

MEAC Conference

All Conference teams:

NORFOLK, Va., July 30, 2021 – Norfolk State quarterback Juwan Carter and South Carolina State defensive back Decobie Durant have been named Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Offensive and Defensive Preseason Players of the Year, presented by TowneBank.

All awards were voted on by the MEAC's head football coaches and sports information directors.

Carter was second in the MEAC in passing in 2019, averaging 219.2 yards per game through the air. He was also second in pass efficiency (146.5) and total offense (238.0 yards/game). His 23 touchdowns that season were tied for the most in the league, and Carter completed a MEAC-best 60.6 percent of his passes.

The Spartans did not play this past season.

Durant led the MEAC in passes defended in 2019, totaling 15 (12 pass breakups and three interceptions). His three picks were tied for the second-most in the conference. He also had five pass breakups and four interceptions for the Bulldogs in four games this past spring.

Joining Carter on the Preseason First Team offense are Norfolk State running back Kevin Johnson, wide receiver Da'Kendall James, tight end Shawn McFarland and offensive linemen Jalen Powell and Justin Redd, North Carolina Central running back Isaiah Totten, South Carolina State wide receiver Shaquan Davis, center Jalen Page and offensive lineman Tison Gray and Delaware State offensive lineman Matthew Derks.

Durant is joined on the Preseason First Team defense by Delaware State defensive lineman Isaiah Williams, linebackers Brooks Parker and Antquan Kinsey and defensive back Jawain Granger, Norfolk State defensive linemen Tavien Blackwell, De'Shaan Dixon and Chris Myers and defensive back Devyn Coles, South Carolina State linebacker Chad Gilchrist and North Carolina Central defensive back Stephen Stokes. On special teams, the Preseason First Team consists of Norfolk State punter Ryan Richter and placekicker Josh Nardone, as well as return specialist Brandon Codrington from North Carolina Central.

2021 MEAC Football All-Conference Preseason Teams, presented by TowneBank
Preseason Offensive Player of the Year: Juwan Carter, Norfolk State
Preseason Defensive Player of the Year: Decobie Durant, South Carolina State

First Team Offense

Pos.	Name	Cl.	School	Hometown
QB	Juwan Carter	Sr.	Norfolk State	Richmond, Va.
RB	Kevin Johnson	So.	Norfolk State	Suffolk, Va.
RB	Isaiah Totten	r-Sr.	North Carolina Central	Apex, N.C.
WR	Shaquan Davis	So.	South Carolina State	Summerville, S.C.
WR	Da'Kendall James	r-So.	Norfolk State	Chesapeake, Va.
TE	Shawn McFarland	Sr.	Norfolk State	Selden, N.Y.
C	Jalen Page	r-Sr.	South Carolina State	Florence, S.C.

OL	Jalen Powell	Sr.	Norfolk State	Temple Hill, Md.
OL	Matthew Derks	Sr.	Delaware State	Brantford, Ontario
OL	Tison Gray	r-Jr.	South Carolina State	Columbia, S.C.
OL	Justin Redd	r-Jr.	Norfolk State	Hampton, Va.

First Team Defense

Pos.	Name	Cl.	School	Hometown
DL	Isaiah Williams	r-Jr.	Delaware State	Brooklyn, N.Y.
DL	Tavien Blackwell	Sr.	Norfolk State	Richmond, Va.
DL	De'Shaan Dixon	Sr.	Norfolk State	Chesapeake, Va.
DL	Chris Myers	r-Sr.	Norfolk State	LaVergne, Tenn.
LB	Brooks Parker	Jr.	Delaware State	Laurel, Del.
LB	Antquan Kinsey	r-So.	Delaware State	Liberty City, Fla.
LB	Chad Gilchrist	r-Sr.	South Carolina State	Johnston, S.C.
DB	Devyn Coles	So.	Norfolk State	Highland Springs, Va.
DB	Jawain Granger	Jr.	Delaware State	New Castle, Del.
DB	Stephen Stokes	Sr.	North Carolina Central	Baltimore, Md.
DB	Decobie Durant	r-Sr.	South Carolina State	Lamar, S.C.
P	Ryan Richter	Jr.	Norfolk State	Temecula, Calif.
PK	Josh Nardone	Sr.	Norfolk State	Virginia Beach, Va.
RS	Brandon Codrington	So.	North Carolina Central	Raleigh, N.C.

