



# 30 YEARS OF D-I FOOTBALL CHAMPS

August 25, 1978 St. Petersburg Times:

## FAMU makes Division I bid

A council of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, meeting in Dallas, considered a request Thursday from Florida A&M University to permit the school to enter the NCAA's Division I. FAMU was appealing a June decision by the NCAA's classification committee to deny the school's application for Division I status. The committee claimed the Rattlers did not meet the NCAA's scheduling requirements in football and basketball. The Division II school in Tallahassee is seeking to move up to Division IAA in football and Division I in seven other sports to gain added prestige and greater chances at television exposure. A spokesman for the NCAA said an official announcement on the appeal would not be made until Monday from the NCAA's headquarters in Shawnee Mission, Kan.



## Florida A&M is the First

*After being allowed to join D-I in 1978, the Rattlers struck and struck again to capture the first NCAA Division I football crown.*

# 1978 TO 2008

# THE TOP

# THIRTY

Top 30 Lists of the  
Players and Title Games  
that helped make  
the Highest Level of  
NCAA Championship Football  
the Very Best in College Football

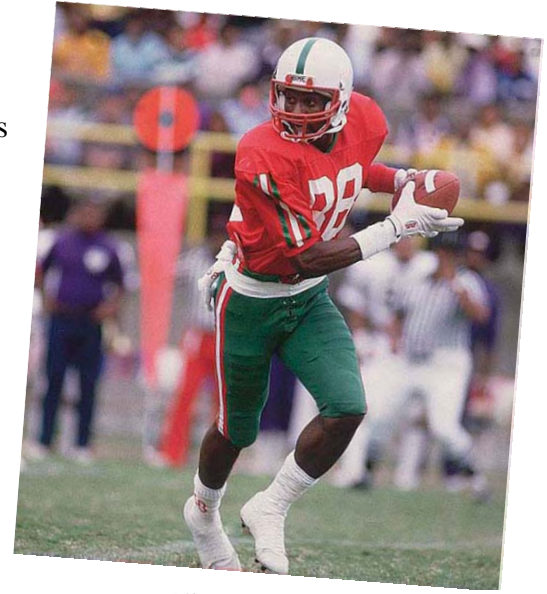
# TOP THIRTY: WIDE RECEIVERS – 1978/2008

By Kent Schmidt, CSN Columnist

(List: Ranking, Player, Position, School, NFL Draft)

## 1. Jerry Rice, WR, Mississippi Valley State, 1st Rnd-1985

Rice retired from the NFL in 2005 after playing for the San Francisco 49ers, Oakland Raiders, and Seattle Seahawks as the leader in a number of statistics and winning three Super Bowls. His 1,549 receptions were 448 receptions ahead of the second place record held by Cris Carter. His 22,895 receiving yards were 7,961 yards ahead of the second place spot held by his Raiders teammate Tim Brown. His 197 touchdown receptions were 67 scores more than Carter's 130, and his 208 total touchdowns (197-p, 10-r, 1-ret) were 33 scores ahead of Emmitt Smith's second place spot of 175. He was named to a record 13 NFL Pro Bowls in his 20 NFL seasons. At MVSU, he finished his career with 301 catches for 4,693 yards and 50 touchdowns. His NCAA record for total career touchdown receptions stood until October 7, 2006, when New Hampshire wide receiver David Ball, recorded his fifty-first career receiving touchdown.



## 2. Gary Clark, WR, James Madison, 2nd Rnd-1984Sup.

Clark caught a school record 155 career passes for 2,863 career yards and 16 career touchdowns - all receiving records at JMU. He also broke a few special teams records as well with 3 career punt returns for touchdowns, two of which were 87 and 89-yarders and in the same game in his senior season. He earned All-American honorable mentions in both his junior and senior seasons (1982, 1983) and was the Virginia Offensive College Player of the year in 1982. He played for the Washington Redskins (1985-1992), Phoenix Cardinals (1993-1994) and Miami Dolphins (1995) in the NFL. He actually began his pro career with the USFL's Jacksonville Bulls prior to signing with the Redskins. He amassed 10,856 yards in his NFL career and was named four times to the Pro Bowl (1986, 1987, 1990, 1991). Clark also won two Super Bowl titles with the Redskins after the 1987 and 1991 seasons.

