

Air Force Reserve Celebration Bowl
December 17, 2016
Georgia Dome (Atlanta, Ga.)

Grambling State 10, North Carolina Central 9
Attendance: 31,069

Offensive MVP – Martez Carter (Grambling State)
Defensive MVP – Jameer Jackson (Grambling State)

PREGAME NOTES

Captains for Grambling State (10) Chad Williams, (99) Lorin Blain Watson

Captains for North Carolina Central (5) LeGrande Harley, (15) Malcolm Bell, (50) Ja'Quan Smith, (55) Carl Jones

North Carolina Central wins the toss, defers to the second half. The Eagles are 2-0 this season when they win the toss.

Grambling leads the all-time series 4-0, with the last meeting coming in 1986. The Tigers have outscored North Carolina Central 133-44 in those games, with the closest game coming in the last meeting (32-24 in 1986).

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL NOTES

North Carolina Central's Alden McClellon recorded his first career interception on the opening drive of the game, stopping a Grambling State scoring drive at the one-yard line.

North Carolina Central converted a fourth down with 9:27 remaining in the opening quarter, only their third conversion in six tries (50 percent) this season.

The field goal by North Carolina Central on their opening possession was the first points allowed by Grambling State on an opening drive since they gave up a touchdown to Prairie View A&M (October 1). The score was just the second time that Grambling State has allowed points on an opening drive this season.

Malcolm Bell's first quarter reception, on the final play of the quarter, was his first career reception.

Eagles kicker Brandon McLaren was perfect from 30-39 yards this season (3-of-3) until he missed a 34-yard field goal at the 1:27 mark in the second quarter.

North Carolina Central recorded three sacks in the first half – one more than the two teams (North Carolina A&T and Alcorn State) combined for in the first Celebration Bowl last season.

Six players from Atlanta (Ga.) are featured in today's game, with all six players representing Grambling State.

North Carolina Central is now 1-5 in bowl games. The Eagles' last bowl game win was on Dec. 4, 1954 in the National Classic in Greensboro, N.C. where it defeated Tennessee State 19-6.

GRAMBLING STATE NOTES

DeVante Kincade threw just his seventh interception this season in the opening quarter, on the first drive of the game – throwing it in the end zone.

Grambling State was held scoreless in the first quarter for the second consecutive game, and just the second time all season.

Deaumante Johns' second quarter interception was the third on the season for sophomore defensive back, and was the fourth of his career.

Grambling State was held scoreless in the first half for the just the second time this season, and second consecutive game.

For the fourth time this season, Grambling State took the opening possession of the second half in for a score – all touchdowns. The Tigers have scored on their opening possession of the second half in three consecutive games – Southern, Alcorn State and North Carolina Central.

Grambling State is 5-0 this season in neutral site games.

AIR FORCE RESERVE CELEBRATION BOWL NOTES

North Carolina Central and Grambling State combined to go scoreless in the second quarter of the 2016 Celebration Bowl, breaking the record set last season by North Carolina A&T and Alcorn State (10).

Grambling State held the ball for 6:05 in the opening quarter (opening drive) using 13 plays, both breaking Celebration Bowl records. The time of the drive broke the mark set by North Carolina A&T (2015), and the number of plays broke the record set three times (2015).

Grambling set a new Airforce Reserve Celebration Bowl Record in interceptions, recording two. Alcorn State and North Carolina A&T (2015) each recorded one in the inaugural Celebration Bowl.

Malcolm Bell (North Carolina Central) broke the interception mark as he threw two. The previous record was set by Lenorris Footman of Alcorn State (2015).

Khalil Stinson of North Carolina Central tied the mark of six receptions set in last season's Celebration Bowl by Tollette George of Alcorn State.

Reggie Hunter of North Carolina Central set a new Celebration Record with 11 tackles, recording his ninth tackle (breaking the record) in the third quarter.

Arkez Cooper and Lorin Winston both of Grambling State set a new Celebration Bowl record with two tackles for loss, breaking a mark set by several players in last year's game.

North Carolina Central's Alden McClellon and Grambling State's Deaumante Johns each recorded first half interceptions, tying the mark set by Anthony Williams (Alcorn State) and Denzel Jones (North Carolina A&T) in last season's game.

Malcolm Bell set a new Air Force Reserve Celebration Bowl record with 18 completions, breaking the mark of 14 set by Lenorris Footman of Alcorn State last season.

Grambling State set a new Air Force Reserve Celebration Bowl record with eight penalties, breaking the mark of seven, set by North Carolina A&T last season.

Grambling State's Derrick Dixon tied the Air Force Reserve Celebration Bowl record for longest punt with a 54-yard punt in the fourth quarter, tying Haiden McCraney's 54-yard punt last season.

Grambling State set a new Air Force Reserve Celebration Bowl record with 21 first downs, breaking Alcorn State's record of 19 set last year.

Today's game finished with a duration of 3h, 40 mins, breaking last year's record of 3h, 37 mins.

North Carolina Central's Malcom Bell set a new Air Force Reserve Celebration Bowl record in passing yards (240) breaking Kwashaun Quick's (N.C. A&T) record of 149 last year.

Grambling State and North Carolina Central set a new Air Force Reserve Celebration Bowl record with the fewest combined points in a game with 19.

NCCU set a new Air Force Reserve Celebration Bowl record with 77 tackles, breaking Alcorn State's previous record of 55 last year.

Grambling State Air Force Reserve Celebration Bowl record with nine tackles for loss, breaking N.C. A&T's record of seven last year.