

ATHLETIC AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER



Greetings and welcome to the **January Edition of the Athletic Affairs Newsletter! We are thrilled to bring you the latest updates and exciting highlights from a multitude of teams, capturing the essence of the spirited athletic endeavors that have unfolded over the past month.**

Department of Athletic Affairs

Secretary - Kyla Ligon

Deputy Secretary - Brian Moss

James Colzie III Named Florida A&M University's 19th Head Football Coach



A new age encompasses Florida A&M Football. This decision followed the resignation of Willie Simmons, who served as the head coach for six seasons and has now joined Duke as its running backs coach. The hiring process involved a 26-day search, during which FAMU enlisted the help of a search firm, Renaissance Search and Consulting. An eight-person search committee, comprising key stakeholders of the Rattlers, was also formed to identify and select the next head coach. Despite the departure of some key individuals from the program during this transition period, the sentiment among those who have left, such as Devin Rispress, appears positive. Rispress expressed confidence in James Colzie III, stating that he believes Colzie is the right person for the job and will continue to guide the program in the right direction. It will be interesting to see how Coach Colzie leads the Florida A&M football program and what changes or improvements he brings to the team in the new era.

FAMU men's basketball win was a close one against Jackson State, 88-86

The Florida A&M men's basketball team pulls off a close win against conference rival Jackson State at the Al Lawson Center. The Tigers were led by senior guard Chase Adams, who had 35 points. This effort wasn't enough to beat the Rattlers, as senior Keith Lamar had a season-high of 27 points, shooting 11-14 from the field and four for seven from three-point range. FAMU coach Robert McCullum says it feels really good to come away with this win. "We beat a really good Jackson State team," McCullum said. "I said to our players before coming in here that, much like us, they too have been struggling with injuries since the start of the season." Early on in the first half, the Tigers got off to a 12-8 start, forcing the Rattlers to call an early timeout. Soon after, the Rattlers picked it back up to take a 15-12 lead following a fast break dunk by junior guard Morrell Schramm.

Midway through the first half, it was hard for both teams to get the lid off the basket, sitting at 17-17, with both teams looking to take early momentum. Late in the first, the Rattlers began a run going up 33-23 following a three from the corner by senior forward Keith Lamar. The Rattlers ended the first half up double digits on the Tigers, 37-27, with Lamar leading the way with nine points, shooting four for five from the field. The Tigers, led by Adams, started the second half off on a seven-to-zero run, with Adams making a three-pointer, cutting the Rattlers lead to 37-34. Adams had a hot first half, scoring 12 points for the Tigers. The Rattlers started pulling away from the Tigers, with Lamar making two pull-up jump shots for the Rattlers to take a 60-51 lead in the second half. Late in the second half, senior forward Shannon Grant had a big and-1 bucket to put the Rattlers up 73-60.

The Tigers had a late run with 34 seconds to go in the game. The Rattlers missed two crucial free throws late in the game. Tigers Adams made a big three-pointer to cut the lead to 84-83 with 25 seconds to go. Lamar made a big free throw to take the Rattlers up three points late. The Tigers turned the ball over in the end, and senior guard Jalen Speer made the two game-deciding free throws for the Rattlers to take home the win. "There until the end, we did a very great job taking care of the basketball, and we really did a good job on some of their better players," McCullum said. The Rattlers will face off against Alabama A&M this Saturday on the road.



Rattlers sweep Southern Miss in opener

The defending Southwestern Athletic Conference champions started the season on a high note sweeping Southern Mississippi for the first time in program history. The Rattlers took the doubles point after Rebekkah Gaines and Reagan Harris won by forfeit, and Sara Rakim and Genesis Whitelock clinched the doubles point 6-2. The Rattlers took an easy 2-0 lead after Harris won by walkover. Whitelock won the third point, winning her match (7-5, 6-0), and Veronica Rodriguez clinched the match with her win (7-5, 7-5).



The Rattlers travel to Mobile, Alabama, for a match at South Alabama.