## 3. Mark Duper, WR, Northwestern State, 2nd Rnd-1982

Duper was a track star with two, football and track stars in Joe Delaney and Victor Oatis on the Demons' relay team. He did not play football until Delaney and Oatis teased and prodded him into giving it a try for his junior season and two years later he was drafted in the NFL. He was a 3-time Pro Bowl selection in 1983, 1984 and 1986 and played his entire NFL career with the Miami Dolphins. His best seasons were 1984, when he had 71 catches, 1306 yards and 8 TDs, and in 1986, when he tallied 67 catches, 1313 yards and 11 TDs. Duper had four 1,000-yard seasons, with the final one coming in 1991 at age 32, when he posted 1,085 yards. In 11 NFL seasons, he caught 511 receptions for 8,869 yards and 59 touchdowns. In 1994, he also appeared in two games with the Miami Hooters of the Arena Football League.

## 4. John Taylor, WR, Delaware State, 3rd Rnd-1986

Taylor totaled 42 touchdowns (33 receiving) over the course of his career at Delaware State, including 15 (13 receiving) his senior season--both conference records. He caught 10 touchdown passes in both his sophomore and junior seasons. He is tied for most career points (254) in the MEAC. He was named MEAC Offensive Player of the Year in 1985 and All-MEAC first team in 1984 and 1985. His 223 receiving yards in one game is also a conference record, and he has the two longest receptions in conference history, 97 and 93 yards. He played his entire NFL career with the San



San Francisco 49ers (1987-1995) selected to play in the NFL Pro Bowl twice, in 1988 and 1989. He also won three Super Bowl rings in his career with the 49ers, in 1988, 1989, and 1994. His combined total of 94 punt return yards in those three games are the most by any player in Super Bowl history, and his average of 15.7 yards per return is also the highest.

#### **5. Terrell Owens, WR, Tennessee-Chattanooga, 3rd Rnd-1996**

Owens became a starter during his sophomore year in Chattanooga. Owens caught 38 passes for 724 yards and eight touchdowns during his sophomore year, and 32 passes for 357 yards and three touchdowns during his junior year. Owens faced double coverage every week during his senior year, and was limited to 43 receptions for 666 yards and one touchdown. He is currently a member of the NFL's Dallas Cowboys. He has been amongst controversy after not wanting to play for his first NFL team of San Francisco after the 2003 season and the 2005 season after being moved to Philadelphia. He has, however, recorded good production--131 total touchdowns (129 receiving), 13,070 receiving yards, 882 receptions, and 164 rushing yards thus far. Even amid the controversies, he has been named to the Pro Bowl six times (2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2007).



#### **6. Randy Moss, WR, Marshall, 1st Rnd-1998**

Moss transferred to Marshall after stints with Notre Dame and Florida State, where he was released from his scholarship at both FBS locations. In 1996, he set FCS records for most games with a touchdown catch in a season (14), most consecutive games with a touchdown catch (13), most touchdown passes caught by a freshman in a season (29), and most receiving yards gained by a freshman in a season (1709 on 78 catches), a record which still stands. Moss was also the leading kickoff returner in FCS on the season, with 484 total yards and a 34.6 yard average. Marshall went undefeated and won the FCS title in its last season before moving to FBS. Moss played the first seven years of his NFL career in Minnesota (1998-2004) before a trade in 2005 brought him to Oakland. In 2007, Moss was traded to the New England, where he is playing currently. Moss holds the NFL single season touchdown reception record (23, set in 2007), and the NFL single-season TD reception record for a rookie (17, in 1998).