Second Team Offense

Pos.	Name	Cl.	School	Hometown
QB	Corey Fields	So.	South Carolina State	Hollywood, S.C.
RB	Thomas Bertrand-Hudon	r-So.	Delaware State	Mont Saint-Halaire, Quebec
RB	Kendrall Flowers	r-Fr.	South Carolina State	Columbia, S.C.
WR	Trey Gross	Sr.	Delaware State	Annapolis, Md.
WR	Justin Smith	r-Sr.	Norfolk State	Richmond, Va.
TE	Myles Beverly	Sr.	Delaware State	Burlington, Vt.
C	Dillon Marshall	r-Jr.	Delaware State	Waldorf, Md.
OL	Chris Simon	r-So.	South Carolina State	Dalzell, S.C.
OL	Robert Mitchell	Sr.	North Carolina Central	Millsboro, Del.
OL	Marvin Atuatasi	So.	Morgan State	Leone, American Samoa
OL	Corey Bullock	So.	North Carolina Central	Accokeek, Md.

Second Team Defense

Pos.	Name	Cl.	School	Hometown
DL	Jessie Malit	r-Jr.	North Carolina Central	Concord, N.C.
DL	Darrian Brokenburr	So.	Howard	Manassas, Va.
DL	Deion Harry	So.	Howard	University Park, Ill.
DL	Merinio Dendoe	Sr.	Morgan State	Amsterdam, Netherlands
LB	Christian White	So.	Howard	Richmond, Va.
LB	Devan Hebron	r-Jr.	Morgan State	Lanham, Md.

LB	BJ Davis	r-So.	South Carolina State	Blair, S.C.
DB	Rodney Dennard	Jr.	Howard	Braddock, Pa.
DB	Manny Smith	r-So.	North Carolina Central	Laurel Hill, N.C.
DB	Rayshawn Williams	So.	Howard	Detroit, Mich.
DB	Brandon Savage	Jr.	Norfolk State	Baltimore, Md.
P	Dyson Roberts	r-Fr.	South Carolina State	Sumter, S.C.
PK	Adrian Olivo	So.	North Carolina Central	Plant City, Fla.
RS	Antoine Murray	Sr.	Howard	Miramar, Fla.

Polls:

MEAC Announces 2021 Football Predicted Order of Finish, presented by The Home Depot

Football // 7/30/2021 9:00:00 AM

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NORFOLK, Va., July 30, 2021 – South Carolina State has been picked to win the 2021 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) football championship, as the Bulldogs topped the league’s annual preseason poll, presented by The Home Depot.

Voting was conducted by the conference’s head football coaches and sports information directors.

The Bulldogs received five first-place votes and racked up 118 points. Led by head coach Oliver “Buddy” Pough, South Carolina State shared the 2019 MEAC championship with North Carolina A&T State for the 15th MEAC title in program history. Norfolk State, with two first-place votes, was picked to finish second, while North Carolina Central also picked up a pair of first-place votes and was tabbed to finish third. Delaware State, Morgan State and Howard (one first-place vote each) rounded out the preseason poll.

Here is the MEAC’s predicted order of finish for the 2021 season (first-place votes in parentheses):

School (First-Place Votes)	Points
1. South Carolina State (5)	118
2. Norfolk State (2)	96
3. North Carolina Central (2)	78
4. Delaware State (1)	56
5. Morgan State (1)	48
6. Howard (1)	36