

BC Basketball SAC Tournament Champs

Men's basketball finishes one of the best seasons in school history with a conference tournament championship and an NCAA bid

by **Travis Wireback**
Editor in Chief

The BC men's basketball team finished one of the best seasons in school history after winning a conference tournament and receiving a bid to the NCAA tournament, with a record of 21-10.

Their victory over Catawba in the SAC tournament championship game by a score of 93-92 earned them a trip to the NCAA Division II tournament, the first in school history. Their post-season ended, however, in the first round of the tournament with a loss to Augusta State by a score of 91-73 on March 13.

Said ex-player Joe Chilton, "To go from winning five games while playing in the NAIA to making the NCAA Tournament within a 5 year timespan shows what happens when players buy into a coach's plan. They have made a name for the school and made everyone with connections to the BC basketball program proud."

The SAC tournament championship game which the Tornados won to make it to the NCAA tournament came down to the

last second. The Tornados started strong and took control of the game early, going into halftime leading 44-38. After starting the second half on a tear, BC led 74-55.

However, Catawba's tenacious defense allowed them to fight their way back into the game, and with 10 seconds left, Catawba took its first lead of the game, making the score 92-91.

However, Jermichael Tanner hit a layup as time ran out, to give Brevard the victory and send the Tornados to Augusta where they would face Augusta State in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

The Tornados were led by Jonathon Whitson with 20 points and 12 rebounds, and Josh Roper with 24 points. Whitson

was named tournament MVP and made the All-Tournament team. Roper was also named to the All-Tournament team.

Unfortunately, the season came to a close March 13 against Augusta State. Augusta State, the top seeded team in the region, started strong and despite Brevard's efforts entered halftime leading 39-34.

Augusta State came out of the locker rooms hot and increased its lead to 10. That was as close as it would be for the remainder of the game. The final score was 91-73.

Brevard was led again by Josh Roper and Jonathon Whitson. Roper tallied 27 points and Whitson finished with 15.

Whitson, a senior, finished his Brevard College career as the all-time leading rebounder and scorer.



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