#### **7. Troy Brown, WR, Marshall, 8th Rnd-1993**

Brown was a standout wide receiver, punt returner, and kickoff returner for Marshall, leading the FCS in both kickoff and punt return average in his junior season of 1991. In his senior season in 1992, Marshall claimed its first national championship with Brown as its primary wide receiver and returner. His career kickoff return average (29.69 yards per return) still stands as an NCAA record, as do his four kickoff returns for touchdowns. He has played his entire NFL career with New England--playing offense and defense with success. Brown is the Patriots' all-time leading punt returner with 252 returns for 2,625 yards and 3 touchdowns. He is first all-time in Patriots history in receptions (557) and second all-time in receiving yards (6,366). He made the Pro Bowl after the 2001 season. He remained with the Patriots through last season but appears as if New England will not resign him for the 2008 season.



#### **8. Jimmy Smith, WR, Jackson State, 2nd Rnd-1992**

In his college career, he was an All-SWAC member once after the 1991 season. He finished his NFL career after the 2005 season seventh in NFL history in the number of catches after playing the majority with Jacksonville but also saw time with Dallas. He finished his NFL career with 862 catches and was 11th in league history with 12,287 yards. He had 67 career touchdown catches with the Jaguars. He had seven straight 1,000 yard seasons which ranks third behind Jerry Rice and Tim Brown. Smith was voted to the Pro Bowl five straight times from 1997 to 2001. Smith is also the

Jacksonville Jaguars all-time leading receiver, having led the team in receiving every season from 1996-2005. He also set team records with 116 receptions and 1,636 yards in 1999, both career highs. His career high in touchdowns was eight, achieved in 1998, 2000 and 2001.

#### **9. Mark Carrier, WR, Nicholls State, 3rd Rnd-1987**

Carrier owns the Colonel record for the most receptions in a season with 78 (1986) and career with 147 (183-86), as well as the most touchdowns scored in a season (21 in 1986) and career yardage (2,709). He was an All-American in his senior season of 1986. He played in 12 NFL seasons from 1987 to 1998 for Tampa Bay, Cleveland, and Carolina. He was named to the 1989 Pro Bowl selection for the Buccaneers after he caught a career-high 86 receptions for 1,422 yards and 9 touchdowns. Carrier also ranks fourth all-time on the Carolina Panthers' all-time receiving list with 176 receptions. In total, he recorded 8,763 receiving yardage in his NFL career and had scored 48 touchdowns.

#### **10. Charlie Brown, WR, South Carolina State, 8th Rnd-1981**

Brown is still the leading career receiver for South Carolina State with 1,533 yards, while playing from 1977 to 1980. He is also the single game leader for the Bulldogs with his 230 yard performance in 1980 against Morris Brown. He played for six NFL seasons for the Washington Redskins (and helped win Super Bowl XVII in his rookie season in 1981) and Atlanta Falcons. He was a Pro Bowl performer after the 1982 and 1983 seasons. Brown was also a receiver for the short lived Washington Marauders of the Professional Spring Football League in 1992. He is currently head coach of the Florence Phantoms of the American Indoor Football Association.

#### **11. Donald Driver, WR, Alcorn State, 7th Rnd-1999**

Driver finished his college career at Alcorn State with 88 receptions for 1933 yards (19.69 YPC). Driver is one of the most decorated track athletes in the NFL (he is an Olympic class high jumper, being able to jump 7 feet 6 inches and could have qualified for the 2000 Summer Olympics team). He was a five time "Athlete of the Year" in the SWAC for his track and football prowess. He has played his entire NFL career thus far for the NFL's Green Bay Packers. He is a three time Pro Bowl selection (2002, 2006, 2007) so far in his career. He has totaled 6,977 receiving yards and 38 touchdowns in his career to date.



