



News Release

For Immediate Release

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MEAC ANNOUNCES 2007 FOOTBALL POSTSEASON AWARDS

**Bear's Simpson Voted Offensive Player of the Year and
Wildcat's McCullough Selected Defensive Player of the Year**

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va., November 28, 2007 – Morgan State running back **Chad Simpson** was selected as the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Offensive Player of the Year and Bethune-Cookman's **Ronnie McCullough** earned the Defensive Player of the Year honor, as voted by the MEAC head football coaches and sports information directors.

Phillip Sylvester of Florida A&M earned the Rookie of the Year award and South Carolina State's **James Lee** was selected as the Offensive Lineman of the Year.

Coach of the Year honors went to Norfolk State head coach **Pete Adrian** who led the Spartans to their best conference record since moving to Division I in 1997 with a 8-3 overall finish, 6-2 in the MEAC. Under Adrian's guidance, the 2007 NSU football team earned the program's first-ever FCS national ranking, reaching as high as No. 23. The Spartans also notched their first-ever win over Florida A&M in school history and posted a win over inter-state rival Hampton (18th), the first since 2001, giving NSU their first win over a ranked Division I team.

Simpson led the MEAC in rushing with 1,402 yards and was second in all-purpose yards (161.6). He finished ninth in the NCAA Division-I (FCS) in rushing yards and was selected as the MEAC's player of the week on three separate occasions. Simpson's best outing was against the Winston-Salem State Rams where he ran for 221 yards on 41 attempts.

McCullough earned the MEAC's Defensive Player of the Year honor after leading the nation (FCS) in tackles with a total of 149. He collected 59 solo and 90 assisted tackles for the Wildcats this season including three 20+ outings. McCullough also tallied 20 tackles for a loss of 65 yards, tied for sixth best in the NCAA, in addition to five sacks for the season. His top performances earned him five MEAC Player of the Week honors as well as a highlight in Sports Illustrated's November 12th issue as a "Faces in the Crowd".

Sylvester was a key offensive threat for the Rattlers this season. In addition to shouldering the team's running load with 85.8 yards per game (858 total), Sylvester also led the MEAC in all-purpose yards with 164.3 per game, eighteenth in the NCAA (FCS). As the team's kick returner, Sylvester recorded 695 yards (24.0 average) on 29 attempts. His top rushing performance of 222 yards on 21 attempts came against the Howard Bison, earning him the league's Rookie of the Week honor. Overall Sylvester posted three Rookie of the Week honors, two in September (4th and 17th) and one on October 22.

Lee was a key performer in one of the most dominating offensive attacks in the MEAC this season. The Bulldogs' second consecutive Lineman of the Year, Lee aided the S.C.State to 4,418 total offensive yards including 2,904 rushing yards. With his help, the Bulldogs posted a league top performance of 632 offensive yards in their final regular season game against N.C. A&T with Lee paving the way for the league's best individual rushing outings of 323 yards by sophomore running back William Ford. Lee earned offensive lineman of the week honors three times this season.

-2007 All-MEAC Football Team attached-

Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) 2007 Football All-Conference Teams

Offensive Player of the Year: Chad Simpson, Morgan State **Defensive Player of the Year:** Ronnie McCullough, Bethune-Cookman
Rookie of the Year: Phillip Sylvester, Florida A&M **Offensive Lineman of the Year:** James Lee, South Carolina St.
Coach of the Year: Pete Adrian, Norfolk State

