24	

DEFENSIVE

Sept. 1	Jamari Young, GWU
Sept. 8	Sanjay Strickland, LIN
	Theron Gaines, TTU
Sept. 15	Jacob Waller, LIN
Sept. 22	Steve Zayachkowsky, CSU
Sept. 29	
Oct. 6	
Oct. 13	
Oct. 20	
Oct. 27	
Nov. 3	
Nov. 10	
Nov. 17	
Nov. 24	

SPECIAL TEAMS

Sept. 1	Tre' Holloway, TTU
Sept. 8	Gilbert Brown, CSU
	Justin Keller, SEMO
Sept. 15	Charlie Viorel, GWU
Sept. 22	Antonio Chadha, WIU
Sept. 29	
Oct. 6	
Oct. 13	
Oct. 20	
Oct. 27	
Nov. 3	
Nov. 10	
Nov. 17	
Nov. 24	

FRESHMAN

Sept. 1	DeVaughn Slaughter, TSU
Sept. 8	Rico Bond, LIN
Sept. 15	Connor Wolf, EIU
Sept. 22	Rico Bond, LIN
Sept. 29	
Oct. 6	
Oct. 13	
Oct. 20	
Oct. 27	
Nov. 3	
Nov. 10	
Nov. 17	
Nov. 24	

Bold italics indicates player went on to be named National Player of the Week (Stats Perform, HERO Sports or NCAA.com)

2025 OVC-BIG SOUTH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

2025 PRESEASON WATCH LIST

Ahead of the 2025 season, OVC-Big South Football Association head coaches selected players for the league's Preseason Player Watch List by position.

OFFENSE

QUARTERBACK
Zolten Osborne, R-So., CSU
Nate Glantz, Sr., LIN
Kekoa Visperas, R-Sr., TTU
Jase Bauer, R-Sr., UTM
Chris Irvin, Sr., WIU

RUNNING BACK
Tyson Greenwade, R-So., CSU
Jay Pearson, R-Jr., EIU
Quasean Holmes, Gr., GWU
Steve Hall, R-So., LIN
Payton Brown, So., SEMO
Aidan Littles, R-So., TTU
Armoni Goodwin, R-Sr., UTM
Markell Holman, Jr., WIU

WIDE RECEIVER
Chris Rhone, R-Sr., CSU
Cooper Willman, Gr., EIU
Anthony Lowe, Gr., GWU
Rico Bond, R-Fr., LIN
Cam Pedro, Jr., SEMO
Delanie "Juice" Majors, Jr., TSU
Noah Robinson, R-Sr., TTU
Phaizon Wilson, R-Jr., UTM
Christian Anaya, Jr., WIU

TIGHT END
Landon Sauers, R-Sr., CSU
Alex Herrera, Sr., EIU
Cole Schneider, Sr., GWU
Darrin Fugitt, Jr., LIN
Jason Hoath Jr., Jr., TSU
Brian Courtney, Sr., TTU
Drake Martinez, Sr., UTM
Brandon Lanier, Gr., WIU

OFFENSIVE LINE
Andrew Threatt, Jr., CSU
Nic DiSanto, Jr., EIU
Andrew Threatt, R-Jr., GWU
Gavin Hulet, Sr., LIN
Rashad Turner, Sr., SEMO
Anthony Smith, Gr., TSU
Drew Wilder, Sr., TTU
Josiah Tingley, Gr., UTM
Dagen Miller, Sr., WIU

DEFENSE

DEFENSIVE LINE
David Portu, R-Jr., CSU
Drake Van Hyfte, R-Sr., EIU
Antonio O'Berry, Gr., GWU
Tajay Passmore, Sr., LIN
Nasim Cairo, Sr., SEMO
Hudson Tucker, Sr., TTU
Peyton Bradford, Gr., WIU

LINEBACKER
Steve Zayachkowsky, Jr., CSU
Phoenix Porter, R-Sr., EIU
Jackson Marshall, R-Jr., GWU
Devon Edwards, Sr., LIN
McCoy Casey, Sr., SEMO
Sammy Taylor, R-So., TSU
Aaron Swafford, Sr., TTU
Tah Mac Bright Banda, Sr., UTM
Christian Pierce, Gr., WIU

DEFENSIVE BACK
Champ Brantley, Jr., CSU
Tienne Fridge, Gr., EIU
Wendall McClain, R-Sr., GWU
Jayden Patrick, Sr., LIN
Justus Johnson, Sr., SEMO
Camani Cobbs, R-So., TSU
Tim Coutras, Gr., TTU
JaMichael McGoy Jr, R-Sr, UTM
Willie Jones, Sr., WIU

SPECIALISTS

ALL PURPOSE
Tyson Greenwade, R-So., CSU
Cooper Willman, Gr., EIU
Anthony Lowe, Gr., GWU
Brandon Epton Jr., Sr., SEMO
Tremel Jones, R-Sr., TTU
Demari Davis, Sr., WIU

PLACEKICKER
Zach Gordon, Jr., CSU
Will Graham, R-So., LIN
Dom LeBlanc, So., TTU
Antonio Chadha, Sr., WIU

PUNTER
Gilbert Brown, Sr., CSU
Mason Miller, Gr., EIU
Mark Shenouda, R-So., TSU
Spencer Ashby, So., TTU
Jaren Van Winkle, R-Sr., UTM

LONG SNAPPER
Noah Summers, R-Jr., CSU
Brett Galletti, R-Sr., EIU
Nelson Pipes, Sr., LIN
Judd Cunningham, Sr., SEMO
Ben Bergfeld, Jr., WIU

KICKOFF RETURN SPECIALIST
Quay Kindell, Jr., CSU
Anthony Lowe, Gr., GWU
Tremel Jones, R-Sr., TTU
Avery Knight, R-Fr., WIU

PUNT RETURN SPECIALIST
Jamil Bishop, R-Sr., CSU
Anthony Lowe, Gr., GWU
Cooper Willman, Gr., EIU
Rico Bond, R-Fr., LIN
Tremel Jones, R-Sr., TTU
Demari Davis, Sr., WIU

2025 National Awards & Honors

STATS PERFORM
NATIONAL PLAYER OF THE WEEK
Nate Hampton, GWU (Week 1 - OFF)

BOXTOROW.com HBCU
NATIONAL PLAYER OF THE WEEK
Kendric Rhymes, TSU (Week 1)

STATS PERFORM NATIONAL PLAYER OF THE WEEK HONORABLE MENTION
Cole LaCrue, EIU (Week 1 - OFF)
Gilbert Brown, CSU (Week 2 - ST)
Rico Bond, LIN (Weeks 2 & 4 - FR)
Jacob Waller, LIN (Week 3 - DEF)
Connor Wolf, EIU (Week 3 - FR)

STATS PERFORM HBCU FCS PLAYER OF THE WEEK HONORABLE MENTION
Kendric Rhymes, TSU (Week 1)

STATS PERFORM NATIONAL TEAM OF THE WEEK HONORABLE MENTION
Tennessee Tech (Week 3)

WALTER PAYTON AWARD
PRESEASON WATCH LIST
Steve Hall, Lindenwood

BUCK BUCHANAN AWARD
PRESEASON WATCH LIST
Tim Coutras, TTU
JaMichael McGoy Jr., UTM

BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL
PLAYER OF THE YEAR WATCH LIST
Delanie "Juice" Majors, TSU
Sammy Taylor, TSU

FCS PUNTER OF THE YEAR
PRESEASON WATCH LIST
Gilbert Brown, CSU

FRED MITCHELL OUTSTANDING KICKER
PRESEASON WATCH LIST
Antonio Chadha, WIU

STATS PERFORM
PRESEASON ALL-AMERICANS
Tim Coutras, TTU (2nd Team)
JaMichael McGoy, UTM (2nd Team)
Gilbert Brown, CSU (2nd Team)

FCS FOOTBALL CENTRAL
PRESEASON ALL-AMERICANS
JaMichael McGoy Jr., UTM (1st Team)
Tim Coutras, TTU (2nd Team)
McCoy Casey, SEMO (3rd Team)
LaMarion Pierce, UTM (3rd Team)

BOXTOROW HBCU
PRESEASON ALL-AMERICANS
Camani Cobbs, TSU (1st Team)
Mark Shenouda, TSU (Honorable Mention)

PHIL STEELE FCS
PRESEASON ALL-AMERICANS
JaMichael McGoy Jr., UTM (1st Team)
McCoy Casey, SEMO (2nd Team)
Tim Coutras, TTU (2nd Team)
Gilbert Brown, CSU (2nd Team)
Cooper Willman, WIU (4th Team)

2025 OVC-BIG SOUTH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

GOLDEN ERA
Tennessee Tech is the first team in Association history to score at least 40 points in three consecutive games, as the Golden Eagles have started the season with 65, 45 and 72 points. The 72 points against Davidson in Week 3 was an Association-record against a Division I opponent. In addition, Tech has amassed three-straight games with 500-plus offensive yards (570-513-576), establishing another Association record for most consecutive games with 500 yards of total offense. Meanwhile, Tennessee Tech's two 60-point games is an Association single-season record.

QUICK GLANTZ
Lindenwood QB **NATE GLANTZ** is the first Association signal-caller this season to throw for 200-plus passing yards *AND* a TD pass in four-straight games to start the year. He became the second QB in Association history with a 200-yard passing (249) & 100-yard rushing (104) game this past week against Stony Brook. Glantz has rushed for a touchdown in his last three games, and leads the OVC-Big South with five rushing scores this year.

JUMPING JAX
Southeast Missouri QB **JAX LEATHERWOOD** threw for an OVC-Big South season-high 422 yards this past week against nationally-ranked Southern Illinois, the fifth-highest single-game passing yards in Association history. He is the league leader with 92 completions and 1,064 passing yards, and has thrown a TD pass in all four appearances.

SPECIAL AGENT
In his last three games (Weeks 2-4), Lindenwood WR **RICO BOND** has caught 20 passes for 274 yards and four touchdowns, and has reached the end zone in all three contests. He leads the Association in receiving yards (301) and receiving TDs (4), while his 23 receptions rank second.

SUPER SIZE COMBO
Southeast Missouri (569) and Southern Illinois (612) combined for 1,181 yards of total offense this past week, the second-most combined total offense in a game in the Association record book, and the most combined offensive yards for a non-conference contest.

TECHIES
Tennessee Tech has scored 25 touchdowns through three contests (8.33 per game), and **QUINTELL QUINN** and **Q'DARYIUS JENNINGS** have reached the end zone in all three games thus far. A total of 14 different players have scored a touchdown for the Golden Eagles this year. Last season, Tech had 15 different players with a TD, while the Association single-season team record for most players with a touchdown is 16 (set by Gardner-Webb in 2023 and matched by UT Martin in 2024).

HUNGRY LIKE A WOLF
Eastern Illinois freshman QB **CONNOR WOLF** threw for 411 yards against Illinois State in Week 3, the most by a freshman in Association history, and at the time was the sixth-most in a game in the league's brief existence (now seventh). Wolf also threw four touchdown passes against the Redbirds, becoming the just the fourth different QB in Association era with a 400-yard / 4-TD performance. The others were Southeast Missouri's **PAXTON DeLAURENT** (2 in 2024), Western Illinois' **NATHAN LAMB** (1 in 2024) and Eastern Illinois' **PIERCE HOLLEY** (1 in 2024).

FULL NELSON
Eastern Illinois WR **CJ NELSON** caught seven passes for 194 yards (=27.71 yards per completion) and two touchdowns against Illinois State in Week 3, the seventh-most receiving yards in a single-game in Association history. He has 210 receiving yards in his two appearances this season.

BULLDOG BITES
Gardner-Webb's 52-45 season-opening win at then-No. 18/19 Western Carolina was the Association's first over a ranked non-conference foe in the regular-season since Sept. 21, 2024, when Southeast Missouri knocked off No. 7/7 Southern Illinois, 38-21. The Association now has five wins over nationally-ranked out-of-conference members in its three-year history, three of which occurred in 2024. Gardner-Webb's 627 yards of offense against the Catamounts were the fourth-most in a single-game in the Association record book.

CATCH ALL
UT Martin WR **BRYCE BAILEY** became just the fourth non-QB in Association history to throw a touchdown pass in a game, but the first to do so against an FBS opponent when he connected with RB **JOHN GENTRY** on a 39-yard scoring play at Oklahoma State in Week 1. Bailey has thrown a pass in three of four games this season, and is 2-of-3 for 54 yards and a score. He added a rushing touchdown in Week 2, but is seeking his first TD reception of the season.

