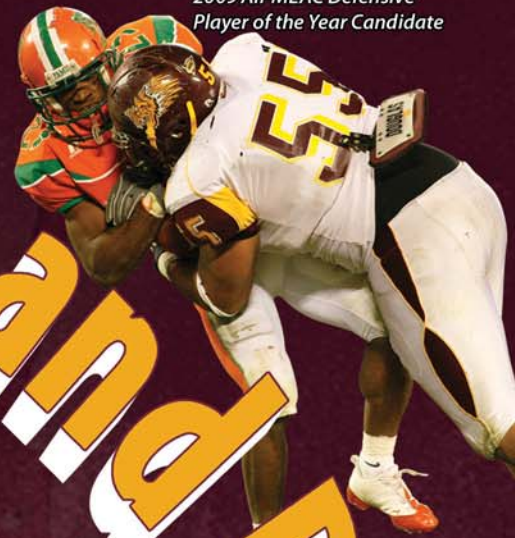


#55 Senior DT Dexter Jackson  
2009 All-MEAC Defensive  
Player of the Year Candidate

REFRESHED and READY



#7 Sophomore  
QB Maurice Francois



# 2009 WILDCAT FOOTBALL

Bethune-Cookman University

# 2009 • SEASON OUTLOOK • WILDCATS

## 2009 Bethune-Cookman University Football Outlook **WILDCATS** **“REFRESHED AND READY”**

**B**uilding on last season’s 8-3 overall record, and 5-3, second place tie in the MEAC, will be the top priority for the Bethune-Cookman University 2009 Wildcats. 13th-year Head Coach Alvin Wyatt’s B-CU team will be “Refreshed and Ready” according to the veteran leader. Wyatt spoke about his team in early June, and about the team slogan he instilled for the 2009 Wildcats.

“This football team that we have coming back is ready to challenge all the team goals we have set. We have to forget about the past and be ready for the 2009 season. We will have our team ready and prepared for the season and that starts on August 7 (opening of training camp). This team will be refreshed and ready to play,” exclaimed Wyatt.

The 2009 team goals are lofty and always include beating arch-rival FAMU. A goal that is paramount each and every season for B-CU against their in-state MEAC and HBCU rivals. Other team goals according to Coach Wyatt includes winning the MEAC championship, winning all home games and the Florida Classic at the Citrus Bowl in Orlando vs. FAMU, and ranking in the top 10 in NCAA rushing offense and rushing defense team stats and leading the nation in turnover margin.

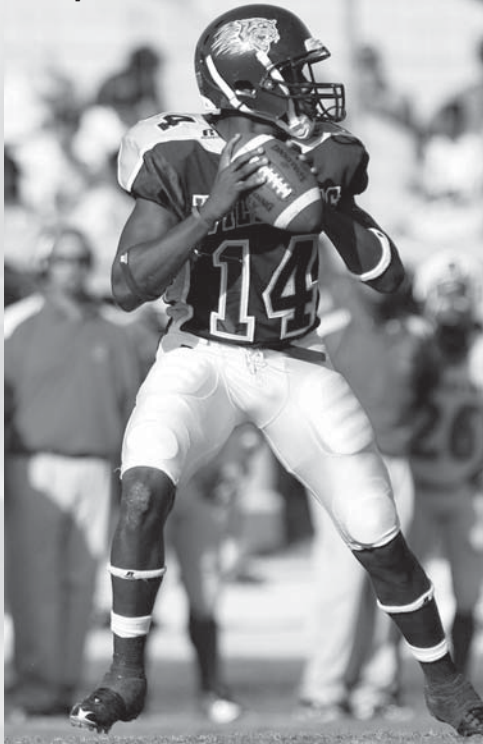
“Our call to rise starts August 7,” stated Wyatt. “These goals are high but they are attainable and can be reached by this staff and this team. Accountability as a team and a staff and character goes a long way for our football program.”

### **OFFENSE**

#### **SOPHOMORE QB FRANCOIS LEADS OFFENSE**

#### **Quarterback Position With Six Top Players in Camp**

**QB Maurice Francois (below) was #14 last year and he will wear #7 in 2009.**



The Wildcats Spring football practices and scrimmages included something Coach Wyatt’s teams have never done – live tackling throughout the spring drills, including “live” quarterbacks, throwing away the red-shirts.

