

arday Night

# Morgan Faces Maryland In Crucial MEAC Battle

The Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) basketball race will go down to the last day of the regular season schedule and even when the seven teams complete their regular schedule, the final seedings for the Third annual MEAC Basketball Tournament which will be played in Baltimore at the Civic Center February 28-March 2 may not be decided until Commissioner L.T. Walker flips a coin to decide any ties in the conference standings.

There are possibilities of at least three ties in the final conference standings. Morgan State and Maryland-Eastern Shore are both in the running for the visitation championship and the right to first round bye in the conference tournament. Morgan and Maryland E.S. will meet Saturday night at Princess Anne, Maryland.

North Carolina A&T has clinched the number three position in the conference standings. This is the only definite spot taken in the final league standings.

Delaware State and Howard could finish in a tie for the fourth. But regardless of the flip for the positions, these two teams will meet in the first round of the tournament. This is the only match-up already set as the teams go into the final week of the season.

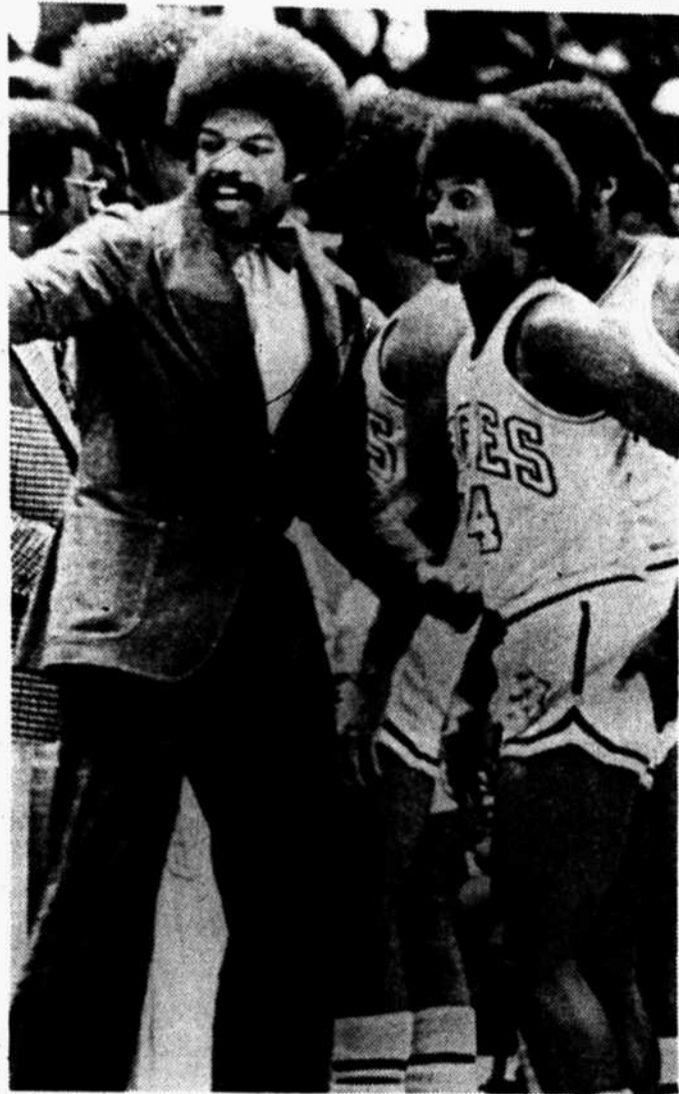
North Carolina Central and South Carolina State could end up the season in a tie for sixth and seventh places. Since these two teams split during the regular season, a flip would be necessary to decide who plays the second place

## Channel 3 To Televis ACC Tournament

When America's top college basketball conference teams go into action against each other in the ACC Championship Tournament, who will emerge the winner? The answer is completely unknown, but if the past is any indicator, torrid action can be assured.

WBTV Channel 3 will televise the semi-final and final rounds of the ACC Tournament, beginning at 7 p.m. Friday March 8. The final championship game will be carried by Channel 3 at 8:30 P.M. on Saturday, March 9.

WBTV's own Jim Thacker, one of the nation's foremost sportscasters will describe the play by play and Billy Packer will do the color. The winner of the prestigious ACC Tourney automatically gets a competitive berth in the Eastern Regional Playoffs.



Frank Levister points out strategy to A&T All-American James Outlaw.

finisher and who would meet third place A&T.

Morgan maintained its lead in the conference standings with a pair of wins at home last week. The Bears extended their record to 10-0 with victories over A&T and North Carolina Central behind the outstanding play of Marvin Webster. The seven-foot All-American scored 27 points and grabbed 26 rebounds Friday night as Morgan held on to a 71-65 decision over A&T. James Outlaw was the top scorer for the Aggies with 19 points.

Despite being ejected from the game with about 10 minutes left to play against North Carolina Central Saturday night, Webster, known as the "Human Eraser" scored 31 points and collected 22 rebounds as Morgan whipped the Eagles in Baltimore, 115-88. Webster got plenty of scoring help from Billy Newton and Alvin O'Neal who scored 20 and 19 points respectively for Morgan. Allen Reddish and Clarence Beaufort each tallied 20 for NCCU.

Maryland-Eastern Shore kept pace with the leader with a 105-98 league win over South Carolina State Saturday night. The Hawks got their offense back in high gear Friday night with a 105-85 non conference win over Barber Scotia. Coach Jim Bates' cagers had been averaging in a couple of games two weeks

ago. However, UMES got its offense to rolling with 105 points in a pair of outings over the weekend.