2025 Superlatives

100-YARD RUSHING GAMES

2	Kendric Rhymes, Tennessee State	
		174 vs. North Carolina A&T (Week 1)
		111 vs. Alabama A&M (Week 3)
2	Markell Holman, Western Illinois	
		139 vs. Valparaiso (Week 3)
		118 at Eastern Washington (Week 4)
1	Hakeem Watters, Charleston Southern	
		119 at William & Mary (Week 4)
1	Cole LaCrue, Eastern Illinois	
		193 vs. Dayton (Week 1)
1	Charles Kellom, Eastern Illinois	
		133 vs. Dayton (Week 1)
1	Nate Hampton, Gardner-Webb	
		132 at Western Carolina (Week 1)
1	Quasean Holmes, Gardner-Webb	
		116 at Western Carolina (Week 1)
1	Nate Glantz, Lindenwood	
		104 vs. Stony Brook (Week 4)
1	Quintell Quinn, Tennessee Tech	
		122 vs. Davidson (Week 3)

100-YARD RECEIVING GAMES

2	Rico Bond, Lindenwood	
		102 at Appalachian State (Week 2)
		119 vs. Stony Brook (Week 4)
1	Chris Lofton, Gardner-Webb	
		102 at Western Carolina (Week 1)
1	Drew Krobath, Lindenwood	
		128 at St. Thomas (Week 1)
1	DeVaughn Slaughter, Tennessee State	
		102 vs. North Carolina A&T (Week 1)
1	CJ Nelson, Eastern Illinois	
		194 vs. Illinois State (Week 3)
1	Cam Pedro, Southeast Missouri	
		105 vs. Southern Illinois (Week 4)
1	Kalvin Gilbert, Southeast Missouri	
		125 vs. Southern Illinois (Week 4)
1	Tristin Duncan, Western Illinois	
		110 at Eastern Washington (Week 4)

MULTI-TOUCHDOWN GAMES

Player	2	3	4	5+	Total
Kendric Rhymes, TSU	2				2
Nate Hampton, GWU			1		1
Cole LaCrue, EIU		1			1
Quasean Holmes, GWU		1			1
Nate Glantz, LIN		1			1
Charles Kellom, EIU	1				1
CJ Nelson, EIU	1				1
Anthony Lowe, GWU	1				1
Rico Bond, LIN	1				1
Q'Daryius Jennings, TTU	1				1
Tre' Holloway, TTU	1				1
Aidan Littles, TTU	1				1
Quintell Quinn, TTU	1				1
Kekoa Visperas, TTU	1				1
Markell Holman, WIU	1				1
Christian Anaya, WIU	1				1

MULTI-TOUCHDOWN PASS GAMES

Player	2	3	4	5+	Total
Kekoa Visperas, TTU	1	2			3
Nate Hampton, GWU	3				3
Jax Leatherwood, SEMO	3				3
Chris Irvin, WIU	1	1			2
Connor Wolf, EIU			1		1
Nate Glantz, LIN	1				1

2025 OVC-BIG SOUTH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

RECEPTIONS
Southeast Missouri receiving tandem **KALVIN GILBERT** (125) and **CAM PEDRO** (105) tallied 100-yard receiving efforts this past week against Southern Illinois. It was the fifth time that SEMO had multiple 100-yard receiving individuals in the same game, the most in Association history. Following the Redhawks for most games with two players with 100 yards receiving are Eastern Illinois (3), Western Illinois (3) and Bryant (1).

RHYME TIME
Tennessee State RB **KENDRIC RHYMES** is tied for the Association lead with 328 rushing yards, good for a tie for 17th in the country. His 109.33 rushing yards per game rank No. 10 in FCS. Meanwhile, in the Tigers' Week 1 win over North Carolina A&T, Rhymes became just the second Association player with two 50-plus rushing TDs in a game when he scored on runs of 60 and 51 yards.

ACE IN THE HOLMAN
Western Illinois RB **MARKELL HOLMAN** is the first Association rusher with back-to-back 100-yard games this season following his 118-yard effort this past week at Eastern Washington. In Week 3, he gained 139 against Valparaiso, and is tied for the league lead with 328 rushing yards. Holman has been the Leathernecks' leading rusher in all four games this season.

BACK-PACKING
Eastern Illinois QB **COLE LaCRUE** rushed for 193 yards in Week 1, an Association-record for a quarterback. He threw for 129 yards to become just the third QB in Association history with 100 rushing + passing yards in a game. Two days later, Gardner-Webb's **NATE HAMPTON** became the first with 200 passing + 100 rushing yards in a contest, as he threw for 263 yards and rushed for 132 in GWU's win at Western Carolina. Hampton was also the first QB in Association history with four rushing TDs in a game.

2025 Superlatives

300-YARD PASSING GAMES
1 Connor Wolf, Eastern Illinois
411 vs. Illinois State (Week 3)
1 Nate Glantz, Lindenwood
318 at St. Thomas (Week 1)
1 Jax Leatherwood, Southeast Missouri
422 vs. Southern Illinois (Week 4)

300-YARD TOTAL OFFENSE GAMES
2 Nate Hampton, Gardner-Webb
395 at Western Carolina (Week 1)
318 at Ohio (Week 4)
2 Nate Glantz, Lindenwood
329 at St. Thomas (Week 1)
353 vs. Stony Brook (Week 4)
1 Cole LaCrue, Eastern Illinois
322 vs. Dayton (Week 1)
1 Connor Wolf, Eastern Illinois
408 vs. Illinois State (Week 3)
1 Jax Leatherwood, Southeast Missouri
419 vs. Southern Illinois (Week 4)

GAMES WITH RUSHING & PASSING TD
3 Nate Glantz, Lindenwood
2 Jax Leatherwood, Southeast Missouri
2 Chris Irvin, Western Illinois
1 Nate Hampton, Gardner-Webb
1 Kekoa Visperas, Tennessee Tech

200-YARD ALL-PURPOSE GAMES
1 Anthony Lowe, Gardner-Webb
202 at Western Carolina (Week 1)

10-POINT KICKING GAMES
2 Charles Viorel, Gardner-Webb
10 at Western Carolina (Week 1)
11 vs. The Citadel (Week 3)
1 Justin Keller, Southeast Missouri
12 vs. North Alabama (Week 2)
1 Dom LeBlanc, Tennessee Tech
12 vs. Davidson (Week 3)

10+ TACKLE GAMES

Player	10-14	15-19	20+	Total
Steve Zayachkowsky, CSU		1		1
Jacob Waller, LIN		1		1
Saipeti Maiava Jr., EIU	1			1
Ja'Wuan Nickson, EIU	1			1
Tylan Foster, EIU	1			1
Jamari Young, GWU	1			1
Nigel Lucas, GWU	1			1
Cahari Haynes, GWU	1			1
Sanjay Strickland, LIN	1			1
Eric Gant, LIN	1			1
Landon Sylvie, SEMO	1			1
Kaiki Baker, TSU	1			1
Josh Hastings, UTM	1			1
Jacob Stevenson, UTM	1			1
Justin Richardson, WIU	1			1
Christian Pierce, WIU	1			1
Malini Ti'a, WIU	1			1

2025 OVC-BIG SOUTH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

AROUND THE ASSOCIATION...

CHARLESTON SOUTHERN
Charleston Southern rushed for a season-high 163 yards last week at William & Mary ... In his last two games, Bucs RB **HAKEEM WATTERS** has rushed for 180 yards on just 16 carries (=11.25 per carry) with two touchdowns. Those rushing scores have been for distances of 52 (Week 3 vs. Lindenwood) and 63 (Week 4 vs. Western Illinois) ... CSU is seeking its first non-conference victory since Sept. 7, 2024, when the Bucs defeated nationally-ranked Furman, 24-20.

EASTERN ILLINOIS
All four of Eastern Illinois's touchdowns against Illinois State in Week 3 were receiving touchdowns. EIU entered the contest with five TDs, which were all rushing ... QB **CONNOR WOLF** passed for a school freshman record 411 yards against ISU, as he was 28-of-44 passing with 4 TDs. **CJ NELSON** caught seven balls for 194 yards and two touchdowns, while **COOPER WILLMAN** had five catches for 86 yards and a score. Wolf also connected on a 9-yard pass play to **DeAIRIOUS SMITH**.

GARDNER-WEBB
GWU enjoyed a 14-3 first quarter lead at Ohio before the Bobcats came back for the 52-35 victory. The 35 points was Gardner-Webb's most against an FBS opponent since defeating Akron, 38-37, in 2010 ... RB **QUASEAN HOLMES** scored three times at Ohio (two rushing, one receiving), which included a 68-yard pass play from **NATE HAMPTON**. Hampton was 19-of-28 passing for a season-high 289 yards, and connected with WR **CHRIS LOFTON** on a 42-yard scoring strike ... Gardner-Webb's 122 points are the program's most through the first four games since 2021, when the Runnin' Bulldogs scored 143 in their first four contests.

LINDENWOOD
Lindenwood jumped out to a 27-3 lead and held off Stony Brook for a 30-27 victory last weelk. The Seawolves entered the season ranked No. 24/25 in the Preseason National Top 25 polls. The Lions recorded season highs of 216 rushing yards and 465 total offensive yards in the SBU game. WR **RICO BOND** had season-bests of eight catches, 119 yards and two scores in the victory. **JACOB WALLER** had nine stops, while **TAJAY PASSMORE** recorded two sacks plus a forced fumble. QB **NATE GLANTZ** was 20-of-29 passing -- his third-straight game with exactly 20 completions, and has thrown for more than 200 yards in each contest to start the season.

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI
The Redhawks posted season-highs of four touchdowns, 31 points and 569 yards of offense in its setback to nationally-ranked Southern Illinois last week. RB **BRANDON EPTON JR.** led the squad with 94 rushing yards on 18 carries, and also caught a 34-yard receiving touchdown, which was SEMO's longest pass play of the game. QB **JAX LEATHERWOOD** was 33-of-47 passing for 422 yards, and connected with **CAM PEDRO** on a 22-yard score ... Southeast Missouri is looking to avoid its first 1-3 start since 2023 (1-4).

TENNESSEE STATE
RB **KENDRIC RHYMES** posted his Association-leading second multi-touchdown game of the season in Week 3 with a rushing score (5 yards) and receiving TD (22 yards) in the Tigers' setback to Alabama A&M. Rhymes rushed for 111 yards, and was the team's leading receiver with seven catches for 64 yards to finish with 175 all-purpose yards. The seven catches tied for the fourth-most by a running back in a single-game in Association annals ... RB **ZACK SIMMONS-BROWN** gained 75 yards on nine carries against AAMU ... ... Rhymes is one of two Association players to lead his team in rushing every game thus far ... Entering Week 5, the Tigers are rated No. 10 in the HBCU Coaches Poll, and receiving votes in the HBCU Media Poll.

TENNESSEE TECH
Tech tied the program single-game record with its 72 points against Davidson in Week 3, which was the most points in the program's modern history (since 1920). QB **KEKOA VISPERAS** threw for 246 yards and three touchdowns (23-of-32 passing) and rushed for two scores for the squad's eighth-straight win, dating back to last season. The Golden Eagles gained 308 net rushing yards against the Wildcats -- their third-straight game with 200-plus, and rank third nationally with 269.0 rushing yards per game ... Through three games in 2025, Tech has rushed for 13 touchdowns and thrown for nine, has outscored the opposition 182 to 31, and has limited foes to 54.3 net rushing yards per game (163 total) ... Dating back to last season, TTU has held its last seven opponents to less than 300 yards of offense *AND* below 100 net rushing yards.

UT MARTIN
UT Martin avoided a shutout at Missouri State with 10 points in the fourth quarter. K **CADE HECHTER** first made a 32-yard field goal with 6:55 remaining, and RB **TOMMY ANSLEY** scored on a 1-yard rush with 1:52 left to extend the Skyhawks' touchdown streak to 17 consecutive games.

WESTERN ILLINOIS
QB **CHRIS IRVIN** threw for 167 yards and two touchdowns at Eastern Washington this past week. He connected eight times with **TRISTIN DUNCAN** for 110 yards, and threw two TD passes to **CHRISTIAN ANAYA** (14, 3), who finished with eight catches. RB **MARKELL HOLMAN** rushed for 118 yards on 28 carries and scored his second rushing touchdown of the year. He is one of two Association players to lead his team in rushing in every game this year.

