



**Smithsonian Institution**

*National Museum of African American History and Culture*

## **Scrapbook compiled by W.D. Williams while attending Hampton Institute, 1924–28**

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[[picture 1]] Seventeen men in uniforms with the letter "H" on them and the writing "HAMPTON BASKETBALL TEAM 1926" underneath  
[[/picture 1]]

[[picture 2]] Thirty men in black and white striped uniforms with the writing "THE HAMPTON FOOTBALL SQUAD FOR 1923 (CHAMPIONS)" underneath [[/picture 2]]

[[picture 3]] Forty-five men in black and white striped uniforms with the words "HAMPTON FOOTBALL TEAM 1926 (CHAMPIONS)" underneath [[/picture 3]]

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above a back who runs, kicks, passes, blocks and tackles, doing these things well. A man is not taken because he stars in one big game, not because he runs amuck on several weaker opponents, but he gets the call because he has proved his worth as a star in four or five big games, and has stood up under some of the roughest campaigning.

**The Ends**  
This season has proved one of the some fine ends in Davis, of Hampton; Scott, of Virginia Seminary; McGowan, of Hampton; Gardner, of Union; Hester, of A. and T.; and Steele, of Johnson C. Smith, with the former coming around for unanimous choice. As a brother wingman, Hester lands the berth.

**The Tackles**  
Competition for tackles has been less keen than that of the ends. There has been good material, but much of the material has lacked that fine polish and finish that is required for this important position. We have the Ruffins, of Hampton and Union; Polk, of Va. Seminary; Williamson, of St. Paul; Lee, of Hampton; Tynes, of Va. Normal. The all-around consistent team play of Lee and Polk makes them stand out head and shoulder above the rest of the lot, and they come around for unanimous choice.

**The Guards**  
The fight among the guards was a close one, closer than most of the other positions. There was a wealth of guard material and it was all good. The offering was: Anderson, of Union; Tucker, of Va. Seminary; Miller, of A. and T.; Banks, of Hampton; Robinson, of Hampton; J. Lane, of A. and T.; Williams, of St. Paul; and Blue, of Johnson Smith. But after the smoke had cleared away, there was left Miller of A. and T. and Anderson of Union.

**Centers**  
The centers were few and far apart. None were flashy and brilliant, but most were cool and capable. The offering was: Tobin, of Union; Patterson, of A. and T.; Munday, of Hampton; and Boykins, of St. Paul. Tobin has proved a heady and able man in the pivot position, but since men are getting the call for this season's showing alone, injuries have forced the Union candidate to step aside for one, who has proved consistent throughout the season. Munday, of Hampton, gets the call, closely pushed by Patterson of A. and T. and Boykins of St. Paul.

**Backs**  
This has been another season of many good backs, and the fight for stellar positions waxed fast and furious, and what have you? The field



was filled with Shields, of Union; Williams, of Hampton; Coleman, of A. and T.; Moore and Brown, of Va. Seminary; Byrd, of St. Paul; Baker, of Hampton; and Lane, of A. and T. This is the best array of backs in the offing, and their play was an exceptional brand; but there were those who came to the foreground with a great deal to spare, and Williams of Hampton and Coleman of A. and T. get the halfback assignments, while Brown of Seminary takes off the full-back honors.

#### Quarterbacks

And this has been another tight scramble. Since the work of the quarterbacks has almost entirely been merged with that of the other backs, it has been almost imperative that a candidate for this position be possessed of more than the ability to general, which in itself is a potent factor. Usually the backfield is referred to as the four backs and not three backfield men and a quarterback. In most cases it is true that it is the four backs, because this quartette is looked upon as being comprised of four men who carry the ball with almost equal ability. Since this is true, a quarterback is called upon to do more than direct team play through calling signals. He is also expected to do some, if not as many things as the rest of the backs, such as running, kicking, passing, blocking, and tackling.

The candidates are: Epps, of Va. Normal; Breaux, of Union; Whedbee, of Va. Seminary; and Henderson, of the Aggies. But in the choice, the list has been narrowed down to the first two named. Both have proved fine quarters, possessing rare ability in team generalship; but where one was minus, the other was plus, and very much so. It has been hard to choose between the two, but when it comes to all-around play, which means not doing one or two thing so well that it borders on the scintillating, but being able to do many things and doing these well, although Epps has proved a wonderful general and a wonderful runner and passer, he is overshadowed by Breaux, who not only is a worthy general and a fine runner, but is a wonderful passer and kicker, both from placement and drops; and the latter gets the call.

#### Second Choice

For the second team, the following team has been picked: Ends, Scott, of Seminary, and Gardner, of Union; tackles, Williamson, of St. Paul, and Tynes, of Va. Normal; guards, Tucker, of Seminary, and Robinson, of Hampton; center, Patterson, of A. and T.; quarterback, Epps; halfbacks, Shields, of Union, and Moore, of Seminary; and fullback, Lane of A. and T.

Those coming in for honorable mention are: ends, Steele, of Smith; Streeter, A. and T.; Pegram, Va. Normal; tackles, Jeffries, Seminary; Ruffin, Union; Pierce, St. Paul; Ruffin, Hampton. Guards - Williams, St. Paul; Banks, Hampton; Blue, Smith. Centers - Tobin, Union; Boykins, St. Paul. Quarterbacks - Henderson, A. and T.; Whedbee, Va. Seminary. Other backs - Baker, Hampton, Wiggins, Va. Normal; Wilson, A. and T.; Thatcher, Hampton; Caviness, Smith; and Chambers, Shaw.

#### Most Valuable Player

Concerning the most valuable player to his team in the association, there has been little or no difficulty in the choosing. Epps of Va. Normal towers above the rest of the lot and easily gets the assignment. He has been a potent factor in everything the Petersburg school has done. He has proved the backbone of the aggregation and the shining light of every campaign. Not that Virginia Normal was a one-man team, but the work of Epps contributed largely to the victories garnered by the eleven and the many bold stands the team made in the face of very stiff and severe opposition.

Submitted by C.I.A.A.  
All-Star Committee  
WILLEY A. JOHNSON, Jr.,  
Chairman  
DR. S.F. COPPAGE  
R.E. CLEMENTS  
GARLAND MACKEY  
L.U. GIBSON

This has been one of the best years of the association. The teams are better coached, and the sportsmanship exhibited on the field of play and even on the part of spectators is improving. There was one notable exception this year in this particular.

The two trophies given were donated by friends who desired to encourage team play and sportsmanship. The Frank Young trophy was donated by Mr. Young, sports editor of the Defender, to be awarded to the winner of the 1926 football championship. The first institution winning the cup three times will get permanent possession

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