

FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 29 - APRIL 4, 2016



Tennessee State Sports Photo

**JOB WELL DONE:** Dana Ford's team went from 5-26 last year to 20-11 this season earning him NABC Coach's award.

**HOOPS WRAP-UP**

**FINAL BCSP HOOPS RANKINGS, BCSP "BAAD" TEAM; SAVANNAH STATE NAMES NEW COACH**

**WOMEN'S ELITE EIGHT RECAP**

**QUARTERFINALS**

Bentley 53, Virginia Union 52  
SIOUX FALLS, S.D. -- CIAA and Atlantic Region champion Virginia Union fought back gamely but came up short, 53-52, to East Region champ Bentley in the women's NCAA Div. II Elite Eight, the national quarterfinals last Tuesday.

The Lady Panthers (28-3) were the last black college team alive in postseason play.

The tightly-contested battle saw VUU take its only lead of the game in the opening minute before Bentley (29-5) sprinted out to a 24-18 first quarter lead. VUU fought back to pull within 36-32 at the break before Bentley pushed the lead back to six, at 48-42 at the end of three quarters. VUU made its final push in the fourth quarter.

VUU cut the lead to one five times in the final period, the last time on a Kiana Johnson jumper in the paint with :59 seconds to play. Johnson's steal on the ensuing possession gave the ball back to the Lady Panthers with :29 seconds left.

Johnson, the nation's leading scorer (29.3 ppg.), MVP of both the CIAA and Atlantic Region tournaments and the WBCA Div. II player of the year, got off two shots in the last half-minute. The first from eight feet in the lane was partially blocked with :08 seconds left. After VUU regained possession and called a time out, the second shot, a runner from about the same spot in the lane hit the back of the rim and bounced away with :02 seconds left before the clock ran out.

Johnson finished with 26 points on 8 of 26 shooting from the field, just 3 of 15 in the second half. She added seven assists and five steals. Lady Walker had 11 points and 10 rebounds while Taylor White added six points and 10 boards.

Bentley lost its next game in the national semifinals to Lubbock Christian, 67-57. Lubbock Christian will meet Alaska-Anchorage for the Div. II national championship on Monday, April 4 in Indianapolis.



Johnson

**BCSP Notes**

**Kee out leading Fayetteville State men**

Fayetteville, NC -- The Fayetteville State University Department of Athletics and Alphonza Kee have mutually agreed to end Kee's tenure as head men's basketball coach.

"I want to thank Fayetteville State University for providing the opportunity to serve as head men's basketball coach and an instructor over the past seven years," stated Kee. "With the leadership in place, I am certain the university will reach their goals. As an alumnus, I'm excited about the future of FSU men's basketball."

Kee recently completed his seventh season at the helm of the Broncos men's basketball program. He compiled an overall record of 91-105 and a CIAA mark of 47-70. Kee was elected the CIAA Men's Basketball Coach of the Year at the conclusion of the 2013-14 season. He led the Broncos to an overall record of 19-10 and a CIAA mark of 10-6 that year.

"Fayetteville State University is appreciative of the dedication and support Coach Kee and his staff have made to our men's basketball program and the young men he has coached," said Director of Athletics Anthony Bennett.

Associate head men's basketball coach Corey Thompson will serve as the interim head coach during the transition period. The university will begin a search for a new head men's basketball coach immediately.

**Brown dismissed as Prairie View women's hoops coach, plans appeal**

Prairie View A&M University Director of Athletics Ashley Robinson announced last week that head women's basketball coach Dawn Brown will not return next season.

Brown finished with a 41-51 record in three seasons at Prairie View A&M. She led PVAMU to the 2014 SWAC Tournament Championship and NCAA Women's Basketball Division I Tournament. The Lady Panthers finished the 2015-16 season 13-15 overall and 9-9 in SWAC play.

Prior to being named head coach at PVAMU, Brown spent three seasons as the team's assistant coach.

In a statement published on Whoopdirt.com, Brown indicated that she intends to appeal her termination.

"Today, Prairie View A&M fired me because its investigation determined that [a] rule [regarding prohibition of non-professional relationships between individuals affiliated with our team] violated Title IX even though the same Title IX office that conducted the investigation helped me draft the rule two years ago. Clearly, I feel betrayed and unjustly penalized by this action."

**SC State's Garvin and Tenn State's Ford named NABC District Coaches of the Year**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. -- South Carolina State head men's basketball coach Murray Garvin and Tennessee State head coach Dana Ford have been named 2016 National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) District Coaches of the Year. Garvin earned the honor for District 15 while Ford was named coach of the year for District 19.

Garvin, in his third full season at the helm, earned his second Coach of the Year honor this season. He was also named MEAC Coach of the Year for the first time after leading the Bulldogs to a 12-4 record in conference play finishing in a tie for second place. He guided SC State to a 19-15 overall record, the best regular-season finish since 2005. The Bulldogs advanced to the MEAC Championship game and earned a CIT postseason tournament bid by CollegeInsider.com.

