

FOR THE WEEK OF FEB. 24 THROUGH MARCH 1, 2004

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



BCSP Photo

ROCKIN' AND ROLLIN' IN RALEIGH

GRAMBLING SPEARS SPEARS; CIAA NAMES ALL-STARS, STARTS TOURNAMENT

HARDY: Bowie State all-CIAA guard jumpstarts CIAA tournament with 50-point outburst Monday.

2003-04 BLACK COLLEGE BASKETBALL (Men's Results, Standings and Weekly Honors)

Table with columns for SCORES, CIAA, MEAC, SIAC, SWAC, and INDEPENDENTS. Includes sub-sections for MONDAY, FEB. 23 and SATURDAY, FEB. 21.

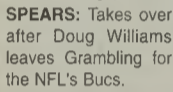
UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

SPEARS IN AT GRAMBLING:

Grambling State has named Melvin Spears, the team's assistant head coach and offensive coordinator for the last six seasons...

Grambling Sports Photo



SPEARS: Takes over after Doug Williams leaves Grambling for the NFL's Bucs. Alcorn State, is the architect of the potent and high-scoring Grambling offense...

TOP CIAA PLAYERS:

St. Augustine's forward Desmond Peoples and Shaw guard Jessica Hawkins have been named 2004 men's and women's CIAA Basketball Players of the Year...

All Pro Sports / Carroll Smith



PEOPLES: His scoring and rebounding key as St. Aug's claimed CIAA West Division title.

CIAA tips off tournament season

LUT WILLIAMS BCSP Editor

The men of Bowie State and the women of Shaw, defending Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association basketball champions...

The Tournament got off to a rousing start Monday in women's first round action as Bowie State's Allyson Hardy poured in 50 points...

When all is said and done, most expect the two favorites to cut down the nets.

Bowie State head coach Luke D'Alessio, who got the Bulldogs' their first-ever CIAA and South Atlantic Region titles...

Their 22-4 overall record, East Division title and #13 national ranking this season has been earned with an almost entirely new cast of stars...

GAMES THIS WEEK

Table listing basketball games for SAT., FEB. 28 and MON., MARCH 1, including teams and times.

Times are for men's games. Women's games usually start two hours before men's contests.



D'ALESSIO

Bowie State men, Shaw women favored to repeat

Cook (19.4 ppg., 10.6 rpg.). "The biggest difference between this year's team and last year's is experience."

"We believe we can go just as far. We had four losses coming into the tournament last year and we have four losses this year. We didn't win the East Division last year. We're a pretty confident team, but the biggest difference is experience."

D'Alessio's primary concern is the health of Cook and power forward Shawn Hampton. Cook has not practiced for two weeks while rehabilitating an injured knee.

"With them at 100 per cent, we'd not have to many worries," said D'Alessio. "We need consistent inside play (from them) to advance the way we did last year."

Shaw head coach Jacques Curtis's Lady Bears followed up last year's 31-3 mark, CIAA title and regional final berth with a 24-2

record this season which included running roughshod through CIAA opponents posting a perfect 16-0 league record. They received a bye in Monday's first round play.

Curtis's squad is led by CIAA Player of the Year, point guard Jessica Hawkins, an N. C. State transfer who topped the league in assists (5.8 apg) and steals (4.8 spg.) while scoring 11.9 points per game.

Both Bowie State and Shaw are all but assured of advancing to regional play regardless of their performance in the tournament. Bowie State is ranked second in the men's South Atlantic Region while Shaw tops the women's regional rankings.

Both the men and women of Virginia Union received first round byes as runners-up in the East Division and appear the most likely challengers to BSU and Shaw.

Dave Robbins's Panthers matched BSU's 22-4 mark but suffered two close losses to the Bulldogs in the regular season (87-82 and 91-83). Moses Golatt's 21-5 Pantherettes also lost twice to the



Shaw Univ. Sports Photo

CURTIS: His 22-4 Lady Bears of Shaw are 16-0 this season against CIAA competition.

Lady Bears taking 74-51 and 70-48 drubbings.

St. Augustine's (19-8) and Fayetteville State (19-10) emerged from the hotly contested men's West Division with the top two seeds and first round byes. They along with 15-12 Johnson C. Smith and 13-12 North Carolina Central are considered have longshot chances at the title.

Fayetteville State (14-11) and Johnson C. Smith (15-12), the top two seeds from the women's West Division, also received first round byes and are the teams that have played Shaw the closest this season, both dropping nine-point decisions.

CIAA TOURNAMENT INFO ON-LINE MEN'S TOURNAMENT BRACKET WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT BRACKET TOURNAMENT EVENTS SCHEDULE

BCSP Notes

Combine This!

Only two black college players made it into the NFL's National Combine in Indianapolis this week but a Who's Who of black college senior gridiron stars will descend on New Orleans Thursday through Sunday.

Jackson State quarterback Robert Kent and Hampton defensive end Isaac Hilton got to strut their stuff before a bevy of NFL scouts in Indianapolis while over 66 black college players are taking part in the first HBCU All-Star Classic, an event held at Zephyr Stadium in New Orleans with the goal of preparing black college prospects for opportunities in professional football.

Former NFL linebacker Richard Harvey, who spent 13 seasons in the league with Buffalo, New Orleans and Oakland believes the Classic is the right step to take for these aspiring professionals.

Though no game will be played and few scouts are expected this week, Harvey and his staff will take the players through a series of drills, tests and workouts and study playbooks just like players at the Combine.

"We want them to be ready when they do get the opportunity," said Harvey, a Tulane graduate who started his company, Electronic Sports, with his brother Antonio, an

NBA veteran now playing overseas. The company prepares videos of the players' workouts for prospective pro teams.

"We're not concerned with whether it's the NFL, AFL or NFL Europe. This is what they'll have to face at any level. We just want them to be prepared," said Harvey. Players from 33 of the 43 black college football programs are on the roster for this year's Classic. The roster can be viewed online at hbcualstarclassic.com.

The company has already scheduled a game for next year on Jan. 17, 2005 at Tad Gormley Stadium in New Orleans.

FAMU, Hampton take MEAC Indoor Track Titles

The Florida A&M men and Hampton women captured the 2004 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Indoor Track and Field Championship titles, Saturday in Landover, Md. Hampton women won their second straight title, while the Rattlers earned their first title in five years. Florida A&M men led with 97 team points, while Hampton women garnered 117.

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