2025 SUPERLATIVES

MULTI-TFL GAMES

Player	2-2.5	3-3.5	4+	Total
Keyshawn Johnson, UTM	2			2
Kaleb Lyons, EIU		1		1
Mylan Brown, CSU	1			1
Tylan Foster, EIU	1			1
Drake Van Hyfte, EIU	1			1
Robert Holtz, GWU	1			1
Andrew Crawley Jr., GWU	1			1
Cahari Haynes, GWU	1			1
Jacob Waller, LIN	1			1
Tajay Passmore, LIN	1			1
James Stewart, TSU	1			1
Ravon Johnson, TSU	1			1
Kaiki Baker, TSU	1			1
A.J. Crawford, TTU	1			1
Jeremy Mendez, TTU	1			1
Jabaree Dawkins, UTM	1			1
Kevin Washington Jr., WIU	1			1
Brock Sperling, WIU	1			1



GAME 3 — BOX SCORE

TSU — 21
AAMU — 24

SEPTEMBER 13, 2025



Scoring Summary report
Alabama A&M vs Tennessee St. (Sep 13, 2025)

Alabama A&M (2-1) vs Tennessee St. (1-2)

Date: Sep 13, 2025
Site: , Tennessee
Stadium: Nissan Stadium
Attendance: 10208

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Team	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Alabama A&M	3	10	10	0	**23**
Tennessee St.	0	21	0	0	**21**

SCORING SUMMARY

Qtr	Time	Scoring Play	V-H
1st	08:25	A AMU - #49 V.Barbosa 26 yd FG, 9-62, 03:23	3-0
2nd	13:51	A AMU - #5 M.Parker 5 yd pass from #10 C.Brown (#49 V.Barbosa kick), 8-98, 02:39	10-0
2nd	10:07	TN ST - #1 K.Rhymes 5 yd rush (#4 F.Perez kick), 6-75, 03:44	10-7
2nd	04:29	TN ST - #30 Z.Simmons-Brown 27 yd rush (#4 F.Perez kick), 9-68, 04:41	10-14
2nd	01:39	A AMU - #49 V.Barbosa 26 yd FG, 10-67, 02:50	13-14
2nd	00:11	TN ST - #1 K.Rhymes 22 yd pass from #10 B.McNair (#4 F.Perez kick), 6-49, 01:19	13-21
3rd	08:49	A AMU - #6 D.Walker 30 yd pass from #10 C.Brown (#49 V.Barbosa kick), 8-84, 02:45	20-21
3rd	00:51	A AMU - #49 V.Barbosa 45 yd FG, 9-56, 04:02	23-21

TIME DETAILS

Kickoff time: 03:32 PM
End of Game: 07:07 PM
Total elapsed: 03:34

OFFICIALS

Referee: Gabriel Tomlin
Umpire: Luke Madrovsky
Linesman: Jason Edler
Line judge: Waylon Jasinski
Back judge: Richard Guy
Field judge: Pat Pownall
Side judge: Marc Barmeier
Center judge: JAcob McGaha
Replay Official: Danoel Palmer

WEATHER

Weather: Sunny 87 F

Individual Statistics report
Alabama A&M vs Tennessee St. (Sep 13, 2025)

Date: Sep 13, 2025
Site: , Tennessee
Stadium: Nissan Stadium
Attendance: 10208

FULL GAME

ALABAMA A&M

RUSHING	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Maurice Edwards	10	38	0	38	0	12	3.8
Kolton Nero	4	17	0	17	0	6	4.2
Ryan Morrow	3	15	0	15	0	6	5.0
Cornelious Brown	8	17	15	2	0	7	0.2
Eric Handley	1	0	2	-2	0	0	-2.0
TEAM	2	0	3	-3	0	0	-1.5
Totals:	**28**	**87**	**20**	**67**	**0**	**12**	**2.4**

PASSING	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Cornelious Brown	21-33-0	329	2	46	2
Eric Handley	2-2-0	26	0	21	0
Totals:	**23-35-0**	**355**	**2**	**46**	**2**

RECEIVING	TAR	No.	Yards	YAC	TD	Long
Travaunta Abner	7	6	104	68	0	28
Andre Craig	5	5	63	18	0	23
Myles Parker	6	4	29	21	1	8
Jordan Chambers-Smith	4	2	47	31	0	40
Daveon Walker	4	2	38	22	1	30
Franck Pierre	3	1	46	11	0	46
Donovan Price	1	1	25	27	0	25
Maurice Edwards	2	1	12	9	0	12
Kolton Nero	1	1	5	6	0	5
Ryan Morrow	1	0	0	0	0	0
Mekhi Maddox	1	0	0	0	0	0
Totals:	**35**	**23**	**369**	**213**	**2**	**46**

PUNTING	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
Robert Cole	5	233	46.6	50	1	1
Totals:	**5**	**233**	**46.6**	**50**	**1**	**1**

RETURNS	Punt			Kickoff			Intercept		
	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg
Jordan Chambers-Smith	2	27	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kaden Dixon	0	0	0	1	23	23	0	0	0
Ryan Morrow	0	0	0	1	16	16	0	0	0
Joshua Bledsoe	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Totals:	**2**	**27**	**18**	**2**	**39**	**23**	**1**	**0**	**0**

FIELD GOALS	Qtr	Time	Dist	Result
Victor Barbosa	1st	08:25	26	GOOD
Victor Barbosa	2nd	01:39	26	GOOD
Victor Barbosa	3rd	00:51	45	GOOD

KICKOFFS	No.	Yards	Avg	TB	OB
Victor Barbosa	6	370	61.7	1	0

ALL-PURPOSE	Rush	Rcv	KR	PR	IR	Total
Travaunta Abner	0	104	0	0	0	104
Jordan Chambers-Smith	0	47	0	27	0	74
Andre Craig	0	63	0	0	0	63
Maurice Edwards	38	12	0	0	0	50

FUMBLES
Alabama A&M - Cornelious Brown 1-0
Tennessee St. - Byron McNair 2-1

TENNESSEE ST.

RUSHING	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Kendric Rhymes	24	113	2	111	1	20	4.6
Zack Simmons-Brown	9	76	1	75	1	27	8.3
Byron McNair	8	22	29	-7	0	9	-0.9
Totals:	**41**	**211**	**32**	**179**	**2**	**27**	**4.4**

PASSING	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Byron McNair	17-27-1	157	1	22	4
Totals:	**17-27-1**	**157**	**1**	**22**	**4**

RECEIVING	TAR	No.	Yards	YAC	TD	Long
Kendric Rhymes	8	7	64	52	1	22
Tyson Edwards	6	3	28	3	0	21
DeVaughn Slaughter	5	3	15	6	0	14
Brock Montgomery	3	2	29	2	0	15
Justin Hughes	1	1	11	7	0	11
Jaden Guy	2	1	10	4	0	10
Jason Hoath Jr.	2	0	0	0	0	0
Totals:	**27**	**17**	**157**	**74**	**1**	**22**

PUNTING	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
Mark Shenouda	6	230	38.3	55	4	0
Totals:	**6**	**230**	**38.3**	**55**	**4**	**0**

RETURNS	Punt			Kickoff			Intercept		
	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg
Anthony Taylor	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lelan Wilhoite	0	0	0	4	116	51	0	0	0
Taveon Porter	0	0	0	1	19	19	0	0	0
Totals:	**2**	**2**	**2**	**5**	**135**	**51**	**0**	**0**	**0**

FIELD GOALS	Qtr	Time	Dist	Result

KICKOFFS	No.	Yards	Avg	TB	OB
Freddy Perez	4	246	61.5	2	0

ALL-PURPOSE	Rush	Rcv	KR	PR	IR	Total
Kendric Rhymes	111	64	0	0	0	175
Lelan Wilhoite	0	0	116	0	0	116
Zack Simmons-Brown	75	0	0	0	0	75
Brock Montgomery	0	29	0	0	0	29

Team Statistics report
Alabama A&M vs Tennessee St. (Sep 13, 2025)

Date: Sep 13, 2025
Site: , Tennessee
Stadium: Nissan Stadium
Attendance: 10208

FULL GAME	A AMU	TN ST
FIRST DOWNS	19	21
Rushing	4	9
Passing	14	9
Penalty	1	3
NET YARDS RUSHING	67	179
Rushing Attempts	28	41
Average Per Rush	2.4	4.4
Rushing Touchdowns	0	2
Yards Gained Rushing	87	211
Yards Lost Rushing	20	32
NET YARDS PASSING	355	157
Completions-Attempts-Int	23-35-0	17-27-1
Average Per Attempt	10.1	5.8
Average Per Completion	15.4	9.2
Passing Touchdowns	2	1
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	422	336
Total offense plays	63	68
Average Gain Per Play	6.7	4.9
Fumbles: Number-Lost	1-0	2-1
Penalties: Number-Yards	9-81	4-35
PUNTS-YARDS	5-233	6-230
Average Yards Per Punt	46.6	38.3
Net Yards Per Punt	42.2	35.5
Inside 20	1	4
50+ Yards	1	1
Touchbacks	1	0
Fair catch	2	0
KICKOFF-YARDS	6-370	4-246
Average Yards Per Kickoff	61.7	61.5
Net Yards Per Kickoff	35	39.2
Touchbacks	1	2
Fair Catch Yards	0	0
Punt returns: Number-Yards-TD	2-27-0	2-2-0
Average Per Return	13.5	1.0
Kickoff returns: Number-Yds-TD	2-39-0	5-135-0
Average Per Return	19.5	27.0
Interceptions: Number-Yds-TD	1-0-0	0-0-0
Fumble Returns: Number-Yds-TD	0-0-0	0-0-0
Miscellaneous Yards	0	0
Possession Time	24:16	35:44
1st Quarter	06:01	08:59
2nd Quarter	05:07	09:53
3rd Quarter	06:47	08:13
4th Quarter	06:21	08:39
Third-Down Conversions	3-12	7-15
Fourth-Down Conversions	1-1	0-0
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	3-4	1-1
Touchdowns	1	1
Field goals	2	0
Sacks By: Number-Yards	4-29	2-12
PAT Kicks	2-2	3-3
2Pts Conversions	0-0	0-0
Field Goals	3-3	0-0
Points off Turnover	0	0

Defensive Statistics report
Alabama A&M vs Tennessee St. (Sep 13, 2025)

Date: Sep 13, 2025
Site: , Tennessee
Stadium: Nissan Stadium
Attendance: 10208

FULL GAME

ALABAMA A&M

#	Name	Solo	Ast	Total	Sacks-Yds	TFL-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	Int-Yds	BrUp	Blks	QBH
53	John Robinson	8	1	9	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	1
9	Wyatt Wright	5	1	6	1.0-8	1.0-8	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	1
50	Dimitris Biamby	5	0	5	1.0-9	2.0-10	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
15	Desmon James	4	1	5	0.0-0	1.0-4	0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
35	Xzavier Booker	2	3	5	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	1-0	0-0	0	0	0
10	Kylon Roberts	2	3	5	1.0-10	1.0-10	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
90	Nick Glenn	3	1	4	0.0-0	1.0-2	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
2	Kaleb Brown	2	2	4	0.0-0	0.0-0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
96	Jorhdan Brown	1	3	4	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
16	Robert Iverson Jr.	2	1	3	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
14	Keon Handley Jr.	2	0	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
20	Joshua Bledsoe	2	0	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	1-0	0	0	0
21	Kaden Dixon	1	1	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
41	Marquel Patterson	1	1	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
27	Therman-Deon Moore	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
91	Nikolas Barnes	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
37	Jordan Milton	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
59	Kamarius Bradshaw	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
25	Tierphill Bien-Aime	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
99	Keith Green	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
97	Julian Thompson	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
43	Arenza Davis	1	0	1	1.0-2	1.0-2	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	1
3	Kiel Eldridge	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
44	Brandon White	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
17	Jaquel Fells	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
14	Mekhi Maddox	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
0	Montrell Campbell	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
52	Jalen Wright	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	1
	Totals	**48**	**24**	**72**	**4.0-29**	**7.0-36**	**2**	**1-0**	**1-0**	**1**	**0**	**4**

TENNESSEE ST.

