



BIG SOUTH CONFERENCE

Weekly Football Report Monday, Sept. 6, 2004

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No. 1

BIGSOUTHSPORTS.COM

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BIG SOUTH FOOTBALL STANDINGS											
Team	Conference			Overall			Home	Road	Neu	L10	Streak
	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.					
Coastal Carolina	0	0	.000	1	0	1.000	0-0	1-0	0-0	1-0	W1
Liberty	0	0	.000	1	0	1.000	1-0	0-0	0-0	1-0	W1
Charleston Southern	0	0	.000	0	0	.000	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0	--
Gardner-Webb	0	0	.000	0	1	.000	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-1	L1
VMI	0	0	.000	0	1	.000	0-0	0-1	0-0	0-1	L1

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS	
Saturday, Sept. 4	
at LIBERTY	55
West Virginia Tech	17
at Ohio	42
VMI	14
at Tennessee Tech	32
GARDNER-WEBB	26
COASTAL CAROLINA	28
at Morehead State	7
CHARLESTON SOUTHERN	
at The Citadel	ppd.

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

**Marcus Hamilton • Running Back • Junior
Liberty • Knoxville, Tenn.**

Hamilton rushed for a career-high 108 yards on 11 carries, and scored two touchdowns in helping Liberty capture its fifth straight win, dating back to last season. Hamilton, who became the 26th player in school history to surpass the century mark, averaged 9.8 yards per carry, and recorded a personal-best 50-yard run midway through the fourth quarter, setting up his second touchdown of the game. Hamilton's scored touchdowns of five yards and four yards, respectively.

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

**Mario Williams • Free Safety • Senior
Gardner-Webb • Ninety-Six, S.C.**

Williams led all Big South defenders with 15 tackles Saturday night and set a new career mark by scoring two defensive touchdowns at Tennessee Tech. Williams, the preseason Big South Defensive Player of the Year, returned an interception 65 yards for a touchdown to give GWU a 19-16 lead in the third quarter, then pounced on a loose ball in the end zone midway through the fourth quarter to put GWU back in front, 26-22. The 65-yard interception return is the longest of Williams' career in Boiling Springs. The Ninety Six, S.C., native is a two-time All-America selection at free safety.

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Saturday, Sept. 11

Richmond noon
at VMI (CSN Mid-Atlantic)

CHARLESTON SOUTHERN 1:30pm
at Presbyterian

LIBERTY 6:00pm
at Kent State

GARDNER-WEBB 6:00pm
at Morgan State

Davidson 7:00pm
at COASTAL CAROLINA (ETV)

SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER OF THE WEEK

**Alonzia Phillips • Kick Returner • Freshman
Liberty • Vero Beach, Fla.**

Phillips returned one punt for 29 yards, handled one kickoff for 15 yards, in addition to blocking one punt and recovering it for a score, in his first collegiate game. It marked the first time since 1998 that a Liberty player blocked a punt and returned it for a touchdown.

FRESHMAN PLAYER OF THE WEEK

**Jerome Simpson • Wide Receiver
Coastal Carolina • Reidsville, N.C.**

In his first collegiate game, Simpson made a big impact in Coastal avenging last year's loss to Morehead State with a 28-7 win on MSU's home field. Simpson caught four passes for 59 yards, leading all receivers, and a pair of touchdowns. Simpson reeled in a 16-yard pass from Tyler Thigpen to put CCU up 14-0 in the second quarter and then sealed the victory with a leaping 29-yard reception in the front corner of the end zone to put CCU back up 21 points late in the third quarter. The two touchdown catches in one game is the first time that has happened in Coastal's brief football history.

UPCOMING TV GAMES

Saturday, Oct. 9
William & Mary 7:00pm
at LIBERTY (FTN)

Saturday, Oct. 30
COASTAL CAROLINA 1:30pm
at GARDNER-WEBB * (C-SET)

CSN: Comcast SportsNet Mid-Atlantic
ETV: S.C. Educational Television
FTN: Flames Television Network
C-SET: Carolinas Sports Entertainment Television

Call Choice Hotels' Sports Desk and give your school's code to receive a 15 percent discount on room rates!