#### **12. Wayne Chrebet, WR, Hofstra, Last College-1994**

At Hofstra, Chrebet was a four-year letter-winner who twice led the Flying Dutchmen (now The Pride), in receiving. In addition he set the single season and career touchdown marks with 16 (1994), and 31, respectively. Also in 1994, Chrebet became Hofstra's first 1,000-yard receiver. Along the way he set a Hofstra school record with 245 receiving yards in a game against Delaware, and tying Jerry Rice for the FCS mark with five touchdowns. Chrebet was part of the inaugural class to be inducted into the Hofstra Athletic Hall of Fame and his jersey was retired. Although he was not drafted by any team at the NFL Draft in 1995, Chrebet eventually earned a long shot walk-on opportunity with the New York Jets where he was 11th of 11 on the depth chart. He played his entire career with the Jets and retired after the 2006 season. He finished his NFL career with 7,365 receiving yards and 41 touchdown receptions.

#### **13. Jake Reed, WR, Grambling State, 3rd Rnd-1991**

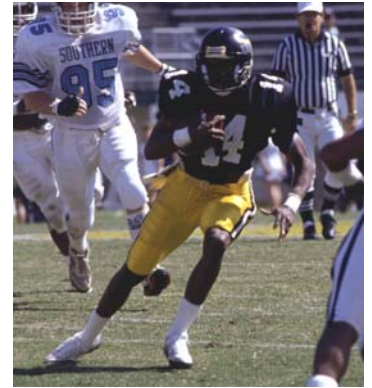
Reed played 12 seasons in the NFL from 1991 to 2002 for the Minnesota Vikings and the New Orleans Saints. He had four 1,000 yard seasons in his career with a career high of 85 receptions in 1994. He was second in receiving yards in the NFL with 1,320 in the 1996 season. Reed finished his career with 450 receptions for 6,999 yards and 36 touchdowns. In 1994, Reed combined with fellow receiver Cris Carter for 207 receptions, which was a then NFL record. Carter and Reed combined to become the first teammate duo to amass 1,000 each in four consecutive seasons. Reed amassed 450 career receptions totaling 6,999 yards and scoring 36 touchdowns.

#### **14. Fred Barnett, WR, Arkansas State, 3rd Rnd-1990**

Barnett played with the then Indians while the school was a FCS member from 1986 to 1989. His totals for his career are 95 receptions, 1,571 yards, and eight touchdowns. He was inducted into the Arkansas State Hall of Fame in 1999. Barnett played in eight NFL seasons from 1990 to 1997 for the Eagles and the Miami Dolphins. He made the Pro Bowl following the 1992 season and was known for his ability to make acrobatic catches. He was the receiver on one of the Eagles' longest plays of all time, a 95-yard touchdown pass from Randall Cunningham in a 1990 game against the Buffalo Bills.

#### **15. Shawn Jefferson, WR, Central Florida, 9th Rnd-1991**

Jefferson actually only saw one FCS season at Central Florida as they moved up to this level in his senior season of 1990. He helped lead the Knights into the playoffs in their first FCS season where they marched all the way to the I-AA playoff semifinals. He played 13 NFL seasons from 1991-2003. In his career, Jefferson appeared in 195 games (along with 12 postseason games), and 2 Super Bowl appearances (Super Bowl XXIX and Super Bowl XXXI). He finished his NFL career with 470 receptions for 7,023 yards and 29 touchdowns. He is currently the Detroit Lions wide receivers coach, after serving as an offensive assistant for the team in 2007.



#### **16. Michael Haynes, WR, Northern Arizona, 7th Rnd-1988**

Haynes played two seasons for Northern Arizona in 1986 & 1987. He still owns the Lumberjack record for the most kickoff return yardage in a game with 217 from 1987 against Idaho. He led NAU with 844 receiving yards in 1987. He played in the NFL from 1988-1997 for the Atlanta Falcons and the New Orleans Saints. He totaled 6,588 receiving yards and 47 touchdowns in his NFL career.

#### **17. Vincent Brisby, WR, Louisiana-Monroe, 2nd Rnd-1993**

Brisby played eight NFL seasons from 1993 to 2000 for the New England Patriots and New York Jets. He was a member of the Patriots' 1996 AFC Championship squad that lost to the Green Bay Packers in Super Bowl XXXI. He led the Southland Conference in receiving yardage his senior season with 1,050 yards and still holds the school record for the longest touchdown reception of 96 yards in the 1991 season. He totaled 1,864 yards receiving and 17 touchdowns in his Indian career.