“For the first time ever – we were live on the quarterback, we took the red-shirts off,” said Wyatt. “Our kids worked hard

in the spring and they worked together and both quarterbacks “Mo” (Maurice Francis) and “Greatness” (Courtney Keith), came through with flying colors. They are two strong quarterbacks and are team leaders. Francois has the edge and will be our team starter. What he did last year before his injury (leading team to three straight wins) as a freshman showed what type of player he is. “Greatness” (Keith) is what I call Courtney and he is going to be a great one. And if Mathew Johnson comes back from his injury, that will give us three experienced players at quarterback and also the freshman recruits,” said Wyatt about his 2009 signal calling position. High School stars Greg Ross Jr. (Daytona Beach, Mainland HS), Deltona/Pine Ridge HS – Benjamin De La Cruz and Michael Adams, QB from Riverdale, Georgia-Riverdale High School, round out the six quarterbacks in August training camp.

“We never want to be short on quarterbacks and not have enough healthy players like we did last year,” said Wyatt. “If they all can be impact players like in high school – we have plenty of guys who can help the offense. All of them will add to the competition at the position and we are happy to have them.”

Francois was MEAC Rookie and Player of the Week in 2008 for his efforts in the win at Morgan State last season (he also engineered wins vs. Savannah State and Norfolk State at home). He is fully recovered from the collarbone injury of 2008. Johnson was the top B-CU passer last season (29-45, 407 yards, 3 TDs) and split time with senior starter McKinson Souverain after Francois’ injury vs. Delaware State in the B-CU Homecoming game in week #6.

# 2009 • SEASON OUTLOOK • WILDCATS

## WILDCATS "REFRESHED AND READY" (CON'T)

**Griffin – Cotman – Erilus  
Return On Offensive Line  
Giger Moves to Tackle  
Natiel Curry Shifts To Center  
12 Incoming Freshmen  
Offensive Lineman Will  
Compete For Playing Time**

B-CU seniors Ryan Griffin and Justin Cotman are the top experienced offensive lineman returning in 2009. K.C. Giger has moved from the center position to tackle and Natiel Curry, who played center in high school – shifts back to that spot in 2009. "Massive" 330 pound guard Vernard West is a projected starter and according to Wyatt, the most improved player on the offensive line. Part-time starter Angelo Erilus also returns up front to bolster the line.

"We recruited bulk and big players this year on the offensive line and they will all have an opportunity for playing time and learning the offense," said Wyatt about his offensive front. "We have a lot of spots to fill losing some great players (Mordecai, Guillory, Barnes). The line worked hard in the spring and are coming together as a unit."

Last year's O-line was led by All-MEAC standouts Rueben Mordecai III and De'Juan Guillory. Deron Barnes was a two-year starter at center as B-CU led the MEAC in rushing offense (217 yards per game) and was among the NCAA team leaders in 2008. Coach Wyatt stressed the importance of an effective offensive line to the success of his "Wyattbone" offense. "These guys have to be ready. If you don't have the offensive line up front – it makes it tough for everybody."

**Junior Sumlar Top Returning  
Rusher – Third Year Starter  
Wildcats Led MEAC  
In Team Rushing –  
Among the NCAA's Top 20**



**Brian Sumlar #5 Jr. RB**

The "Wyattbone" featured quarterbacks McKinson Souverain, Maurice Francois and RB Brian Sumlar last season with Sumlar totaling 10 touchdowns and a team-leading 750 yards rushing (5.1 avg. per carry). The shifty Sumlar utilizes the blocking up front and of his receivers and slot backs, plus the adept ball handling of the QB – all components that have come together for Sumlar and his nearly 1500 career yards in two B-CU seasons. He will be joined at the running back position by Androse Bell. "Androse looked great in the spring and last year at the end of the season," said Coach Wyatt. "Sumlar, we look to have another strong season and we averaged 25 points a game last year. We want to keep improving and the offense back to scoring 30-35 points a game like we did in the 2002 – 2003 seasons." Around the goal line, B-CU will also utilize tough runner Jonathan Moment in the backfield.