#	Name	Solo	Ast	Total	Sacks-Yds	TFL-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	Int-Yds	BrUp	Blks	QBH
28	Kaiki Baker	10	1	11	0.0-0	2.0-5	0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
7	James Stewart	2	5	7	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	1	0	1
4	Marlon Huff	3	3	6	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	1
51	Epoki Fakaosi	4	0	4	1.0-5	1.0-5	1	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
21	Jayden Cook	3	1	4	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
25	Sammy Taylor	2	1	3	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
18	Jaylon Price	2	1	3	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
3	Micah Gay	2	1	3	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
1	Jashon Watkins	2	0	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
13	Dominique Dixon	2	0	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
52	Bryce Gray	2	0	2	1.0-7	1.0-7	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
10	Syncere Safeeullah	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
49	Brandon Collins	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
26	Jalen LaBranche	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
11	Brent Rowe	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
40	Caleb Reid	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
0	Jaden Guy	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
35	Alijah Bivans	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
47	Matthew Wilson	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
97	Terence Carpenter II	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
0	Braelen Perry	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0

Defensive Statistics report
Alabama A&M vs Tennessee St. (Sep 13, 2025)

Date: Sep 13, 2025
Site: , Tennessee
Stadium: Nissan Stadium
Attendance: 10208

22	DuJuan Sharp III	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
27	Byron Davis	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
2	Stephon Shivers	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
	Totals	**41**	**16**	**57**	**2.0-12**	**4.0-17**	**1**	**0-0**	**0-0**	**6**	**0**	**2**

Participation report
Alabama A&M vs Tennessee St. (Sep 13, 2025)

Date: Sep 13, 2025
Site: , Tennessee
Stadium: Nissan Stadium
Attendance: 10208

ALABAMA A&M

Pos	##	OFFENSE
QB	10	Brown, Cornelious
WR	12	Chambers-Smith, Jordan
TE	13	Abner, Travaunta
WR	2	Pierre, Franck
RB	20	Edwards, Maurice
WR	6	Walker, Daveon
OL	62	Powell, Antonio
OL	66	Maxena, BJ
OL	71	Richardson, TyQuez
OL	75	Lewis, Ramier
OL	79	Crenshaw, Bruce

Pos	##	DEFENSE
DL	10	Roberts, Kylon
DB	14	Handley Jr., Keon
DB	16	Iverson Jr., Robert
DB	19	Mayberry, Delbert
DB	2	Brown, Kaleb
DB	20	Bledsoe, Joshua
DL	35	Booker, Xzavier
LB	50	Biamby, Dimitris
LB	53	Robinson, John
DL	7	Wilson, Devedrick
DT	90	Glenn, Nick

TENNESSEE ST.

Pos	##	OFFENSE
RB	1	Rhymes, Kendric
QB	10	McNair, Byron
WR	14	Edwards, Tyson
WR	18	Slaughter, DeVaughn
OL	54	Neals, Darius
OL	55	Brown, Breon
OL	58	Crawford, Shamar
OL	63	Jean-Jumeau, Veguer
OL	70	Igwe, Jesse
TE	87	Ruth, Connor
TE	89	Hoath Jr., Jason

Pos	##	DEFENSE
DB	10	Safeeullah, Syncere
DB	13	Dixon, Dominique
DL	18	Price, Jaylon
CB	21	Cook, Jayden
DB	22	Sharp III, DuJuan
DB	28	Baker, Kaiki
LB	3	Gay, Micah
DL	4	Huff, Marlon
LB	47	Wilson, Matthew
DL	7	Stewart, James
DL	99	Snipes, Lathun

Alabama A&M
0-Campbell, Montrell, 11-Smallwood, Willburn, 11-Craig, Andre, 13-Clendenin, Preston, 14-Maddox, Mekhi, 15-James, Desmon, 15-Davis, Jarvis, 16-Wright, Zavier, 17-Fells, Jaquel, 18-Tucker, Jr., Ashley, 21-Dixon, Kaden, 24-Lucky, Elijah, 25-Bien-Aime, Tierphill, 26-Morrow, Ryan, 27-Moore, Therman-Deon, 3-Eldridge, Kiel, 32-Nero, Kolton, 37-Milton, Jordan, 4-Littlefield, Connon, 41-Patterson, Marquel, 43-Davis, Arenza, 44-White, Brandon, 47-Bender, Campbell, 49-Barbosa, Victor, 5-Parker, Myles, 52-Wright, Jalen, 59-Bradshaw, Kamarius, 6-Pettway, Lynn, 63-Cloy, Elias, 68-Sands, Kameran, 70-Dinkins Jr, Jamaal, 76-Cooper, Kapone, 8-Handley, Eric, 8-Cole, Robert, 84-Payne, Donovan, 85-Price, Donovan, 86-Williams, Ty'Jarian, 9-Wright, Wyatt, 91-Barnes, Nikolas, 96-Brown, Jorhdan, 97-Thompson, Julian, 99-Green, Keith

Tennessee St.
0-Perry, Braelen, 0-Guy, Jaden, 1-Watkins, Jashon, 11-Rowe, Brent, 15-Shenouda, Mark, 17-Hughes, Justin, 2-Shivers, Stephon, 20-Taylor, Anthony, 24-Porter, Taveon, 25-Taylor, Sammy, 26-LaBranche, Jalen, 27-Davis, Byron, 30-Simmons-Brown, Zack, 31-Pearson, Travis, 32-Coleman, Jayden, 33-Jefferson, Taeshawn, 35-Bivans, Alijah, 37-Foreman, Jacorris, 38-Wilhoite, Lelan, 4-Perez, Freddy, 40-Reid, Caleb, 43-Hicks, Kyle, 44-Cunningham, Ethan, 49-Collins, Brandon, 51-Fakaosi, Epoki, 52-Gray, Bryce, 6-Willis, Jelani, 71-Howell, Jackson, 73-Van-Tagoe, Joel, 75-Williams, Arlington, 9-Montgomery, Brock, 97-Carpenter II, Terence



GAME 2 — BOX SCORE

TSU — 3
NDSU —59

SEPTEMBER 6, 2025



Scoring Summary report
North Dakota St. vs Tennessee St. (Sep 06, 2025)

North Dakota St. (2-0) vs Tennessee St. (1-1)

Date: Sep 06, 2025
Site: , Tennessee
Stadium: Nissan Stadium
Attendance: 8569

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Team	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
North Dakota St.	17	28	7	7	**59**
Tennessee St.	0	0	0	3	**3**

SCORING SUMMARY

Qtr	Time	Scoring Play	V-H
1st	09:31	NDSU - #8 B.Kpeenu 10 yd rush (#38 E.Ozick kick), 9-71, 05:24	7-0
1st	07:08	NDSU - #8 B.Kpeenu 4 yd rush (#38 E.Ozick kick), 4-20, 01:55	14-0
1st	01:21	NDSU - #38 E.Ozick 22 yd FG, 9-38, 03:39	17-0
2nd	13:08	NDSU - #8 B.Kpeenu 6 yd rush (#38 E.Ozick kick), 5-33, 02:04	24-0
2nd	10:04	NDSU - #7 D.Scott 5 yd rush (#38 E.Ozick kick), 2-46, 00:50	31-0
2nd	09:03	NDSU - #1 D.Woolen 34 yd interception return (#38 E.Ozick kick), 01:01	38-0
2nd	01:21	NDSU - #3 R.Nelson 3 yd pass from #9 C.Payton (#38 E.Ozick kick), 8-67, 05:32	45-0
3rd	07:11	NDSU - #15 M.Collins 68 yd pass from #12 N.Hayes (#38 E.Ozick kick), 5-82, 02:56	52-0
4th	08:27	NDSU - #45 M.Mitchell 2 yd rush (#37 D.Klein kick), 5-49, 02:45	59-0
4th	04:05	TSU - #4 F.Perez 45 yd FG, 7-48, 04:22	59-3

TIME DETAILS

Kickoff time: 01:32 PM
End of Game: 04:30 PM
Total elapsed: 02:58

OFFICIALS

Referee: Chris Brison
Umpire: David Casteel
Linesman: Jeff Estes
Line judge: Phillip DeWitt
Back judge: Billy Willis
Field judge: Zach Perry
Side judge: Marcelo Rodriguez
Center judge: Blake Ohren
Replay Official: Greg Laurentius

WEATHER

Weather: Cloudy 67 F
Wind: North 2 mph

Individual Statistics report
North Dakota St. vs Tennessee St. (Sep 06, 2025)

Date: Sep 06, 2025
Site: , Tennessee
Stadium: Nissan Stadium
Attendance: 8569

FULL GAME

NORTH DAKOTA ST.

RUSHING	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Barika Kpeenu	10	57	0	57	3	13	5.7
Myles Mitchell	6	53	0	53	1	21	8.8
DJ Scott	8	30	1	29	1	7	3.6
Cortez LeGrant	5	26	3	23	0	10	4.6
Cole Payton	5	21	0	21	0	7	4.2
Owen Johnson	3	11	3	8	0	10	2.7
Trey Drake	1	2	0	2	0	2	2.0
TEAM	1	0	2	-2	0	0	-2.0
Totals:	**39**	**200**	**9**	**191**	**5**	**21**	**4.9**

PASSING	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Cole Payton	13-16-0	166	1	41	0
Nathan Hayes	2-6-1	72	1	68	0
Trey Drake	1-1-0	4	0	4	0
Totals:	**16-23-1**	**242**	**2**	**68**	**0**

RECEIVING	TAR	No.	Yards	YAC	TD	Long
Bryce Lance	4	3	46	12	0	26
Finn Diggins	4	3	28	14	0	13
RaJa Nelson	4	3	24	15	1	13
Carson Williams	2	2	23	15	0	15
Mekhi Collins	1	1	68	51	1	68
Reis Kessel	1	1	41	20	0	41
Barika Kpeenu	1	1	4	3	0	4
Logan Conklin	2	1	4	7	0	4
Jett Zabel	1	1	4	7	0	4
Myles Mitchell	1	0	0	0	0	0
Isiah St. Romain	2	0	0	0	0	0
Totals:	**23**	**16**	**242**	**144**	**2**	**68**

PUNTING	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
Aaron Bickerton	2	94	47.0	59	1	0
Totals:	**2**	**94**	**47.0**	**59**	**1**	**0**

RETURNS	Punt			Kickoff			Intercept		
	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg
Jackson Williams	4	79	37	0	0	0	0	0	0
RaJa Nelson	0	0	0	1	24	24	0	0	0
John Gores	0	0	0	1	25	25	0	0	0
Donovan Woolen	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	34	34
Totals:	**4**	**79**	**37**	**2**	**49**	**25**	**1**	**34**	**34**

FIELD GOALS	Qtr	Time	Dist	Result
Eli Ozick	1st	01:21	22	GOOD

KICKOFFS	No.	Yards	Avg	TB	OB
Eli Ozick	8	503	62.9	3	0
Drew Klein	2	126	63.0	1	0

ALL-PURPOSE	Rush	Rcv	KR	PR	IR	Total
Jackson Williams	0	0	0	79	0	79
Mekhi Collins	0	68	0	0	0	68
Barika Kpeenu	57	4	0	0	0	61
Myles Mitchell	53	0	0	0	0	53

FUMBLES
North Dakota St. - None
Tennessee St. - Kendric Rhymes 1-1

TENNESSEE ST.