Conference Office 00210230	1-877-240-AWAY (2929)	Liberty 00211890
Birmingham Southern 00211930		Radford 00211900
Charleston Southern 00211970		UNC Asheville 00211910
Coastal Carolina 00211960		VMI 00211880
Tiugh Point 00211950		Winthrop 00211920

2004 BIG SOUTH CONFERENCE PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

<u>Games of Date/Week</u>	<u>Offense</u>	<u>Defense</u>	<u>Special Teams</u>
Sept. 6	RB Marcus Hamilton, Liberty 11-108-2 TDs; 9.8 AVG; 50-yard run	FS Mario Williams, Gardner-Webb 15 TT (5-10) 1 FR (TD) 1 INT (65-yd TD)	KR/PR Alonzia Phillips, Liberty PR: 1-29; blocked punt for TD
Sept. 13			
Sept. 20			
Sept. 27			
Oct. 5			
Oct. 11			
Oct. 18			
Oct. 25			
Nov. 1			
Nov. 8			
Nov. 15			
Nov. 22			

2004 BIG SOUTH CONFERENCE FRESHMAN OF THE WEEK

<u>Games of Date/Week</u>	<u>Freshman</u>
Sept. 6	WR Jerome Simpson, Coastal Carolina 4-59-2 TDs; 14.8 AVG (TD - 16, 29 yds)
Sept. 13	
Sept. 20	
Sept. 27	
Oct. 5	
Oct. 11	
Oct. 18	
Oct. 25	
Nov. 1	
Nov. 8	
Nov. 15	
Nov. 22	

BIG SOUTH TV SCHEDULE

<u>Saturday, Sept. 11</u>	
Richmond at VMI (Comcast SportsNet Mid-Atlantic)	noon
Davidson at COASTAL CAROLINA (ETV - S.C. Educational Television)	7:00pm
<u>Saturday, Oct. 9</u>	
William & Mary at LIBERTY (FTN - Flames Television Network)	7:00pm
<u>Saturday, Oct. 30</u>	
COASTAL CAROLINA at GARDNER-WEBB * (C-SET - Carolinas Sports Entertainment Television)	1:30pm
<u>Saturday, Nov. 6</u>	
LIBERTY at VMI * (BSTN - Big South Television Network)	1:00pm
<u>Saturday, Nov. 13</u>	
GARDNER-WEBB at CHARLESTON SOUTHERN * (C-SET - Carolinas Sports Entertainment Television)	noon
<u>Saturday, Nov. 20</u>	
Elon at LIBERTY (FTN - Flames Television Network)	1:30pm
CHARLESTON SOUTHERN at COASTAL CAROLINA * (CSS - Comcast Sports Southeast)	7:00pm
<small>CSN: Comcast SportsNet Mid-Atlantic ETV: S.C. Educational Television FTN: Flames Television Network C-SET: Carolinas Sports Entertainment Television</small>	

START ME UP

The Big South opened the 2004 football season with a 2-2 record, equaling the 2002 season for most season-opening wins as a Conference.

HIGH-FIVE

Liberty's 55-17 win over West Virginia Tech was the squad's fifth straight win dating back to last season, the school's longest streak since winning six straight games from Oct. 31, 1992 to Sept. 18, 1993. Liberty won its first season-opening contest under Ken Karcher's regime, as it was the school's first season-opening win since 1999.

Liberty has also won five straight home games, its longest streak since winning seven home games in a row from Sept. 26, 1998 to Oct. 2, 1999.

FIVE-SPOT

Liberty's 55 points scored was the Flames' most since scoring 69 against Norfolk State last season, and is the fourth-most points scored in the Conference's brief football history. LU's eight scores also tied for the Big South's second-most touchdowns in a game, while its six rushing touchdowns tied for third-most in one game in league history.

100-YARD RUSHERS

Liberty's Marcus Hamilton (108 yards) and Eugene Goodman (107) rushed for 100

yards against West Virginia Tech, the fourth consecutive time LU has had two backs reach the century mark in the same game, and the sixth time in school history.

MILESTONE WATCH

Flames RB Dre Barnes tallied 80 yards against West Virginia Tech, and is now 326 yards away from becoming the school's all-time leading rusher.

MAKING HIS CASE

Big South preseason Defensive Player of the Year and Gardner-Webb FS Mario Williams notched two defensive touchdowns against Tennessee Tech - a fumble recovery in the end zone and a 65-yard interception return. The 65-yard pickoff is William's career-longest and the fourth-longest interception return for a touchdown in league history. Williams held the Conference's previous fourth-best mark at 45 yards, set in 2002.

Williams collected a league-best 15 tackles against Tennessee Tech in Week One, and is now averaging 11 tackles per game in his last 23 starts.

