



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LEGENDS COMING TO CANTON FOR FIRST-EVER BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME CLASSIC

CANTON, OHIO – The first-ever Black College Football Hall of Fame (BCFHOF) Classic is being held on the Pro Football Hall of Fame's campus over Labor Day weekend. Nearly 20 legendary members of the Black College Football Hall of Fame, including a number of those also enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame, will be on hand for the Classic's festivities.



These Legends of the Game will attend various events during the weekend and will also participate in the coin toss at the game. Details regarding a special "Meet & Greet" featuring a number of the greats who made significant contributions at Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs) will be posted to the Hall of Fame's website (www.ProFootballHOF.com) and shared via social media (@ProFootballHOF on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) in the days leading up to the inaugural classic.

BLACK COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAMES ATTENDING CLASSIC

The list of attendees includes (Name – HBCU – BCFHOF Class) / **Also, a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame*

- ***Elvin Bethea** – North Carolina A&T – Class of 2013 / PFHOF Class of 2003
- ***Mel Blount** – Southern – Class of 2011 / PFHOF Class of 1989
- ***Robert Brazile** – Jackson State – Class of 2014 / PFHOF Class of 2018
- **Harold Carmichael** – Southern – Class of 2018
- *** Harry Carson** – South Carolina State – Class of 2012 / PFHOF Class of 2006
- **Parnell Dickinson** – Mississippi Valley State – Class of 2017
- **James "Shack" Harris** – Grambling – Class of 2012
- **Bill Hayes** – Winston-Salem State, North Carolina A&T – Class of 2018
- ***Kenny Houston** – Prairie View A&M – Class of 2013 / PFHOF Class of 1986
- **Billy Joe** – Cheyney, Central State, Florida A&M, Miles – Class of 2017
- ***Charlie Joiner** – Grambling – Class of 2013 / PFHOF Class of 1996
- **Ed "Too Tall" Jones** – Tennessee State – Class of 2013
- **Greg Lloyd** – Fort Valley State – Class of 2018
- **Charlie Neal** – Class of 2013
- **Ken Riley** – Florida A&M – Class of 2015
- ***Art Shell** – Maryland Eastern Shore – Class of 2011 / PFHOF Class of 1989

- **Donnie Shell** – South Carolina State – Class of 2015
- ***Emmitt Thomas** – Bishop – Class of 2016 / PFHOF Class of 2008
- **Everson Walls** – Grambling – Class of 2018

CLASSIC OVERVIEW

The game features two HBCUs as Alabama A&M University Bulldogs of the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) face the Morehouse College Maroon Tigers from the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) on Sunday, Sept. 1 at 3:30 p.m. in Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium.

A Dance & Drumline Competition will take place on Saturday, Aug. 31 from noon to 5 p.m. at the Canton Memorial Field House. Groups from across Ohio and the surrounding states will take part in an HBCU-style dance and drumline competition.

In addition, the Official Black College Football Hall of Fame Classic Tailgate takes place on the Pro Football Hall of Fame's Field Turf located adjacent to the Museum. The Official Tailgate is **free, family friendly** and **open to the public** on Saturday, Aug. 31 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 1 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Tailgate will feature a variety of music performances, vendor and food trucks, inflatables for children and merchandise will be made available.

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ABOUT THE PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

Located in Canton, Ohio, the birthplace of the National Football League, the Pro Football Hall of Fame is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit institution with the Mission to Honor the Heroes of the Game, Preserve its History, Promote its Values, & Celebrate Excellence EVERYWHERE.

The Pro Football Hall of Fame is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. AAM accreditation is national recognition for the museum's commitment to excellence and the highest professional standards of museum operation and public service.

Hundreds of thousands of fans from across the globe travel to Canton annually to experience "*The Most Inspiring Place on Earth!*" that chronicles America's most popular sport. Fans can also enjoy the Hall of Fame Store at the Hall, and online at www.profootballhof.com/store, for merchandise from all 32 NFL clubs plus the Hall of Fame. Proceeds from the Store support the Hall's Mission.

Construction on Johnson Controls Hall of Fame Village, a mixed-use development project, is under way in Canton to transform the Hall of Fame's campus.

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TICKET INFO:

- Tickets for the Dance & Drumline Competition are \$20.00 in advance and \$25.00 day of event.
- BCFHOF Classic Game Tickets start at \$30.00
- A combo ticket is available for \$55.00

www.profootballhof.com/classic/