RUSHING	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Kendric Rhymes	12	47	4	43	0	13	3.6
Zack Simmons-Brown	8	38	6	32	0	31	4.0
Byron McNair	1	6	0	6	0	6	6.0
Travis Pearson	1	3	0	3	0	3	3.0
Caleb McCreary	4	10	11	-1	0	8	-0.2
Jonathan Palmer	2	0	13	-13	0	0	-6.5
Totals:	**28**	**104**	**34**	**70**	**0**	**31**	**2.5**

PASSING	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Jonathan Palmer	5-13-0	38	0	16	1
Byron McNair	2-4-1	12	0	7	0
Caleb McCreary	1-1-0	11	0	11	0
Totals:	**8-18-1**	**61**	**0**	**16**	**1**

RECEIVING	TAR	No.	Yards	YAC	TD	Long
Brock Montgomery	5	2	15	2	0	8
Kendric Rhymes	3	2	10	19	0	8
Tyson Edwards	2	1	16	5	0	16
Justin Hughes	1	1	11	0	0	11
Jaden Guy	1	1	5	6	0	5
DeVaughn Slaughter	3	1	4	0	0	4
Jason Hoath Jr.	1	0	0	0	0	0
Zack Simmons-Brown	1	0	0	0	0	0
Christian Jones	1	0	0	0	0	0
Totals:	**18**	**8**	**61**	**32**	**0**	**16**

PUNTING	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
Mark Shenouda	8	339	42.4	52	1	0
Totals:	**8**	**339**	**42.4**	**52**	**1**	**0**

RETURNS	Punt			Kickoff			Intercept		
	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg
Lelan Wilhoite	0	0	0	2	24	16	0	0	0
Taveon Porter	0	0	0	1	18	18	0	0	0
Byron Davis	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Totals:	**0**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**42**	**18**	**1**	**0**	**0**

FIELD GOALS	Qtr	Time	Dist	Result
Freddy Perez	3rd	02:27	49	MISSED
Freddy Perez	4th	04:05	45	GOOD

KICKOFFS	No.	Yards	Avg	TB	OB
Freddy Perez	2	125	62.5	0	0

ALL-PURPOSE	Rush	Rcv	KR	PR	IR	Total
Kendric Rhymes	43	10	0	0	0	53
Zack Simmons-Brown	32	0	0	0	0	32
Lelan Wilhoite	0	0	24	0	0	24
Taveon Porter	0	0	18	0	0	18

Team Statistics report
North Dakota St. vs Tennessee St. (Sep 06, 2025)

Date: Sep 06, 2025
Site: , Tennessee
Stadium: Nissan Stadium
Attendance: 8569

FULL GAME	NDSU	TSU
FIRST DOWNS	24	4
Rushing	13	2
Passing	9	2
Penalty	2	0
NET YARDS RUSHING	191	70
Rushing Attempts	39	28
Average Per Rush	4.9	2.5
Rushing Touchdowns	5	0
Yards Gained Rushing	200	104
Yards Lost Rushing	9	34
NET YARDS PASSING	242	61
Completions-Attempts-Int	16-23-1	8-18-1
Average Per Attempt	10.5	3.4
Average Per Completion	15.1	7.6
Passing Touchdowns	2	0
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	433	131
Total offense plays	62	46
Average Gain Per Play	7.0	2.8
Fumbles: Number-Lost	0-0	1-1
Penalties: Number-Yards	1-10	5-44
PUNTS-YARDS	2-94	8-339
Average Yards Per Punt	47.0	42.4
Net Yards Per Punt	47	32.5
Inside 20	1	1
50+ Yards	1	1
Touchbacks	0	0
Fair catch	0	1
KICKOFF-YARDS	10-629	2-125
Average Yards Per Kickoff	62.9	62.5
Net Yards Per Kickoff	42.6	38
Touchbacks	4	0
Fair Catch Yards	61	0
Punt returns: Number-Yards-TD	4-79-0	0-0-0
Average Per Return	19.8	0.0
Kickoff returns: Number-Yds-TD	2-49-0	3-42-0
Average Per Return	24.5	14.0
Interceptions: Number-Yds-TD	1-34-1	1-0-0
Fumble Returns: Number-Yds-TD	0-0-0	0-0-0
Miscellaneous Yards	0	0
Possession Time	33:37	26:23
1st Quarter	11:15	03:45
2nd Quarter	08:14	06:46
3rd Quarter	05:47	09:13
4th Quarter	08:21	06:39
Third-Down Conversions	3-9	1-13
Fourth-Down Conversions	1-1	0-0
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	7-7	0-0
Touchdowns	6	0
Field goals	1	0
Sacks By: Number-Yards	1-10	0-0
PAT Kicks	8-8	0-0
2Pts Conversions	0-0	0-0
Field Goals	1-1	1-2
Points off Turnover	14	0

Defensive Statistics report
North Dakota St. vs Tennessee St. (Sep 06, 2025)

Date: Sep 06, 2025
Site: , Tennessee
Stadium: Nissan Stadium
Attendance: 8569

FULL GAME

NORTH DAKOTA ST.

#	Name	Solo	Ast	Total	Sacks-Yds	TFL-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	Int-Yds	BrUp	Blks	QBH
95	Zach Vanderpool	4	0	4	0.0-0	0.0-0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
11	Chance Symons	3	1	4	0.0-0	1.5-6	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
52	Nathaniel Staehling	3	0	3	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
93	Toby Anene	3	0	3	1.0-10	1.0-10	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	1
0	Jaquise Alexander	3	0	3	0.0-0	1.0-3	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
54	Alijah Wayne	2	1	3	0.0-0	2.5-5	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
92	Kelton McCaslin	2	0	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
55	Oliver Lucht	1	1	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	1
32	Austin Altepeter	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
43	Logan Kopp	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
1	Donovan Woolen	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	1-34	0	0	0
25	Ray James	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
29	Darius Givance	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
97	Victor Isele	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	1-0	0-0	0	0	1
58	Keenan Wilson	1	0	1	0.0-0	1.0-4	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
27	Ryan Jones	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
6	Jaylin Crumby	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
10	Antoine Booth	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
56	Allante Burley	1	0	1	0.0-0	1.0-6	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
23	Kegan Huber	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
21	Noah Taylor	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
99	Obald Niyonkuru	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
49	Matthew Stenbroten	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
98	Jack Iuliano	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	1
	Totals	**35**	**4**	**39**	**1.0-10**	**8.0-34**	**1**	**1-0**	**1-34**	**1**	**0**	**4**

TENNESSEE ST.

#	Name	Solo	Ast	Total	Sacks-Yds	TFL-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	Int-Yds	BrUp	Blks	QBH
27	Byron Davis	4	0	4	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	1-0	0	0	0
47	Matthew Wilson	3	1	4	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
7	James Stewart	3	1	4	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	1
21	Jayden Cook	3	1	4	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
28	Kaiki Baker	3	0	3	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
11	Brent Rowe	3	0	3	0.0-0	1.0-3	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	1
52	Bryce Gray	2	1	3	0.0-0	0.5-2	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
10	Syncere Safeeullah	2	0	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
99	Lathun Snipes	2	0	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
33	Taeshawn Jefferson	2	0	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
43	Kyle Hicks	2	0	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
32	Jayden Coleman	2	0	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
19	Ravon Johnson	2	0	2	0.0-0	1.0-1	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
6	Jelani Willis	2	0	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
36	Caleb Reid	1	1	2	0.0-0	0.5-1	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
13	Dominique Dixon	1	1	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
22	DuJuan Sharp III	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
15	Mark Shenouda	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
18	Jaylon Price	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	1
1	Jashon Watkins	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
2	Stephon Shivers	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
4	Marlon Huff	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
0	Braelen Perry	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
25	Sammy Taylor	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
91	Khy'lek Jarrett	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
51	Epoki Fakaosi	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
	Totals	**46**	**6**	**52**	**0.0-0**	**3.0-7**	**0**	**0-0**	**1-0**	**2**	**0**	**3**

Participation report
North Dakota St. vs Tennessee St. (Sep 06, 2025)

Date: Sep 06, 2025
Site: , Tennessee
Stadium: Nissan Stadium
Attendance: 8569

NORTH DAKOTA ST.

Pos	##	OFFENSE
WR	18	Williams, Jackson
WR	3	Nelson, RaJa
WR	5	Lance, Bryce
OG	62	Empey, Griffin
OC	63	Fraley, Trent
OT	70	Johnson, Beau
OG	71	Tastad, Nate
OT	75	Magin, Josh
RB	8	Kpeenu, Barika
TE	89	Diggins, Finn
QB	9	Payton, Cole

Pos	##	DEFENSE
LB	1	Woolen, Donovan
CB	2	Duffie, Jailen
CB	24	Chideme-Alfaro, Anthony
S	29	Givance, Darius
LB	43	Kopp, Logan
LB	52	Staehling, Nathaniel
DT	58	Wilson, Keenan
S	6	Crumby, Jaylin
DT	64	Duttenhefer, Jaxon
DE	92	McCaslin, Kelton
DE	93	Anene, Toby

TENNESSEE ST.

Pos	##	OFFENSE
RB	1	Rhymes, Kendric
WR	14	Edwards, Tyson
WR	18	Slaughter, DeVaughn
OL	53	Nelson, Steven
OL	54	Neals, Darius
QB	6	Palmer, Jonathan
OL	63	Jean-Jumeau, Veguer
OL	70	Igwe, Jesse
OL	73	Van-Tagoe, Joel
TE	86	Jones, Christian
TE	89	Hoath Jr., Jason

Pos	##	DEFENSE
DB	10	Safeeullah, Syncere
DE	19	Johnson, Ravon
CB	21	Cook, Jayden
DB	27	Davis, Byron
DB	28	Baker, Kaiki
LB	3	Gay, Micah
DB	33	Jefferson, Taeshawn
DL	4	Huff, Marlon
LB	47	Wilson, Matthew
DL	7	Stewart, James
DL	99	Snipes, Lathun

North Dakota St.
0-Alexander, Jaquise, 10-Drake, Trey, 10-Booth, Antoine, 11-Symons, Chance, 12-Hayes, Nathan, 13-Nelson, Najee, 14-Eady, Taylen, 15-Collins, Mekhi, 17-St. Romain, Isiah, 2-Entz, Kellen, 20-Steil, Will, 21-Taylor, Noah, 22-Artz, Hudson, 23-Huber, Kegan, 25-James, Ray, 27-Jones, Ryan, 28-LeGrant, Cortez, 31-Ford, Mikhale, 32-Altepeter, Austin, 37-Klein, Drew, 38-Ozick, Eli, 39-Bickerton, Aaron, 4-Johnson, Owen, 40-Zenzen, Kaden, 41-Haugo, Peder, 44-Kokat, Luke, 45-Mitchell, Myles, 46-Werremeyer, Truman, 48-Bowers, Caleb, 49-Stenbroten, Matthew, 54-Wayne, Alijah, 55-Lucht, Oliver, 56-Burley, Allante, 61-Schmidt, Gage, 66-Liwienski, Jack, 69-Lockerby, Devin, 7-Scott, DJ, 72-Schneckloth, Nate, 76-Babatz, Ryan, 78-Stommes, Noah, 80-Gores, John, 81-Kessel, Reis, 82-Kilzer, Jacob, 83-Osterman, Cade, 84-Conklin, Logan, 85-Zabel, Jett, 88-Williams, Carson, 94-Larson, Logan, 95-Vanderpool, Zach, 97-Isele, Victor, 98-Iuliano, Jack, 99-Niyonkuru, Obald

Tennessee St.
0-Perry, Braelen, 0-Guy, Jaden, 1-Watkins, Jashon, 10-McNair, Byron, 11-Rowe, Brent, 13-Dixon, Dominique, 15-Shenouda, Mark, 16-Reed, Exavious, 17-Hughes, Justin, 18-Price, Jaylon, 2-Shivers, Stephon, 22-Sharp III, DuJuan, 24-Porter, Taveon, 25-Taylor, Sammy, 30-Simmons-Brown, Zack, 31-Pearson, Travis, 32-Coleman, Jayden, 35-Bivans, Alijah, 36-Reid, Caleb, 37-Moore, Jonothan, 37-Foreman, Jacorris, 38-Wilhoite, Lelan, 4-Perez, Freddy, 43-Hicks, Kyle, 44-Cunningham, Ethan, 49-Collins, Brandon, 51-Fakaosi, Epoki, 52-Gray, Bryce, 55-Douglas, Camron, 55-Brown, Breon, 6-Willis, Jelani, 75-Williams, Arlington, 77-Irby, Jakhye, 8-McCreary, Caleb, 9-Montgomery, Brock, 91-Jarrett, Khy'lek, 97-Carpenter II, Terence



GAME 1 — BOX SCORE

TSU — 24
NCAT —21

AUGUST 30, 2025



Scoring Summary report
N.C. A&T vs Tennessee St. (Aug 30, 2025)

N.C. A&T (0-1) vs Tennessee St. (1-0)

Date: Aug 30, 2025
Site: Nashville, Tennessee
Stadium: Nissan Stadium
Attendance: 11016

SCORE BY QUARTERS

Team	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
N.C. A&T	7	7	0	7	**21**
Tennessee St.	7	3	7	7	**24**

SCORING SUMMARY

Qtr	Time	Scoring Play	V-H
1st	07:07	NC AT - #35 W.Graves 40 yd rush (#39 A.Brown kick), 9-85, 04:35	7-0
1st	06:51	TN ST - #18 D.Slaughter 82 yd pass from #6 J.Palmer (#4 F.Perez kick), 1-82, 00:11	7-7
2nd	04:08	TN ST - #4 F.Perez 41 yd FG, 7-1, 03:10	7-10
2nd	00:12	NC AT - #17 B.Thomas 1 yd rush (#39 A.Brown kick), 4-33, 01:08	14-10
3rd	05:51	TN ST - #1 K.Rhymes 60 yd rush (#4 F.Perez kick), 1-60, 00:10	14-17
4th	14:19	TN ST - #1 K.Rhymes 51 yd rush (#4 F.Perez kick), 3-67, 00:50	14-24
4th	09:58	NC AT - #3 A.Jones 66 yd pass from #17 B.Thomas (#39 A.Brown kick), 6-83, 04:17	21-24