CATCH OF THE DAY

VMI WR Zohn Burden hauled in a career-high 10 catches at Ohio, tying the Big South record for most receptions in a game. Burden's effort tied him for the second-most by a Keydet receiver in history.

COAST-TO-COAST

Coastal Carolina, in its second season at the I-AA level, won its second straight season opener with a 28-7 victory at Morehead State. The win gives the Chanticleers a Big South-best .714 road winning percentage (5-2 record) since the league began football.

FIRST BUT NOT THE LAST

CCU's Quinton Teal became the first CCU player to record two interceptions in a game with two swipes against Morehead State. In addition, WR Jerome Simpson became the first Chanticleer to catch two touchdown passes in one game with two against the Eagles.

A NICE CATCH

Gardner-Webb WR Kory Alston's first two catches Saturday went for touchdowns, his first career scores. He finished the day with four receptions for a league-high 114 yards, including an 84-yard touchdown pass, the second-longest pass play in Big South history. It was Gardner-Webb's longest play from scrimmage in four seasons, and the third-longest pass play in school history.

BIG SOUTH PRESEASON POLL

1. Gardner-Webb
2. Liberty
3. VMI
4. Coastal Carolina
5. Charleston Southern

BIG SOUTH PRESEASON HONORS

Preseason Offensive Player of the Year
Dre Barnes, Sr., Liberty

Preseason Defensive Player of the Year
Mario Williams, Sr., Gardner-Webb

ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

OFFENSE

- QB Nick Roberts, Jr., Gardner-Webb
 RB Dre Barnes, Sr., Liberty
 RB Sean Mizzer, Jr., VMI
 WR Austin Gaines, So., Gardner-Webb
 WR Lauren Williams, R-Jr., Liberty
 WR Zohn Burden, Jr., VMI
 WR Gary Price, Jr., VMI
 TE Stephen Knorr, Sr., Gardner-Webb
 OL Bryce Gregory, Sr., Charleston Southern
 OL Nick Johnson, Sr., Coastal Carolina
 OL Ryan Smith, Sr., Gardner-Webb
 OL Sean Boyle, Sr., Liberty
 OL Jeremy Ward, R-Jr., VMI

DEFENSE

- DL Adam DeGraffenreid, Jr., Charleston Southern
 DL Adrain Grady, So., Coastal Carolina
 DL Harold Wells, Sr., Gardner-Webb
 DL Seth Reichert, Sr., Liberty *Linebacker*
 LB Bowe Butler, Sr., Charleston Southern
 LB Maurice Simpkins, Jr., Coastal Carolina
 LB Kappy Baucom, Jr., Gardner-Webb
 LB Todd Baldwin, Jr., VMI
 DB Kijana Thomas, Sr., Charleston Southern
 DB Mario Williams, Sr., Gardner-Webb
 DB C.J. Moore, R-Jr., Liberty
 DB Robert Mason, Jr., VMI

SPECIAL TEAMS

- PK Hunter Smith, So., Gardner-Webb
 P Graham Whitlock, Sr., Gardner-Webb
 KR/ Kijana Thomas, Sr., Charleston
 PR Southern
 LS Jake Neal, Sr., Gardner-Webb

2004 PRESEASON NATIONAL I-AA POLLS

Street and Smith's

1. Delaware
2. Maine
3. Northern Arizona
4. *Furman*
5. Montana
6. Southern Illinois
7. Colgate
8. Northern Iowa
9. *Wofford*
10. Northwestern State
11. Grambling State
12. Massachusetts
13. S.F. Austin
14. Western Kentucky
15. Montana State
16. Western Illinois
17. Appalachian State
18. Villanova
19. Georgia Southern
20. Northeastern
21. Illinois State
22. Yale
23. **GARDNER-WEBB**
24. McNeese State
25. *Lehigh*

italics denotes Big South Opponent

Athlon

1. Southern Illinois
2. *Wofford*
3. Delaware
4. Georgia Southern
5. Montana
6. Villanova
7. Colgate
8. *Furman*
9. Northern Iowa
10. Western Kentucky
11. McNeese State
12. Maine
13. S.F. Austin
14. Montana State
15. Western Illinois
16. Appalachian State
17. N.C. A&T
18. Northwestern State
19. Northeastern
20. Grambling State
21. Northern Arizona
22. *Lehigh*
23. Southern
24. Bethune-Cookman
25. **GARDNER-WEBB**