#### **18. Terry Mickens, WR, Florida A&M, 5th Rnd-1994**

Mickens was the Rattlers leading receiver in each of his four seasons in Tallahassee from 1990 to 1993. He totaled 2,522 receiving yards and 15 touchdowns in his college career. In his NFL career, he recorded 4 touchdowns; three with Green Bay and one with Oakland. His career best game was against the Detroit Lions, in which he had two touchdown receptions. In 1996 he was part of the Super Bowl XXXI winning Green Bay Packers team. In 2005 he began scouting for the Philadelphia Eagles.



#### **19. Detric Ward, WR, Northern Iowa, 3rd Rnd-1997**

Ward owns both the career and single season receiving yardage titles at Northern Iowa. In his Panther career, he had 4,539 yard from 1993 to 1996. The best season he had was in his senior season of 1996--totaling 1,556 yards. In his NFL career, he played for the New York Jets, Miami Dolphins, Baltimore Ravens, New England Patriots and Dallas Cowboys. Ward played from 1997 to 2004 in 103 regular-season games during his NFL career with 167 receptions for 2,307 yards and 12 touchdowns to go along with 123 punt returns for 1,026 yards. Ward first served as wide receivers coach for Missouri State in 2006. He was hired by the head

coach Ken Whisenhunt of the Arizona Cardinals as offensive quality control coach this past March.

#### **20. David Ball, WR, New Hampshire, Last College-2006**

Ball broke the FCS record for touchdown receptions while at New Hampshire, previously



set by Jerry Rice at Mississippi Valley State, on October 7, 2006 versus Richmond, and went on to score 7 more for a new record of 58 touchdowns. He also approached two other FCS receiving records set by Rice: Most career receiving yards: 4,693 (Ball had 4,655) and Most games with at least 100 receiving yards: 27 (Ball had 24). Last year, Ball spent time with the NFL's Chicago Bears and New York Jets practice squads. He was on the Jets roster for their December 30, 2007 game against the Kansas City Chiefs. However, he did not appear in the game.

### **21. Corey Bradford, WR, Jackson State, 5th Rnd-1998**

Bradford played only in his senior year at Jackson State after coming to the school from junior college. He was named the SWAC Newcomer of the Year, and was a first team All-SWAC selection in 1997. He finished his impressive season with 48 receptions for 937 yards (19.5 yards per rec. avg.). He played in the NFL with the Green Bay Packers, the expansion Houston Texans, and Detroit Lions from 1998 to 2007. He amassed 3,346 yards in his NFL career with 25 total touchdowns.



### **22. Marques Colston, WR, Hofstra, 7th Rnd-2006**

In four seasons at Hofstra, Colston appeared in 40 games (37 starts) and recorded 182 catches for a school-record 2,834 yards and 18 touchdowns. As a senior in 2005, Colston was named to the All-Atlantic 10 first team after making a career-high 70 receptions for 976 yards (13.9 avg.) and five touchdowns. After a great performance at minicamp as an NFL rookie with the New Orleans Saints and the unlikely trade of Donte Stallworth to the Philadelphia Eagles, Colston was thrust into a week 1 starting position. He has excelled since--making 26 starts in his two pro seasons. He has totaled 2,240 receiving yards and 19 touchdowns thus far in his NFL career.

### **23. Vincent Jackson, WR, Northern Colorado, 2nd Rnd-2005**

At Northern Colorado, Jackson played when the Bears were transitioning from DII to FCS. UNC started their DI transition during his sophomore season in 2002. Jackson became a two-sport standout, excelling in football and basketball. He rewrote most of the school's football records; was a two-time All-America, and became the highest NFL draft choice in school history. Jackson's NFL stock continues to rise as he shined in the 2007 playoffs during his third season with the San Diego Chargers. After collecting 114 receiving yards and a score in the win over the Titans in the opening wild card round of the playoffs, he went on to a team-high seven catches, 93 yards and another touchdown in the win over the Colts in the divisional playoff game. He also had 93 yards against the Patriots in the AFC title game.



