

A SECURE FUTURE



Extension keeps rivalry until 2019, reserving 2nd Saturday in September

The second Saturday in September has become an annual pilgrimage for football fans of Jackson State and Tennessee State to convene in Memphis.

Three years ago, Fred Jones Jr., founder of the Southern Heritage Classic presented by FedEx, agreed with the two schools on a five-year contract extending the rivalry through the year 2019. The previous contract expired after the 2014 Classic.

"It allows us to continue to plan," said Jones. "All these companies that are here ... they're making long-term plans. I talked to the schools, and we were able to clear both conferences' ... long-term schedule and make sure that these dates were in place going forward."

This year's game marks the 22nd consecutive year that the two historically black colleges have met on the gridiron.

The two schools, each of which have their storied

successes on the football field, have met a total of 23 times in the Southern Heritage Classic. Tennessee State holds a 14-9 record against Jackson State at Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium, aided by a seven-game winning streak from 2003-09 that only stoked the rivalry further.

TSU has won three in a row since Jackson State won in 2010 and 2011.

From the immensely popular tailgating that starts days prior to the game to concerts leading up to the main event, the entire Classic Weekend provides a multitude of unique experiences for fans of all ages.

Not only is it a big rivalry on the field for the players, coaches and fans, but the Southern Heritage Classic plays an important role in promoting the hospitality of the great people of Memphis.

The Classic provides an annual economic benefit of nearly \$21 million to the Memphis area.

September 10, 2016

September 8, 2018

September 9, 2017

September 14, 2019