TIME DETAILS

Kickoff time: 03:32 PM
End of Game: 07:02 PM
Total elapsed: 03:29

OFFICIALS

Referee: Brandon McCain
Umpire: Landon Trusty
Linesman: Michael Phillips
Line judge: Nathan Elliot
Back judge: Tatum Brown
Field judge: Andrew Barr
Side judge: Gary McCarthy
Center judge: Rashad Lewis
Replay Official: Greg Koerner

WEATHER

Weather: Sunny 85 F

Individual Statistics report
N.C. A&T vs Tennessee St. (Aug 30, 2025)

Date: Aug 30, 2025
Site: Nashville, Tennessee
Stadium: Nissan Stadium
Attendance: 11016

FULL GAME

N.C. A&T

RUSHING	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Wesley Graves	14	72	3	69	1	40	4.9
Jailen Hicks	4	27	0	27	0	22	6.8
Shimique Blizzard	4	27	3	24	0	15	6.0
Champ Long	7	13	6	7	0	4	1.0
Braxton Thomas	12	29	23	6	1	10	0.5
Totals:	**41**	**168**	**35**	**133**	**2**	**40**	**3.2**

PASSING	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Braxton Thomas	11-13-0	169	1	66	2
Champ Long	5-9-0	41	0	17	2
Totals:	**16-22-0**	**210**	**1**	**66**	**4**

RECEIVING	TAR	No.	Yards	YAC	TD	Long
Amonte Jones	7	4	91	38	1	66
Michael Carlock-Williams	4	3	31	20	0	12
Jayvonne Dillard	4	3	6	1	0	10
Jamison Warren	2	2	42	9	0	31
Shimique Blizzard	2	2	18	14	0	17
Elijah Kennedy	1	1	14	4	0	14
Jailen Hicks	1	1	8	9	0	8
Wesley Graves	1	0	0	0	0	0
Totals:	**22**	**16**	**210**	**95**	**1**	**66**

PUNTING	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
DJ Page	7	279	39.9	50	0	0
Totals:	**7**	**279**	**39.9**	**50**	**0**	**0**

RETURNS	Punt			Kickoff			Intercept		
	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg
Amonte Jones	5	30	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aaron Harris	0	0	0	1	17	17	0	0	0
Elijah Kennedy	0	0	0	2	42	25	0	0	0
Joshua Iseah	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Totals:	**5**	**30**	**15**	**3**	**59**	**25**	**1**	**0**	**0**

FIELD GOALS	Qtr	Time	Dist	Result
Andrew Brown	4th	00:00	38	BLOCKED

KICKOFFS	No.	Yards	Avg	TB	OB
Andrew Brown	4	237	59.2	1	0

ALL-PURPOSE	Rush	Rcv	KR	PR	IR	Total
Amonte Jones	0	91	0	30	0	121
Wesley Graves	69	0	0	0	0	69
Elijah Kennedy	0	14	42	0	0	56
Shimique Blizzard	24	18	0	0	0	42

FUMBLES
N.C. A&T - Champ Long 3-2,Braxton Thomas 1-1
Tennessee St. - Jonathan Palmer 1-0

TENNESSEE ST.

RUSHING	No.	Gain	Loss	Net	TD	Lg	Avg
Kendric Rhymes	21	180	6	174	2	60	8.3
Jonathan Palmer	3	12	19	-7	0	12	-2.3
DeVaughn Slaughter	4	2	10	-8	0	1	-2.0
TEAM	2	0	30	-30	0	0	-15.0
Totals:	**30**	**194**	**65**	**129**	**2**	**60**	**4.3**

PASSING	C-A-I	Yds	TD	Long	Sack
Jonathan Palmer	11-21-1	123	1	82	2
Totals:	**11-21-1**	**123**	**1**	**82**	**2**

RECEIVING	TAR	No.	Yards	YAC	TD	Long
DeVaughn Slaughter	6	4	102	76	1	82
Kendric Rhymes	4	3	3	3	0	5
Brock Montgomery	4	2	11	3	0	7
Tyson Edwards	4	1	7	2	0	7
Jason Hoath Jr.	2	1	0	0	0	0
Totals:	**20**	**11**	**123**	**84**	**1**	**82**

PUNTING	No.	Yds	Avg	Long	In20	TB
Mark Shenouda	8	352	44.0	53	4	1
Totals:	**8**	**352**	**44.0**	**53**	**4**	**1**

RETURNS	Punt			Kickoff			Intercept		
	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg	No	Yds	Lg
Anthony Taylor	2	22	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
DeVaughn Slaughter	0	0	0	2	35	18	0	0	0
Travis Pearson, II	0	0	0	1	8	8	0	0	0
Totals:	**2**	**22**	**18**	**3**	**43**	**18**	**0**	**0**	**0**

FIELD GOALS	Qtr	Time	Dist	Result
Freddy Perez	2nd	04:08	41	GOOD

KICKOFFS	No.	Yards	Avg	TB	OB
Freddy Perez	5	315	63.0	1	1

ALL-PURPOSE	Rush	Rcv	KR	PR	IR	Total
Kendric Rhymes	174	3	0	0	0	177
DeVaughn Slaughter	-8	102	35	0	0	129
Anthony Taylor	0	0	0	22	0	22
Brock Montgomery	0	11	0	0	0	11

Team Statistics report
N.C. A&T vs Tennessee St. (Aug 30, 2025)

Date: Aug 30, 2025
Site: Nashville, Tennessee
Stadium: Nissan Stadium
Attendance: 11016

FULL GAME	NC AT	TN ST
FIRST DOWNS	15	11
Rushing	5	7
Passing	7	4
Penalty	3	0
NET YARDS RUSHING	133	129
Rushing Attempts	41	30
Average Per Rush	3.2	4.3
Rushing Touchdowns	2	2
Yards Gained Rushing	168	194
Yards Lost Rushing	35	65
NET YARDS PASSING	210	123
Completions-Attempts-Int	16-22-0	11-21-1
Average Per Attempt	9.5	5.9
Average Per Completion	13.1	11.2
Passing Touchdowns	1	1
TOTAL OFFENSE YARDS	343	252
Total offense plays	63	51
Average Gain Per Play	5.4	4.9
Fumbles: Number-Lost	4-3	2-0
Penalties: Number-Yards	8-55	8-68
PUNTS-YARDS	7-279	8-352
Average Yards Per Punt	39.9	44.0
Net Yards Per Punt	36.7	39
Inside 20	0	4
50+ Yards	1	2
Touchbacks	0	1
Fair catch	3	1
KICKOFF-YARDS	4-237	5-315
Average Yards Per Kickoff	59.2	63.0
Net Yards Per Kickoff	42.2	39.6
Touchbacks	1	1
Fair Catch Yards	0	0
Punt returns: Number-Yards-TD	5-30-0	2-22-0
Average Per Return	6.0	11.0
Kickoff returns: Number-Yds-TD	3-59-0	3-43-0
Average Per Return	19.7	14.3
Interceptions: Number-Yds-TD	1-0-0	0-0-0
Fumble Returns: Number-Yds-TD	0-0-0	0-0-0
Miscellaneous Yards	0	35
Possession Time	32:55	27:05
1st Quarter	09:56	05:04
2nd Quarter	06:05	08:55
3rd Quarter	08:02	06:58
4th Quarter	08:52	06:08
Third-Down Conversions	5-15	2-11
Fourth-Down Conversions	0-0	0-0
Red-Zone Scores-Chances	1-1	1-1
Touchdowns	1	0
Field goals	0	1
Sacks By: Number-Yards	2-19	4-19
PAT Kicks	3-3	3-3
2Pts Conversions	0-0	0-0
Field Goals	0-1	1-1
Points off Turnover	7	0

Defensive Statistics report
N.C. A&T vs Tennessee St. (Aug 30, 2025)

Date: Aug 30, 2025
Site: Nashville, Tennessee
Stadium: Nissan Stadium
Attendance: 11016

FULL GAME

N.C. A&T

#	Name	Solo	Ast	Total	Sacks-Yds	TFL-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	Int-Yds	BrUp	Blks	QBH
3	Joshua Iseah	5	5	10	0.0-0	3.0-3	0	0-0	1-0	0	0	0
12	Kamari Blankumsee	7	1	8	0.0-0	2.0-27	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
44	Jayden Williams	3	1	4	0.0-0	1.0-1	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
27	Jonathan Kimbrough-Campbell	1	3	4	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
90	Marquis Hood	2	1	3	1.0-9	2.0-13	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	1
97	Giovanni Divers	2	1	3	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
4	Aaron Harris	2	1	3	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	2	0	0
92	Jelani King-Leverett	2	1	3	0.0-0	1.0-1	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
1	Tim Alderman	2	0	2	1.0-10	2.0-19	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	1
13	Anthony Rucker	1	1	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
6	Ty Williams Jr.	1	1	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
48	Eddie Conover	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
21	Tre Mittman	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
8	Charlie Dixon	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
98	Mecca Carr-Bordeaux	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
0	Terien George	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
	Totals	**31**	**18**	**49**	**2.0-19**	**11.0-64**	**1**	**0-0**	**1-0**	**3**	**0**	**2**

TENNESSEE ST.

#	Name	Solo	Ast	Total	Sacks-Yds	TFL-Yds	FF	FR-Yds	Int-Yds	BrUp	Blks	QBH
28	Kaiki Baker	8	1	9	0.0-0	1.5-5	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
7	James Stewart	5	1	6	1.0-2	2.5-3	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	1
21	Jayden Cook	5	0	5	0.0-0	1.0-2	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
25	Sammy Taylor	4	1	5	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
3	Micah Gay	4	1	5	0.0-0	1.5-4	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
36	Caleb Reid	3	1	4	0.0-0	0.5-1	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
27	Byron Davis	2	2	4	1.0-5	1.0-5	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	1
10	Syncere Safeeullah	3	0	3	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	2-0	0-0	0	0	0
19	Ravon Johnson	3	0	3	1.0-4	2.0-9	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
47	Matthew Wilson	2	1	3	0.0-0	1.0-1	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
99	Lathun Snipes	2	1	3	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
8	Brendan Hale	2	0	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
52	Bryce Gray	2	0	2	1.0-8	1.0-8	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
32	Jayden Coleman	1	1	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
11	Brent Rowe	1	1	2	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
6	Jelani Willis	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
18	Jaylon Price	1	0	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
33	Taeshawn Jefferson	1	0	1	0.0-0	1.0-1	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
43	Kyle Hicks	0	1	1	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
2	Stephon Shivers	0	0	0	0.0-0	0.0-0	0	1-0	0-0	0	0	0
	Totals	**50**	**12**	**62**	**4.0-19**	**13.0-39**	**3**	**3-0**	**0-0**	**0**	**1**	**2**

Participation report
N.C. A&T vs Tennessee St. (Aug 30, 2025)

Date: Aug 30, 2025
Site: Nashville, Tennessee
Stadium: Nissan Stadium
Attendance: 11016

N.C. A&T

Pos	##	OFFENSE
TE	13	Rucker, Anthony
WR	2	Warren, Jamison
WR	3	Jones, Amonte
RB	35	Graves, Wesley
WR	5	Dillard, Jayvonne
OL	51	Navarro, Gabe
OL	55	Cannon, Jonathan
OL	59	Sharpe, Korion
OL	65	Dorsey, Andrew
OL	66	Wiggins, Sterling
QB	7	Long, Champ

Pos	##	DEFENSE
DE	1	Alderman, Tim
DB	12	Blankumsee, Kamari
S	21	Mittman, Tre
S	27	Kimbrough-Campbell, Jonathan
LB	3	Iseah, Joshua
DE	37	Etheridge III, Mitchell
DB	4	Harris, Aaron
LB	44	Williams, Jayden
DB	6	Williams Jr., Ty
DL	90	Hood, Marquis
DE	98	Carr-Bordeaux, Mecca

TENNESSEE ST.