italics denotes Big South Opponent

ESPN/USA TODAY

1. Delaware
2. Southern Illinois
3. Montana
4. *Wofford*
5. Colgate
6. Northern Iowa
7. McNeese State
8. *Furman*
9. Georgia Southern
10. Villanova
11. Maine
12. Western Illinois
13. Northern Arizona
14. Western Kentucky
15. Montana State
16. Grambling State
17. S.F. Austin
18. Northwestern State
19. Massachusetts
20. Appalachian State
21. Northeastern
22. *Lehigh*
23. Eastern Kentucky
24. N.C. A&T
25. Southern

italics denotes Big South Opponent

**** Gardner-Webb received 50 total votes**

BIG SOUTH WEEKLY FOOTBALL REPORT • TEAM NOTEBOOK • SEPT. 6, 2004



CHARLESTON SOUTHERN BUCCANEERS (0-0, 0-0)

Head Coach: Jay Mills • Football Contact: David Shelton
SID Phone: 843-863-7688 • SID Email: dshelton@csuniv.edu

* Opens 2004 season Saturday after scheduled Sept. 4 game at The Citadel was cancelled due to potential threats from Hurricane Frances.

* Travels to Division II Presbyterian, which has defeated the Buccaneers the last two meetings in 2003 and 2002.

* First home game not until Sept. 25 when it hosts Charleston (WVa.)

* Buccaneers return 14 starters: six on offense, seven on defense and 1 special teams player.

* RB Robert Adams led squad with 474 yards rushing in 2003 and five touchdowns.

* QB Collin Drafts was third in the Big South last season with 164.8 passing yards per game, and third with 1,977 passing yards and 11 touchdown passes.



COASTAL CAROLINA CHANTICLEERS (1-0, 0-0 Big South)

Head Coach: David Bennett • Football Contact: John Martin
SID Phone: 843-349-2822 • SID Email: jamartin@coastal.edu

* 1-0 for second straight season.

* Second season of I-AA football, and has recorded a 5-2 road record in that span. Three of Coastal's four road opponents this season are against teams that defeated CCU at home in 2003.

* Hosts Davidson Saturday. Defeated the Wildcats last season 52-27. The 52 points were a season-high.

* Last year, Coastal ranked eighth in attendance based on capacity at 103.86% and is just one of nine of 119 I-AA schools to have seven home games in 2004.

* Kick returner Darnell Williams averaged a combined 22.3 yards per kickoff and punt returns against Morehead State. His 24-yard punt return set up Coastal's third touchdown Saturday.



GARDNER-WEBB RUNNIN' BULLDOGS (0-1, 0-0 Big South)

Head Coach: Steve Patton • Football Contact: Marc Rabb
SID Phone: 704-406-4355; SID Email: mrabb@gardner-webb.edu

* 0-1 for the first time as members of the Big South.

* Travels to Morgan State Saturday, and holds a 1-0 series lead, as the Bulldogs won the lone meeting, 28-24, in 2002.

* Set school I-AA record of five turnovers at Tennessee Tech, which led to 10 Tech points.

* QB Nick Roberts has thrown 22 touchdown passes in his 13 games as starting quarterback.

* Punter Graham Whitlock averaged 44.4 yards on five punts Saturday, including one that traveled 48 yards. Landed two kicks inside the 20 and forced one fair catch.



LIBERTY FLAMES (1-0, 0-0 Big South)

Head Coach: Ken Karcher • Football Contact: Todd Wetmore
SID Phone: 434-582-2292; SID Email: twetmore@liberty.edu

* 1-0 for first time since 1999.

* Faces Kent State Saturday, which will be the first meeting between the schools. It marks Liberty's fourth straight year facing a MAC opponent. LU is 5-14 all-time against MAC schools.

* C.J. Moore and Jared Brodgen lead Liberty with 10 tackles each against West Virginia Tech. Moore recorded his first career sack, and was second career game with at least 10 tackles.

* Next home game is slated for Sept. 18 against Lehigh, which will be the first meeting

between the schools.

* Last Liberty player to block a punt for a TD was Larry Jordan, vs. Cal Poly on Nov. 21, 1998.



VMI KEYDETS (0-1, 0-0 Big South)

Head Coach: Cal McCombs • Football Contact: Wade Branner
SID Phone: 540-454-7515; SID Email: brannerwh@mail.vmi.edu

* Fell to Ohio in first meeting between the school's, 42-14.