Ford, who earned Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year earlier this month, led the Tigers to one of the biggest turnaround seasons in NCAA history, improving from 5-26 in 2014-15 to 20-11 this season. TSU finished one game behind Belmont for the best record in the OVC regular season standings and also earned a berth to the CollegeInsider.com Post-season Tournament.

All award winners were selected and voted on by member coaches of the NABC, which highlights and represent college basketball players and coaches across America.

**MEN'S "BAAD" TEAM OF BLACK COLLEGE ALL-STARS**



Griffin

Lemon

Johnson

Lewis

Six-foot junior guard James Daniel III of Howard, the MEAC player of the year who led Div. I scorers almost the entire year and finished at No. 1 at 27.4 points per game, and Texas Southern redshirt freshman Derrick Griffin, who swept three SWAC individual awards, are the leaders of the 2015-16 Black College Sports Page "Baad" Team of basketball all-stars and the BCSP co-players of the year.

Daniel also led the nation in free throw attempts with 331, making 280 to shoot a 84.5%, second best in the MEAC. Griffin, also an all-SWAC wide receiver in football, led TSU to the SWAC regular season title with averages of 13.3 points and a SWAC-best 11.1 rebounds per game. He also topped the SWAC shooting .662 from the field and in blocks (2.3 pg.) while posting 19 double-doubles in 27 games. He won SWAC player, defensive player and newcomer of the year awards.

The other first teamers are Hampton senior guard Reginald Johnson who finished behind Daniel in MEAC scoring (18.7 ppg.) while leading the Pirates to regular season and tournament titles, Stillman's 6-4 senior guard Rodnerius Lewis, the SIAC player of the year who led the league champs in scoring at 19.8 points per game and CIAA Player of the Year Stedmon Lemon of South Division champ Johnson C. Smith who led that league scoring 21.0 points per game.



Daniel

**WOMEN'S "BAAD" TEAM OF BLACK COLLEGE ALL-STARS**



Tate-DeFreitas

Wright

Haynes

Holston

Picking the top women's player for this season was relatively simple.

Virginia Union senior guard Kiana Johnson brought national attention to the little school in Richmond, Va. as she matched Howard guard James Daniel in leading the nation in scoring for the entire season en route to being named the NCAA Div. II player of the year and a first team all-American.

Johnson, who spent three years as a starting point guard at Michigan State, topped the nation in scoring at 29.2 points per game and in total steals with 128 (4.13 per game, 3rd) and was second in assists averaging 8.7 per game. She adds the 2015-16 women's BCSP player of the year to her list of accolades and is the leader of this year's "Baad" Team.

Joining Johnson on the first team are two-time MEAC Player of the Year Malia Tate-DeFreitas of Hampton, who topped that league's scoring charts at 21.4 points per game. Alcorn State forward Norianna Haynes, the SWAC player of the year and scoring leader at 20.0 ppg., Alabama State junior forward Britney Wright (14.7 ppg., 8.7 rpg.) and Albany State junior forward Artisha Holston, who averaged 13.3 points and a league-best 11.3 rebounds per game en route to SIAC player of the year



Johnson

**UNDER THE BANNER**

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

**SAVANNAH STATE TABS RAEURN:**

SAVANNAH, Ga.- Savannah State has selected Erik Raeburn as the new head football coach. Raeburn will be the 25th head football coach in the history of the program.

Raeburn, 44, comes to SSU from Wabash College located in Crawfordsville, Ind. A proven winner, in his eight years at Wabash, Raeburn accumulated a record of 78-13, earned five trips to the Division III playoffs and had 16 student-athletes earn All-America status. His 2015 squad posted a 12-1 record and advanced to the quarterfinals of the Division III playoffs.

Wabash was 10-2 in 2008, Raeburn's first season and advanced to the second round of the NCAA Division III playoffs. In 2009, the Little Giants went 9-2 and made another trip to the NCAA playoffs. Wabash missed the playoffs in 2010, despite an 8-2 record, but bounced back the following year where they went 12-1 and made it to the NCAA quarterfinals. That same year, Raeburn was named North Coast Athletic Conference Coach of the Year.

The 2013 squad was ranked 17th in the nation in the final D3football.com Top-25 poll. Raeburn led Wabash to a 10-2 record in 2014, including a berth in the NCAA Division III playoffs and finished 13th in the final D3football.com.

Before he became head coach at Wabash, Raeburn spent eight years as head football coach at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he posted a 51-26 record. Prior to arriving at Coe, he was an assistant coach at his alma mater, Mount Union College, where he served as offensive line coach and offensive coordinator.

Raeburn earned his Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics from Mount Union College and is currently pursuing his master's degree. As an assistant coach under Larry Kehres at Mount Union, he helped the Purple Raiders win six Ohio Athletic Conference Championships and three NCAA Division III National Championships (1996, 1997, 1998).