Pos	##	OFFENSE
RB	1	Rhymes, Kendric
WR	14	Edwards, Tyson
WR	18	Slaughter, DeVaughn
OL	53	Nelson, Steven
OL	54	Neals, Darius
QB	6	Palmer, Jonathan
OL	63	Jean-Jumeau, Veguer
OL	70	Igwe, Jesse
OL	73	Van-Tagoe, Joel
TE	89	Hoath Jr., Jason
WR	9	Montgomery, Brock

Pos	##	DEFENSE
DB	10	Safeeullah, Syncere
DE	19	Johnson, Ravon
CB	21	Cook, Jayden
LB	25	Taylor, Sammy
DB	27	Davis, Byron
QB	28	Baker, Kaiki
DL	4	Huff, Marlon
LB	47	Wilson, Matthew
DL	7	Stewart, James
S	8	Hale, Brendan
DL	99	Snipes, Lathun

N.C. A&T
0-George, Terien, 15-Lane, Cortez, 17-Thomas, Braxton, 18-Wilson, Corbin, 2-Maddox, Cam, 23-Dalrymple, Cameren, 24-Hicks, Jailen, 33-Macon, David, 34-Hamilton, Willie, 38-Misenheimer, Wesley, 39-Brown, Andrew, 46-Page, DJ, 48-Conover, Eddie, 49-Ruddy, Bryson, 56-Dye, Travon, 57-Culberson, Kellen, 6-Bell, Antoine, 60-Hammonds, Tim, 76-Okoye, Noah, 8-Dixon, Charlie, 80-Brown, Thomas, 82-Sanchez, Tony, 83-Baker, Jaylen, 84-Carlock-Williams, Michael, 87-Jackson, Damien, 88-Kennedy, Elijah, 89-Jones-Amen-Hetep, Rory, 9-Howard, Tyler, 9-Blizzard, Shimique, 92-King-Leverett, Jelani, 94-Cabaniss-Ali, Sidiq, 97-Divers, Giovanni

Tennessee St.
0-Guy, Jaden, 11-Rowe, Brent, 13-Dixon, Dominique, 15-Shenouda, Mark, 15-Freeman, Jakobe, 18-Price, Jaylon, 2-Shivers, Stephon, 22-Taylor, Anthony, 22-Sharp III, DuJuan, 23-Jefferson, Tysean, 24-Porter, Taveon, 26-LaBranche, Jalen, 3-Gay, Micah, 30-Simmons-Brown, Zack, 31-Pearson, II, Travis, 32-Coleman, Jayden, 33-Jefferson, Taeshawn, 35-Bivans, Alijah, 36-Reid, Caleb, 37-Foreman, Jacorris, 4-Perez, Freddy, 43-Hicks, Kyle, 44-Cunningham, Ethan, 51-Fakaosi, Epoki, 52-Gray, Bryce, 55-Brown, Breon, 6-Willis, Jelani, 71-Howell, Jackson, 75-Williams, Arlington, 8-McCreary, Caleb, 86-Jones, Christian



NCAA STATS
ENTERING WEEK 5

NCAA

2025-26 Tennessee St. Football
Overall Team Statistics
All games

as of Sep 18, 2025

Team Statistics

	TSU	OPP
Scoring	**48**	**103**
Points per game	16.0	34.3
Points Off Turnovers	0	21
First Downs	**36**	**58**
Rushing	18	22
Passing	15	30
Penalty	3	6
Rushing Yardage	**378**	**383**
Yards gained rushing	509	451
Yards lost rushing	131	68
Rushing attempts	99	108
Average per rush	3.8	3.5
Average per game	126.0	127.7
TDs Rushing	4	7
Passing Yardage	**341**	**807**
Comp-Att-Int	36-66-3	55-80-1
Average per pass	5.2	10.1
Average per catch	9.5	14.7
Average per game	113.7	269.0
TDs Passing	2	5
Total offense	**719**	**1190**
Total plays	165	188
Average per play	4.4	6.3
Average per game	239.7	396.7
Kick returns: #-Yards	**11-220**	**7-147**
Punt returns: #-Yards	**4-24**	**11-136**
Int returns: #-Yards	**1-0**	**3-34**
Kick return average	**20.0**	**21.0**
Punt return average	**6.0**	**12.4**
Int return average	**0.0**	**11.3**
Fumbles-Lost	**5-2**	**5-3**
Penalties-Yards	**17-147**	**18-146**
Average per game	49.0	48.7
Punts-Yards	**22-921**	**14-606**
Average per punt	41.9	43.3
Net punt average	35.7	40.1
Kickoffs-Yards	**11-686**	**20-1236**
Average per kick	62.4	61.8
Net kick average	39.2	40.3
Time of possession / game	**29:44**	**30:16**
3rd-down conversion	**10/39**	**11/35**
3rd-down pct	26%	31%
4th-down conversion	**0/0**	**2/2**

2025-26 Tennessee St. Football
Overall Team Statistics
All games

	TSU	OPP
4th-down pct	0%	100%
Sacks by-Yards	**6-31**	**7-58**
Misc Yards	**0**	**0**
Touchdowns scored	**6**	**13**
Field goals - attempts	**2-3**	**4-5**
On-Side kicks	**0-0**	**0-0**
Red-zone scores	**(2-2) 100%**	**(11-12) 92%**
Red-zone touchdowns	**(1-2) 50%**	**(8-12) 67%**
PAT-attempts	**(6-6) 100%**	**(13-13) 100%**
2-point conversion-attempts	**(0-0) 0%**	**(0-0) 0%**
Attendance	**29793**	**0**
Games / Avg per game	3/9931	0/0
Neutral site games	-	0/0

Score by Periods

Team	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	TOT
Tennessee St.	7	24	7	10	0	48
Opponents	27	45	17	14	0	103

2025-26 Tennessee St. Football
Team Game Highs
All games

as of Sep 18, 2025

Tennessee St. - Game Highs

RUSHES	41	Alabama A&M (09/13/2025)
YARDS RUSHING	179	Alabama A&M (09/13/2025)
YARDS PER RUSH	4.4	Alabama A&M (09/13/2025)
TD RUSHES	2	Alabama A&M (09/13/2025)
	2	N.C. A&T (08/30/2025)
PASS ATTEMPTS	27	Alabama A&M (09/13/2025)
PASS COMPLETIONS	17	Alabama A&M (09/13/2025)
YARDS PASSING	157	Alabama A&M (09/13/2025)
YARDS PER PASS	5.9	N.C. A&T (08/30/2025)
TD PASSES	1	Alabama A&M (09/13/2025)
	1	N.C. A&T (08/30/2025)
TOTAL PLAYS	68	Alabama A&M (09/13/2025)
TOTAL OFFENSE	336	Alabama A&M (09/13/2025)
YARDS PER PLAY	4.9	Alabama A&M (09/13/2025)
	4.9	N.C. A&T (08/30/2025)
POINTS	24	N.C. A&T (08/30/2025)
SACKS BY	4	N.C. A&T (08/30/2025)
FIRST DOWNS	21	Alabama A&M (09/13/2025)
PENALTIES	8	N.C. A&T (08/30/2025)
PENALTY YARDS	68	N.C. A&T (08/30/2025)
TURNOVERS	2	Alabama A&M (09/13/2025)
	2	North Dakota St. (09/06/2025)
PUNTS	8	North Dakota St. (09/06/2025)
	8	N.C. A&T (08/30/2025)
PUNTING AVG	44.0	N.C. A&T (08/30/2025)
LONG PUNT	55	Alabama A&M (09/13/2025)
PUNTS INSIDE 20	4	Alabama A&M (09/13/2025)
	4	N.C. A&T (08/30/2025)
LONG PUNT RETURN	18	N.C. A&T (08/30/2025)

2025-26 Tennessee St. Football
Red-Zone Results
All games

Tennessee St. Inside Opponent Red-Zone

Date	Opponent		Score	Times In RZ	Times Scored	Total Pts	TDs	Rush TDs	Pass TDs	FGs Made	Failed to score inside RZ FGA	Down	Int	Fumb	Half	Game
08/30/2025	N.C. A&T	W	24-21	1	1	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
09/06/2025	North Dakota St.	L	3-59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
09/13/2025	Alabama A&M	L	21-23	1	1	7	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Totals 2 of 2 (100.0%)			**2**	**2**	**10**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Opponents Inside Tennessee St. Red-Zone

Date	Opponent		Score	Times In RZ	Times Scored	Total Pts	TDs	Rush TDs	Pass TDs	FGs Made	Failed to score inside RZ FGA	Down	Int	Fumb	Half	Game
08/30/2025	N.C. A&T	W	24-21	1	1	7	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
09/06/2025	North Dakota St.	L	3-59	7	7	45	6	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
09/13/2025	Alabama A&M	L	21-23	4	3	13	1	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	1
	Totals 11 of 12 (91.7%)			**12**	**11**	**65**	**8**	**6**	**2**	**3**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**

NCAA

2025-26 Tennessee St. Football
Overall Defense Statistics
All games

as of Sep 18, 2025

Team Defense

			Tackles				Sacks	Pass defense			Fumbles		blkd	
##	Player	gp	ua	a	tot	tfl/yds	no-yds	int-yds	brup	qbh	fr-yds	ff	kick	saf
28	Kaiki Baker	3	21	2	23	3.5-10	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
7	James Stewart	3	10	7	17	2.5-3	1-2	.	1	3	.	1	.	.
21	Jayden Cook	3	11	2	13	1-2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
25	Sammy Taylor	3	7	2	9	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
3	Micah Gay	3	6	2	8	1.5-4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
47	Matthew Wilson	3	5	3	8	1-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
27	Byron Davis	3	6	2	8	1-5	1-5	1-0	1	1	.	1	.	.
52	Bryce Gray	3	6	1	7	2.5-17	2-15	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
4	Marlon Huff	3	4	3	7	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
40	Caleb Reid	3	5	2	7	1-2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
11	Brent Rowe	3	5	1	6	1-3	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
10	Syncere Safeeullah	3	6	.	6	.	.	.	1	.	2-0	.	.	.
19	Ravon Johnson	2	5	.	5	3-10	1-4	.	.	.	.	1	.	.
18	Jaylon Price	3	4	1	5	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
99	Lathun Snipes	3	4	1	5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
13	Dominique Dixon	3	3	1	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
32	Jayden Coleman	3	3	1	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
51	Epoki Fakaosi	3	4	.	4	1-5	1-5	.	2	.	.	1	.	.
1	Jashon Watkins	2	3	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
6	Jelani Willis	3	3	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
33	Taeshawn Jefferson	3	3	.	3	1-1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
43	Kyle Hicks	3	2	1	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
0	Braelen Perry	2	1	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
8	Brendan Hale	1	2	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
22	DuJuan Sharp III	3	1	.	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.
91	Khy'lek Jarrett	1	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
26	Jalen LaBranche	2	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
2	Stephon Shivers	3	1	.	1	.	.	.	1	.	1-0	.	.	.
49	Brandon Collins	2	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
0	Jaden Guy	3	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
97	Terence Carpenter II	2	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
35	Alijah Bivans	3	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
15	Mark Shenouda	3	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	Totals	**3**	**137**	**34**	**171**	**20-63**	**6-31**	**1-0**	**8**	**7**	**3-0**	**4**	**1**	**0**
	Opponents	3	114	46	160	26-134	7-58	3-34	5	10	2-0	4	0	0

2025-26 Tennessee St. Football
Combined Team Statistics
All games

Field Goals

Player	fg	pct.	01-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-99	lg	blk
Freddy Perez	2-3	66.7	0-0	0-0	0-0	2-3	0-0	45	0
Opponents	**4-5**	**80.0**	**0-0**	**3-3**	**0-1**	**1-1**	**0-0**	**45**	**1**

Scoring

			PAT						
Player	**td**	**fg**	**kick**	**rush**	**rcv**	**pass**	**dxp**	**saf**	**pts**
Kendric Rhymes	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
Freddy Perez	-	2-3	6-6	-	-	-	-	-	12
DeVaughn Slaughter	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Zack Simmons-Brown	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Total	**6**	**2-3**	**6-6**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**48**
Opponents	**13**	**4-5**	**13-13**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**103**

Score by Periods

Team	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	TOT
Tennessee St.	7	24	7	10	0	48
Opponents	27	45	17	14	0	103

Punting

Player	no.	yds	avg	lg	tb	fc	i20	50+	blk
Mark Shenouda	22	921	41.9	55	1	2	9	4	0
Total	**22**	**921**	**41.9**	**55**	**1**	**2**	**9**	**4**	**0**
Opponents	**14**	**606**	**43.3**	**59**	**1**	**5**	**2**	**3**	**0**

Punt Returns

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Anthony Taylor	4	24	6.0	0	18
Total	**4**	**24**	**6.0**	**0**	**18**
Opponents	**11**	**136**	**12.4**	**0**	**37**

Kick Returns

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Lelan Wilhoite	6	140	23.3	0	51
DeVaughn Slaughter	2	35	17.5	0	18
Taveon Porter	2	37	18.5	0	19
Travis Pearson	1	8	8.0	0	8
Total	**11**	**220**	**20.0**	**0**	**51**
Opponents	**7**	**147**	**21.0**	**0**	**25**