Sr. Kirkland Leads Wildcat Receivers "Phillip Kirkland is going to have a big year for us and the slot receivers we need to be very good for our offense," said Coach Wyatt. "We have tall receivers (Ali Green and transfer Devaughn Reams from Central Florida) and McCaskill (Fred) will be very good for us this season in the slot." The Wildcats depend on the receivers and A-backs for many things in the Wyattbone – blocking, receiving, reading the defense and making adjustments to spring big plays. Kirkland led the team in receptions last season with 25 catches, two touchdowns and 17.9 avg. per catch to lead the team and a long reception of 82 yards for a TD in 2008.



**Phillip Kirkland #82 Sr. WR**

# 2009 • SEASON OUTLOOK • WILDCATS

## WILDCATS "REFRESHED AND READY" (CON'T)

### SPECIAL TEAMS

#### Freshman Placekickers To Compete For Top Spot

#### Keable All-MEAC 2nd Team Punter Returns For Third Year

#### Return Specialist Corey Counsel Graduated and Will Be Missed

For the second consecutive season, the Wildcats will rely on a freshman place kicker (in 2008 – Matt McCutcheon, who left the team following the season) and they recruited two of Florida High Schools's top kickers: Kory Kowalski (Rock Ledge -Rock Ledge HS) and Sven Hurd (Pensacola – Pine Forest HS).

Junior punter Justin Keable returns for his third year of punting duties and the left-footed kicker is among the NCAA top returning kickers with his 42.2 avg. including 12 kicks inside the 20 and a long boot of 63 yards.

All-MEAC returning specialist Corey Council completed his B-CU playing career and his talent as a punt and kickoff returner will be missed by the Wildcats. Council was a three-time All-MEAC selection and an NCAA stats leader throughout his B-CU career.

### DEFENSE

#### Nine Defensive Starters Back In 2009

#### Dexter Jackson MEAC Defensive Player of Year Candidate

Travis Roland (B-CU top tackler last year - 48-44-92, 16 tackles for losses and nine QB sacks) and starting defensive tackle Chris Dirksz (8-12-20 – 5 tackles for losses) both graduated and will be missed this season.

The remainder of the 'Cats defense in 2008 returns for the upcoming season, pleasing Coach Wyatt, a former defensive coordinator and B-CC/NFL defensive star. "We lost two very talented players (Roland, Dirksz) off the defense, but we return the bulk of the defense that really came on for us in the second half of the season," said Wyatt. "Dexter Jackson is one of the most talented defensive linemen we've had in a long time. He is versatile and can play anywhere for us. I think he is right in line to be MEAC Player of the Year this season. He is the most impact player for us and can make our defense work for us."

Jackson was third on the team in total tackles with 57 and had 4.5 QB sacks and 9.0 tackles for losses and he recovered two fumbles in 2008.

Smiley Team Leader At Linebacker – Arkee Smith – Antonio & Antwuane Cox Lead the B-CU Secondary – Defense Continued Improvement Key To Success

"Josh Smiley is a big, huge linebacker who started all season for us and got great game experience last year," said Coach Wyatt of his linebacker leader. "Josh had a great spring and he needed a spring practice to continue his development. He will be a team leader, a mainstay on defense. Arkee Smith is looking very good in the secondary and we are moving speedy Jean-Gardy Fanor from receiver to strong safety this season."



Dexter Jackson #55 Sr. DT



Arkee Smith #22 Jr. DB

Coach Wyatt also mentioned the 'rough and tough' special team performers from last season – Ryan Lewis and Reggie Sandilands – now starting at the linebacker positions and adding to the defensive depth and improvement in 2009.

The Cox twins (Antonio and Antwuane) both were named second team All-MEAC in 2008 and will be back for their senior seasons with the Wildcats, the third year with the program after transferring from South Florida.

"The Cox twins and Michael Williams coming back from a season-ending injury last year – we will depend on them for veteran leadership in the secondary for us," Wyatt said.

"Coach (Defensive Coordinator Marc) Lippens with our defense will have them ready to play every Saturday," said Wyatt. "Our defense needs to go to the next level and continue to make things happen for us defensively. The stretch of games they played in the second half of the season was tremendous and gave our team the lift we needed."