**PITTMAN RELIEVED AT FVSU:**  
FORT VALLEY, GA - Fort Valley State Director of Athletics Dr. Joshua Murfree announced Monday that head football coach Donald Pittman has been relieved of his duties, effective immediately. Assistant head coach Keithen DeGrate will serve as interim head coach for the Wildcats.fvsu cat  
Pittman had served as FVSU's head coach since December 2009 and had compiled a 40-33 overall record in seven seasons.  
The university is launching a national search for a new head football coach.



Raeburn

**2015 -16 BASKETBALL FINAL RANKINGS**

**BCSP MEN'S FINAL TOP FIVES (DIV. I and DIV. II)**

**DIV. I**

1. HAMPTON (21-11) - MEAC regular season and tournament champs (81-69 over SC State) bowed out in second round of NCAA Tournament to Virginia, 81-45.
2. SOUTHERN (22-13) - Finished fourth in SWAC regular season but won SWAC tourney over Jackson State (54-53).Lost in NCAA First Four to Holy Cross, 59-55.
3. TEXAS SOUTHERN (18-15) - SWAC regular season champs lost to Southern (62-54) in SWAC Tourney semis. Lost to Valparaiso (84-73) in first round of NIT.
4. SOUTH CAROLINA STATE (19-15) - Finished tied for second in MEAC regular season and lost to Hampton in MEAC Tournament finals, 81-69. Lost in CIT first round to Grand Canyon, 78-74.
5. JACKSON STATE (20-16) - Finished fourth in SWAC regular season and lost to Southern in SWAC Tourney finals (54-53). Beat Sam Houston State (81-77, 2 OTs) in first round of CIT. Lost to Grand Canyon (64-54) in second round of CIT.

**DIV. II**

1. VIRGINIA STATE (24-6) - CIAA North Division champs won CIAA Tourney title over Livingstone (89-79). Defeated Fairmont State (76-66) in NCAA Div. II Atlantic Region first round before falling to West Liberty (84-74) in second round. (TIE) STILLMAN (26-6) - SIAC West champs defeated LeMoyné-Owens (90-76) for SIAC Tourney title. Defeated West Georgia (85-79) in first round of Div. II South Regional. Fell to Alabama-Huntsville (81-71) in the second round.
3. LIVINGSTONE (15-17) - Finished fourth in CIAA South Division but made fourth straight tournament finals before losing to Virginia State (89-79).
4. LEMOYNE-OWEN (16-15) - Came from SIAC West fourth-seed to make tourney finals, losing to Stillman (90-76).
3. JOHNSON C. SMITH (14-12) - Tied for CIAA South Division title and bowed out in CIAA Tournament quarters to Livingstone (97-91, 2 OTs).

**BCSP WOMEN'S FINAL TOP FIVES (DIV. I and DIV. II)**

**DIV. I**

1. NORTH CAROLINA A&T (19-12) - Tied with Bethune-Cookman for MEAC regular season title and defeated Coppin State for MEAC Tourney title (65-46). Lost to Notre Dame 95-61 in NCAA first round.
- (TIE) ALABAMA STATE (19-12) - Tied with Southern and Texas Southern for SWAC regular season title and won SWAC tourney over Jackson State (54-53). Lost in NCAA first round to Texas, 86-42.
3. SOUTHERN (19-12) - Finished tied for first in SWAC regular season then lost to Alabama State in SWAC Tourney finals (55-51). Lost in first round of WNIT, 68-45 to Arkansas State.
4. BETHUNE-COOKMAN (18-13) - Tied for MEAC regular season title with NC A&T. Lost in tournament quarterfinals to SC State (57-50). Lost in WNIT first round to Florida Gulf Coast, 78-51.
5. COPPIN STATE (16-16) - Finished fourth in MEAC regular season but made it to tournament title game before falling to NC A&T, 65-46.

**DIV. II**

1. VIRGINIA UNION (28-3) - CIAA North Division champs won CIAA Tourney title over Shaw (70-66). Won Atlantic Region title over West Liberty, 91-77. Lost in Elite Eight to Bentley, 53-52.
2. BENEDICT (29-3) - SIAC East champs won SIAC tourney title over Kentucky State, 74-52. Reached South Region final before falling to Florida Southern (64-56).
3. KENTUCKY STATE (23-5) - Won SIAC West but lost to Benedict in tourney finals (74-52). Bowed out in first round of South Regional to Florida Southern (61-50).
4. SHAW (24-8) - Won CIAA South but lost to Virginia Union (70-66) in tournament finals. Lost in Atlantic Region first round to West Liberty (85-70).
5. CHOWAN (20-9) - Finished second in CIAA North lost in tournament semifinals to Shaw (86-77). Lost in Atlantic Region first round to California (Pa.), 80-70.

**REGISTER TO VOTE**