### **24. Chris Burkett, WR, Jackson State, 2nd Rnd-1985**

Burkett was named to the All-SWAC team after the 1983 and 1984 seasons. He owns the Jackson State record for longest pass play with a 97-yard touchdown in 198 against Mississippi Valley State. He played in 9 NFL seasons for the Bills and the New York Jets from 1985 to 1993 and totaled 4,352 yards and 19 touchdowns in that span. He named a second team all-conference member after the 1987 season by the UPI after recording 56 receptions and 765 yards that season.

### **25. Torrance Small, WR, Alcorn State, 5th Rnd-1992**

Small is second on the Alcorn State career receiving list for receptions (140) and yardage (2,527). He played in the NFL for ten seasons (1992-2001) for the New Orleans Saints, St. Louis Rams, Indianapolis Colts, Philadelphia Eagles, and New England Patriots. He totaled 4,602 receiving yards and 31 touchdowns in his NFL career.

### **26. Rich Musinski, WR, William & Mary, Last College-2003**

Musinski is the top receiver in William & Mary and CAA history. He holds W&M all-time records in catches (224), receiving yards (4,168), receiving touchdowns (31), 100-yard receiving games (21) and yards per catch (18.6). He was a three-time first-team all-conference selection--last being his senior season of 2003. Musinski, Florida A&M's Jacquay Nunnally and Mississippi Valley State's Jerry Rice are the only FCS players with more than 4,000 receiving yards. He

is currently playing for the AFL2's Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Pioneers after spending time with the NFL's Tennessee Titans, New England Patriots and San Diego Chargers.

**27. Jacquay Nunnally, WR, Florida A&M, Last College-2000**

Nunnally, finished his college career in 2000, as the all-time leading receiver in FCS history in terms of receptions (318)--breaking Jerry Rice's record. He was a four-time All-America (1997-2000). Factor in his postseason efforts, Nunnally finished with 362 career catches, helping lead the Rattlers to the FCS playoffs in 1997, 1998, 1999, and 2000. He was also tabbed Black College Player of the Year twice (1998, 2000) during his career.

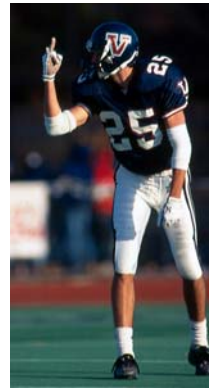


**28. Jerome Simpson, WR, Coastal Carolina, 2nd Rnd-2008**

Simpson was a four-year starter for Coastal Carolina and was awarded All-Big South honors since his freshman campaign. He totaled 41 receptions, 697 yards, and 11 touchdowns as a senior after career-high numbers of 61 receptions, 1,077 yards and 16 touchdowns in the previous year. He was drafted this past year in the second round by the NFL's Cincinnati Bengals.

**29. Brian Finneran, WR, Villanova, Last College-1997**

Finneran is the first-ever and only receiver thus far to win the Walter Payton Award. He caught 96 passes for 1,389 yards and 19 touchdowns, and led the Wildcats to an undefeated regular season, Atlantic 10 title and NCAA playoff berth in 1997. His 17 regular-season touchdowns rank fourth in FCS history, with NFL standouts Jerry Rice and Randy Moss among those listed ahead of Finneran on the list. He is on top of Villanova's career statistics for receptions (265), yards (3,872), and touchdown catches (34). Finneran is currently in his tenth NFL season as a wide receiver for the NFL Atlanta Falcons.



**30. Dexter Jackson, WR, Appalachian State, 2nd Rnd-2008**

Jackson was a threat receiving and kick returning on each of the three national championship teams in which he played for Appalachian State. Jackson also proved key in one of college football's biggest upsets, recording two touchdowns and 92 yards as well as 19 yards rushing, in the Mountaineers' 34-32 win over ranked Michigan a year ago. He totaled 1,846 receiving yards in his four years in Boone. He was selected last year in the second round of the NFL draft by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.