All Purpose

Player	g	rush	rcv	pr	kr	ir	total	avg/g
Kendric Rhymes	3	328	77	0	0	0	405	135.0
DeVaughn Slaughter	3	-8	121	0	35	0	148	49.3
Lelan Wilhoite	2	0	0	0	140	0	140	70.0
Zack Simmons-Brown	3	107	0	0	0	0	107	35.7
Brock Montgomery	3	0	55	0	0	0	55	18.3
Tyson Edwards	3	0	51	0	0	0	51	17.0
Taveon Porter	3	0	0	0	37	0	37	12.3
Anthony Taylor	2	0	0	24	0	0	24	12.0
Justin Hughes	2	0	22	0	0	0	22	11.0
Jaden Guy	3	0	15	0	0	0	15	5.0
Travis Pearson	3	3	0	0	8	0	11	3.7
Caleb McCreary	2	-1	0	0	0	0	-1	-0.5
Byron McNair	2	-1	0	0	0	0	-1	-0.5
Jonathan Palmer	2	-20	0	0	0	0	-20	-10.0
Total	**3**	**378**	**341**	**24**	**220**	**0**	**963**	**321.0**
Opponents	**3**	**383**	**821**	**136**	**147**	**34**	**1521**	**507.0**

Total Offense

Player	g	plays	rush	pass	total	avg/g
Kendric Rhymes	3	57	328	0	328	109.3
Byron McNair	2	40	-1	169	168	84.0
Jonathan Palmer	2	39	-20	161	141	70.5
Zack Simmons-Brown	3	17	107	0	107	35.7
Caleb McCreary	2	5	-1	11	10	5.0
Travis Pearson	3	1	3	0	3	1.0
DeVaughn Slaughter	3	4	-8	0	-8	-2.7
Total	**3**	**165**	**378**	**341**	**719**	**239.7**
Opponents	**3**	**188**	**383**	**807**	**1190**	**396.7**

TV/RADIO CHART — PROJECTED SPECIAL TEAMS STARTERS



JAYDEN **GUY**

Freshman
Punt Returner
6-0 // 175
Murfreesboro, Tenn.
Blackman



FREDDY **PEREZ**

Sophomore
Kicker
6-3 // 190
Carrollton, Ga.
Carrollton
Georgia Military College



MARK **SHENOUDA**

Redshirt Sophomore
Punter
6-2 // 190
Mt. Juliet, Tenn.
Mt. Juliet
Memphis



ANTHONY **TAYLOR**

Freshman
Punt Returner
5-9 // 170
San Diego, Calif.
Cathedral Catholic



TAVEON **PORTER**

Senior
Kick Returner
5-10 // 219
Chicago Heights, Ill
Bremen
Elmhurst // DuPage



LELAN **WILHOITE**

Graduate Student
Kick Returner
5-11 // 185
Nashville, Tenn.
Siegel
Florida A&M



ROMAN **MATHIS**

Freshman
Kicker / Punter
6-4 // 185
Joelton, Tenn.
Davidson Academy



KYLE **HICKS**

Redshirt Freshman
Long Snapper
6-3 // 235
Nashville, Tenn.
Hillsboro



JEROD **KRUSE**

1st Season
Emporia State '00
On Field

TV/RADIO CHART — PROJECTED DEFENSIVE STARTERS



MARLON **HUFF**
Sophomore
Defensive Tackle
6-3 // 280
Delray Beach, Fla.
Atlantic



JAMES **STEWART**
Redshirt Senior
BUCK
6-3 // 274
Antioch, Tenn.
Bewntwood Academy
Memphis / MTSU



SYNCERE **SAFEEULLAH**
Sophomore
Defensive Back
6-3 // 180
Nashville, Tenn.
Hillsboro / IMG
Nebraska



DOMINIQUE **DIXON**
Sophomore
Defensive Back
6-1 // 190
St. Louis, Ill.
Cardinal Ritter College Prep



RAVON **JOHNSON**
Junior
Defensive End
6-4 // 245
Grayson, Ga.
Grayson
Alabama A&M



JAYDEN **COOK**
Redshirt Sophomore
Defenive Back
6-0 // 190
Frankfort, Ill.
Lincoln-Way East
Kansas State



SAMMY **TAYLOR**
Redshirt Sophomore
WILL
6-2 // 225
Nashville, Tenn.
Ensworth



BYRON **DAVIS**
Junior
Defensive Back
6-1 // 185
Nashville, Tenn.
Cane Ridge
Kentucky Wesleyan



KAIKI **BARBER**
Redshirt Freshman
Defensive Back
6-3 // 210
Nashville, Tenn.
Hillsboro



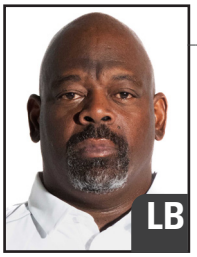
MATTHEW **WILSON**
Redshirt Freshman
MIKE
6-2 // 235
Tampa, Fla.
Middleton



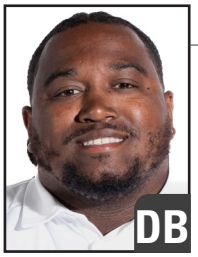
LATHUN **SNIPES**
Graduate Student
Nose Tackle
6-1 // 290
Elk Grove, Calif.
Monterey Trail
Butte College



GREGG **WILLIAMS**
1st Season
Northeast Missouri State
On Field



CEDRIC **THORNTON**
1st Season
Alabama State '95
On Field



DEION **HARRIS**
1st Season
Virginia State '20
On Field



JEROD **KRUSE**
1st Season
Emporia State '00
On Field



DEXTER **JACKSON**
1st Season
Florida State '98
On Field



JUSTIN **HANNAH**
1st Season
Tuskegee '10
On Field



RYAN **CONWAY**
1st Season
Virginia
On Field

TV/RADIO CHART — PROJECTED OFFENSIVE STARTERS



KENDRIC **RHYMES**
Graduate Student
Running Back
6-0 // 195
Houston, Texas
Heights
Southern



JONATHAN **PALMER**
Redshirt Freshman
Quarterback
6-3 // 210
Franklin, Tenn.
Page
Gardner-Webb



BROCK **MONTGOMERY**
Sophomore
Wide Receiver
6-2 // 198
Columbia, Tenn.
Riverdale
UConn



TYSON **EDWARDS**
Redshirt Sophomore
Wide Receiver
6-2 // 199
Nashville, Tenn.
Overton
Memphis



DEVAUGHN **SLAUGHTER**
Freshman
Wide Receiver
6-1 // 182
Indianapolis, Ind.
Indianapolis Cathedral



STEVEN **NELSON**
Freshman
Center
6-3 // 250
Murfreesboro, Tenn.
Rockvale



DARIUS **NEALS**
Redshirt Sophomore
Left Guard
6-4 // 315
Ellenwood, Ga.
Cedar Grove



VEGUER **JEAN-JUMEAU**
Sophomore
Offensive Left Tackle
6-3 // 305
Lakeland, Fla.
Lakeland
Iowa State



JESSE **IGWE**
Junior
Offensive Right Guard
6-2 // 330
Greer, S.C.
Riverside
Gardner-Webb



JOEL **VAN-TAGOE**
Junior
Offensive Right Tackle
6-6 // 310
Oklahoma City, Okla.
Oklahoma City /
Northeastern Oklahoma A&M



JASON **HOATH JR.**
Junior
Tight End
6-5 // 245
Pickerington, Ohio
Michigan State / Youngstown St.



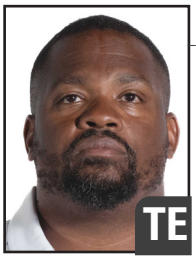
SHANNON **HARRIS**
1st Season
Tennessee State '04
On Field



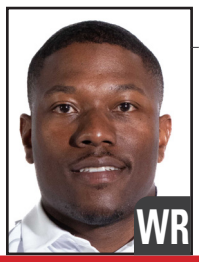
TORIANO **MORGAN**
1st Season
Tennessee State '00
On Field



RUSS **EHRENFELD**
1st Season
Vanderbilt '19
On Field



EDDIE **WOODS**
1st Season
Tennessee State '06
On Field



NICK **ANDREWS**
1st Season
Alabama State '12
On Field



LEO **RUMBAUGH**
1st Season
Union College
On Field
"Soldiers to Sidelines"

2025-26 Tennessee St. Football
Combined Team Statistics
All games

Team Results

	Date	Opponent		Score	Att.
	08/30/2025	N.C. A&T	W	24-21	11016
	09/06/2025	North Dakota St.	L	3-59	8569
	09/13/2025	Alabama A&M	L	21-23	10208

Game Records

Record	Overall	Home	Away	Neutral
ALL GAMES	1-2	1-2	0-0	0-0
CONFERENCE	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0
NON-CONFERENCE	1-2	1-2	0-0	0-0

Rushing

Player	gp	att	gain	loss	net	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Kendric Rhymes	3	57	340	12	328	5.8	3	60	109.3
Zack Simmons-Brown	3	17	114	7	107	6.3	1	31	35.7
Travis Pearson	3	1	3	0	3	3.0	0	3	1.0
Caleb McCreary	2	4	10	11	-1	-0.3	0	8	-0.5
Byron McNair	2	9	28	29	-1	-0.1	0	9	-0.5
DeVaughn Slaughter	3	4	2	10	-8	-2.0	0	1	-2.7
Jonathan Palmer	2	5	12	32	-20	-4.0	0	12	-10.0
Team	3	2	0	30	-30	-15.0	0	0	-10.0
Total	**3**	**99**	**509**	**131**	**378**	**3.8**	**4**	**60**	**126.0**
Opponents	**3**	**108**	**451**	**68**	**383**	**3.5**	**7**	**40**	**127.7**

Team Statistics

	TSU	OPP
First Downs	**36**	**58**
Rushing	18	22
Passing	15	30
Penalty	3	6
Rushing Yardage	**378**	**383**
Rushing attempts	99	108
Average per rush	3.8	3.5
Average per game	126.0	127.7
TDs Rushing	4	7
Passing Yardage	**341**	**807**
Comp-Att-Int	36-66-3	55-80-1
Average per pass	5.2	10.1
Average per catch	9.5	14.7
Average per game	113.7	269.0
TDs Passing	2	5
Total offense	**719**	**1190**
Average per play	4.4	6.3
Average per game	239.7	396.7
Kick returns: #-Yards	**11-220**	**7-147**
Punt returns: #-Yards	**4-24**	**11-136**
Int returns: #-Yards	**1-0**	**3-34**
Fumbles-Lost	**5-2**	**5-3**
Penalties-Yards	**17-147**	**18-146**
Punts-Avg	**22-41.9**	**14-43.3**
Time of possession / game	**29:44**	**30:16**
3rd-down conversion	**10/39**	**11/35**
4th-down conversion	**0/0**	**2/2**
PAT-attempts	**(6-6) 100%**	**(13-13) 100%**
2-point conversion-attempts	**(0-0) 0%**	**(0-0) 0%**

Passing

Player	gp	effic	comp-att-int	pct	yds	td	lg	avg/g
Jonathan Palmer	2	90.7	16-34-1	47.1	161	1	82	80.5
Byron McNair	2	104.8	19-31-2	61.3	169	1	22	84.5
Caleb McCreary	2	192.4	1-1-0	100.0	11	0	11	5.5
Total	**3**	**98.9**	**36-66-3**	**54.5**	**341**	**2**	**82**	**113.7**
Opponents	**3**	**171.6**	**55-80-1**	**68.8**	**807**	**5**	**68**	**269.0**

Receiving

Player	gp	no.	yds	avg	td	lg	avg/g
Kendric Rhymes	3	12	77	6.4	1	22	25.7
DeVaughn Slaughter	3	8	121	15.1	1	82	40.3
Brock Montgomery	3	6	55	9.2	0	15	18.3
Tyson Edwards	3	5	51	10.2	0	21	17.0
Justin Hughes	2	2	22	11.0	0	11	11.0
Jaden Guy	3	2	15	7.5	0	10	5.0
Jason Hoath Jr.	3	1	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Total	**3**	**36**	**341**	**9.5**	**2**	**82**	**113.7**
Opponents	**3**	**55**	**821**	**14.9**	**5**	**68**	**273.7**

Interceptions

Player	no.	yds	avg	td	lg
Byron Davis	1	0	0.0	0	0
Total	**1**	**0**	**0.0**	**0**	**0**
Opponents	**3**	**34**	**11.3**	**1**	**34**