Maryland-E.S. now stands 10-1 in the conference and 23-1 overall. The only setback for the Hawks was at the hands of Morgan, 72-70 two weeks ago in Baltimore.

A&T divided a pair of league games over the weekend but in the process clinched the third seed in the league standings. The Aggies fell to Morgan Friday night but bounced back against Howard in the second half Saturday night. A&T was behind 50-36 in the second half to Howard but outscored the homestanders, 20-2 during one stretch to take a 56-52 lead and went on to post its sixth league win against five

Howard did manage to win one game during the week turning back North Carolina Central Friday night, 91-75. The win over the Eagles avenged a 92-82 setback suffered to the Durham quintet last week in Durham. Elsworth Hart was the top scorer for the Bison with 20 points and Lewis chipped in with 18 and Cotton had 17. Robert Little and Llewellyn Wood each had 16 for NCCU.

Howard has a 4-7 conference slate and a 9-12 overall mark. NCCU is 2-9 in league play and 5-13 against all opposition.

Delaware State won a pair of non-conference games earlier in the week before losing to South Carolina State Friday night. The Hornets defeated Norfolk State Tuesday by two, 70-68 and romped to an 88-66 win over Spring Garden College in Philadelphia Wednesday. In the last game of the campaign for Delaware State, South Carolina State shook off a late rally by the visitors to prevail with 98-93 league decision. The Hornets are 16-9 overall and 5-7 in MEAC play. Martin Kemp was the top scorer for Delaware State against S.C. State with 24 points while Alex Barron top the S.C. State scorers with 26.

South Carolina State finished its league worksheet with a 2-10 mark. Against all opponents, the Bulldogs are 11-14 for the season.

Three conference games including the big rematch between Morgan and Maryland-Eastern Shore will highlight a light schedule in the final week of the season.

The other league game this week will match North Carolina Central and A&T in Durham Friday night.

In non-conference action this week Howard visits Hampton Institute Friday night.

North Carolina Central concludes its regular season at home Saturday night against Johnson C. Smith while South Carolina State concludes its campaign at home against Mars Hill College Saturday night.

Final tournament seedings and the pairings for the third annual MEAC Tournament will be announced Sunday following a meeting of the Tournament Committee in Baltimore.

## In Cage Finale

# Golden Bulls Battle Eagles In Durham Saturday Night

By ALAN ROUNDTREE  
 Post Sports Writer  
 Johnson C. Smith University, on the verge of capturing its first regular season CIAA championship since 1960, will end up its regular season on the road against North Carolina Central University in Durham Saturday night.

The last time the Golden Bulls captured the division title was in 1960 when Eddie McGirt was doing the basketball coaching by winning the division title. Smith would not only qualify for top seeding in the CIAA tournament February 28, March 1 and 2, but would gain a bid to the NAIA District 26 playoffs.

The NAIA appearance would be a first for Smith University which finished its season against conference opposition with a 10-6 mark.

The Northern Division of the CIAA appears to be stronger than the Southern Division with Virginia State, Norfolk State and Virginia Union all with outstanding records and domination over Southern Division teams.

Smith beat league leader Virginia State despite turning the ball over 39 times. But the Bulls have dropped decisions

to Norfolk State and lowly Hampton Institute.

Both losses occurred on the road and the road has not been very kind to the Bulls this year. Last year in the CIAA tournament the Bulls lost at the final buzzer to Norfolk State College.

This season Coach Joe Alston has experience depth and tournament exposure and should go further than he did a year ago.

George Cooper, the 6-8 forward center from Syracuse, New York, is the leading Smith offensive threat, averaging better than 22 points a game.

He receives support from James "Twiggy" Sanders Robert Lewis, and Willie Joplin. Eric Polite is the Golden Bulls floor leader. He is backed up by Derrick Wallace.

The turnovers in recent Bull outings are a result of the run and shoot style of play in the CIAA. An amazing fact is that the Bulls won three games while committing 36-39 and 46 turnovers.

Losing the ball that many times without a shot may get the team past CIAA opponents but it will be a different story in NAIA play.

The Bulls will have to face either powerful Gardner Webb College or nearby Barber Scotia College of Concord if it plans to advance to the finals in Kansas City. If they make 20 turnovers against those teams they'll have a job cut out for them.

MEAC STANDINGS						
	CONF.	ALL				
	W.L.	W.L.				
Morgan	10-0	20-3	Virginia Union 11-5 13-8			
Maryland-ES	10-1	23-1	Hampton 7-8 11-13			
N.C. A&T	6-5	14-8	Elizabeth City 5-10 7-16			
Delaware State	5-7	16-9	St. Paul's 5-11 8-15			
Howard	4-7	9-12				
N.C. Central	2-9	5-13	SOUTHERN DIVISION			
S.C. State	2-10	11-14		CONF.	ALL	
				W.L.	W.L.	
			J.C. Smith	10-6	16-8	
			Winston-Salem	10-7	13-11	
			Fayetteville	7-6	12-10	
			Livingstone	6-9	9-14	
			Shaw	6-9	7-15	
			St. Augustine	3-13	4-16	
CIAA STANDINGS						
NORTHERN DIVISION						
Norfolk State	11-3	13-7				
Virginia State	10-4	17-5				

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