* Hosts Richmond on Saturday, which is tied with William & Mary and Virginia as VMI's longest-running rivalry at 81 meetings. VMI leads the series with Richmond, 40-36-5, but Richmond has won the last three meetings.

* Richmond and VMI have meet each year except 1987, 1990, 1998, 2000, 2001 and 2002. This will be the Spiders' first trip to VMI since 1996.

* Zohn Burden tallied his second-career 100-yard game Saturday at Ohio, as he tallied 124 receiving yards against Norfolk State last year.

* VMI last won its home opener in 2002, defeating Davidson, 41-16.

BIG SOUTH WEEKLY FOOTBALL REPORT • TEAM-BY-TEAM SCHEDULES/RESULTS • SEPT. 6, 2004

CHARLESTON SOUTHERN (0-0, 0-0 Big South)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Time</u>
Sept. 4	at The Citadel	ppd.
Sept. 11	at Presbyterian	1:30 pm
Sept. 18	at Jacksonville	1:30 pm
Sept. 25	CHARLESTON (WV)	1:30 pm
Oct. 2	VMI *	1:30 pm
Oct. 9	at Howard	1:30 pm
Oct. 23	NORTH GREENVILLE	1:30 pm
Oct. 30	at Liberty *	1:30 pm
Nov. 6	ALLEN	1:30 pm
Nov. 13	GARDNER-WEBB *	1:30 pm
Nov. 20	at Coastal Carolina *	7:00 pm

COASTAL CAROLINA (1-0, 0-0 Big South)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Time</u>
Sept. 4	at Morehead State	W, 28-7
Sept. 11	DAVIDSON	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 18	at Newberry	7:00 p.m.
Sept. 25	NORTH GREENVILLE	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 9	CHARLESTON (WV)	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 16	at VMI *	1:00 p.m.
Oct. 23	LIBERTY *	7:00 p.m.
Oct. 30	at Gardner-Webb *	1:30 p.m.
Nov. 6	SAVANNAH STATE	12:30 p.m.
Nov. 13	JACKSONVILLE	12:30 p.m.
Nov. 20	CHARLESTON SOUTHERN *	12:30 p.m.

GARDNER-WEBB (0-1, 0-0 Big South)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Time</u>
Sept. 4	at Tennessee Tech	L, 26-32
9/11	at Morgan State	6:00 pm
9/18	FURMAN	6:00 pm
9/25	WESTERN CAROLINA	6:00 pm
10/02	at Liberty *	7:00 pm
10/09	at Hampton	1:30 pm
10/23	VMI *	6:00 pm
10/30	COASTAL CAROLINA *	1:30 pm
11/06	at Wofford	1:30 pm
11/13	at Charleston Southern *	1:30 pm
11/20	SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA	1:30 pm

LIBERTY (1-0, 0-0 Big South)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Time</u>
Sept. 4	WEST VIRGINIA TECH	W, 55-17
Sept. 11	at Kent State	6:00 pm
Sept. 18	LEHIGH	7:00 pm
Sept. 25	at Youngstown State	6:00 pm
Oct. 2	GARDNER-WEBB *	7:00 pm
Oct. 9	WILLIAM & MARY	7:00 pm
Oct. 23	at Coastal Carolina *	7:00 pm
Oct. 30	CHARLESTON SOUTHERN *	1:30 pm
Nov. 6	at VMI *	1:00 pm
Nov. 13	at Chattanooga	1:30 pm
Nov. 20	ELON	1:30 pm

VMI (0-1, 0-0 Big South)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Time</u>
Sept. 4	at Ohio	L, 14-42
Sept. 11	RICHMOND	noon
Sept. 18	TENNESSEE TECH	1:00 pm
Sept. 25	at William & Mary	1:00 pm
Oct. 2	at Charleston Southern *	1:30 pm
Oct. 9	at Georgetown	2:00 pm
Oct. 16	COASTAL CAROLINA *	1:00 pm
Oct. 23	at Gardner-Webb *	6:00 pm
Oct. 30	at James Madison	3:00 pm
Nov. 6	LIBERTY *	1:00 pm
Nov. 20	WOFFORD	1:00 pm

BIG SOUTH Vs. OTHER CONFERENCES

Atlantic-10	0-0
Gateway	0-0
Mid-American	0-1
Mid-Eastern	0-0
Ohio Valley	0-1
Patriot League	0-0
Pioneer League	1-0
Southern	0-0
Southland	0-0
Non-Division I	1-0
TOTAL	2-2