FIRST TEAM

Offense

<u>Pos</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>CL</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
QB	TJ Mitchell	r-So.	Hampton	Virginia Beach, Va.
RB	Chad Simpson	Sr.	Morgan St.	Miami, Fla.
RB	Will Ford	So.	S.C. State	Travelers Rest, SC
TE	Taj Jenkins	So.	Florida A&M	Jacksonville, Fla.
WR	Jeremy Gilchrist	r-Jr.	Hampton	Virginia Beach, Va.
WR	Jarahn Williams	Sr.	Howard	Miami, Fla.
OL	James Lee	Sr.	S.C. State	Belle Glade, Fla.
OL	Dennis Conley	r-Jr.	Hampton	Suffolk, Va.
OL	Jason Kressen	r-Sr.	Norfolk St.	Suffolk, Va.
OL	Adrian Brown	Jr.	Delaware St.	Baltimore, Md.
C	Raymond Harrison	r-Jr.	S.C. State	Columbia, SC

Defense

DL	Rudolph Hardie	Sr.	Howard	Hartford, Conn.
DL	Kendall Langford	Jr.	Hampton	Petersburg, Va.
DL	Marcus Dixon	Sr.	Hampton	Rome, Ga.
DL	Bryan Wilson	Sr.	Morgan St.	Temple Hills, Md.
LB	Ronnie McCullough	Sr.	Bethune-Cookman	Daytona Beach, Fla.
LB	Russell Reeves	Jr.	Delaware St.	Mechanicsville, Md.
LB	Marquez Davis	r-Sr.	Norfolk St.	Newport News, Va.
DB	Akeem Green	Sr.	Delaware St.	Philadelphia, Pa.
DB	Sam Pope	Jr.	Hampton	St. Helana Island, SC
DB	Bobbie Williams	Sr.	Bethune-Cookman	Miami, Fla.
DB	Terrell Whitehead	So.	Norfolk St.	Virginia Beach, Va.
P	Jahmal Blanchard	So.	Hampton	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
P/K	Peter Gaertner	Sr.	Delaware St.	Berlin, Germany
Ret	Jeremy Gilchrist	r-Jr.	Hampton	Virginia Beach, Va.

SECOND TEAM

Offense

<u>Pos</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>CL</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
QB	Brian Johnson	Sr.	Howard	Gardenia, Cali.
RB	Daryl Jones	Sr.	Norfolk St.	Richmond, Va.
RB	Michael Ferguson	Jr.	N.C. A&T	Durham, NC
TE	Dexter Bailey	r-Sr.	Norfolk St.	Suffolk, Va.
WR	Shaheer McBride	Sr.	Delaware St.	Chester, Pa.
WR	Jamar Johnson	r-Jr.	Norfolk St.	Norfolk, Va.
OL	Jeremy Breath	Sr.	Delaware St.	Chicago, Ill.
OL	Justin Delancy	Sr.	Florida A&M	Jensen Beach, Fla.
OL	DiMarques Floyd	Sr.	Howard	Greensboro, NC
OL	Dwayne Delaney	Jr.	Morgan St.	Amelia, Va.
C	Nathan Soto	Jr.	Morgan St.	Germantown, Md.

Defense

DL	Dennis Marsh	r-Jr.	Norfolk St.	Greensboro, NC
DL	Cedric Lloyd	r-So.	S.C. State	Manning, SC
DL	Kelly Rouse	Sr.	Delaware St.	Newark, NJ
DL	Ronn Spinner	Jr.	Delaware St.	Lorton, Va.
LB	Maguell Davis	r-Sr.	Norfolk St.	Newport News, Va.
LB	Vernon Wilder	Jr.	Florida A&M	Miami, Fla.
LB	Robert Dowdy	Sr.	Howard	Fayetteville, NC
DB	Don Carey	Jr.	Norfolk St.	Norfolk, Va.
DB	Markee Hamlin	r-So.	S.C. State	Lamar, SC
DB	Thomas Clairborn	Sr.	Howard	Pittsburgh, Pa.
DB	Ernest Williams	r-Sr.	Florida A&M	Tallahassee, Fla.
P	Wesley Taylor	Sr.	Florida A&M	Riverview, Fla.
P/K	Justin Castellat	So.	Norfolk St.	Virginia Beach, Va.
Ret	Corey Council	Jr.	Bethune-Cookman	Valdosta, Ga.