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NCCU Eagles Win Second Consecutive MEAC Basketball Tournament Championship

NORFOLK, Va. - North Carolina Central University is heading back to the NCAA Tournament after knocking off top-seeded Hampton, 71-63 in a hard-fought MEAC Championship game at Scope Arena in Norfolk, Virginia.

This is NCCU's (19-15) third MEAC Tournament Championship in the past five years, and the Eagles are now 3-0 in MEAC Championship games.

The Eagles and Hampton (17-15) went back-and-forth in the first half, and NCCU was propelled by Pablo Rivas (Colón, Panama) who put in 11 points. However, Malique Trent-Street (Portsmouth, Va.) hit a long-range three-pointer right before the end of the half to give the Pirates a 28-27 advantage at the half.

NCCU started the second half on an 11-2 run, and pulled ahead of Hampton 38-30 on some big treys from John Guerra (Cary, N.C.) and Rivas. Hampton immediately shrunk the lead, and eventually went on an 8-0 run to take a one-point lead at 53-52 with 7:30 remaining.

The game stayed locked together for the next three minutes, but then the Eagles ripped off an 11-0 run in the last minute-and-a-half to create enough space to seal the victory.

Rivas chipped in a game-high 22 points with five rebounds, and Guerra provided a big spark with 12 points and five rebounds. Jordan Perkins (Greensboro, N.C.) dished out a game-high nine assists with 13 points.

Hampton was led by Trent-Street (Portsmouth, Va.) who put in 15 points, and both Kalin Fisher (Chicago, Ill.) and Akim Mitchell (Charlotte, N.C.) put in 11.

Raasean Davis (Chicago, Ill.) and Rivas were both named to the All-Tournament team, and Rivas was named Most Outstanding Performer. NCCU head coach LeVelle Moton was also named Most Outstanding Coach.

The No. 16-seeded Eagles will play fellow No. 16-seeded Texas Southern, from Houston, at the First Four in Dayton, Ohio, March 14.

Tennis coach suspended over player's comment resigns

BOONE (AP) - A college men's tennis coach who was suspended after one of his players made a racially charged comment to an opposing player has resigned.

The Winston-Salem Journal reports Appalachian State University announced on March 9 that coach Bob Lake has stepped down, effective immediately. He had been the men's tennis coach at Appalachian State since 2000.

Appalachian State player Spencer Brown was suspended after a black opponent tweeted that Brown told him "at least I know my dad" during a match in late January. Brown, who is white, was suspended indefinitely after the match with John Wilson of North Carolina A&T State University, a historically black college.

Volunteer assistant coach Jack Maddocks will act as head coach for the rest of the season.

Another explosion rocks Texas capital and injures woman

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) - Investigators believe a package bomb that killed a teenager and wounded a woman in Austin on March 12 is linked to a similar bombing that killed a man elsewhere in the city this month, and they're considering whether race was a factor because all of the victims were black.

Police didn't immediately identify the teenager killed Monday. Manley said the woman who was injured in that attack is a 40-year-old woman who remains hospitalized.

Shortly after police Chief Brian Manley held a news conference in which he linked the Monday morning attack that killed a 17-year-old boy and injured a woman with a March 2 attack that killed a 39-year-old man, authorities rushed to the scene of another blast that badly injured a woman.

Authorities haven't said whether the most recent blast was also caused by a package bomb or if the victim, like those killed or injured in the two confirmed bombings, is black. Austin-Travis County EMS tweeted that the woman is in her 70s and was taken to Dell Seton Medical Center with potentially life-threatening injuries.

The latest explosions happened during the South by Southwest music, film and technology festival, which brings about 400,000 visitors to Austin each year, and authorities have urged the public to call the police if they receive any unexpected packages. The explosions happened far from the main events of the festival, which runs through Sunday, and there was no immediate word from organizers about additional safety precautions being taken.

Four years ago, a driver plowed through a barricade and into festival-goers, killing four people and injuring many others. Additional security measures were taken in the aftermath, including additional policing, tougher security checks and brighter street lighting, among others.

The three explosions occurred in different parts of east Austin. Monday's first explosion happened at a home near the city's Windsor Park neighborhood and about 12 miles (20 kilometers) from the home where the March 2 package bomb killed 39-year-old Anthony Stephen House. The March 2 blast was initially investigated as a suspicious death, but is now viewed as a homicide.

Monday's second explosion - the cause of which was still being investigated - happened in the Montopolis neighborhood, near the airport and about five miles south of the day's first blast.

Manley said investigators believe the March 2 and Monday's first attack are related. In both cases, the packages were left overnight on the victims' doorsteps and were not mailed or sent by a delivery service. He said the U.S. Postal Service doesn't have a record of delivering the package to the home where Monday's explosion occurred, and that private carriers like UPS and FedEx also indicated that they had none, either.

"There are similarities that we cannot rule out that these two items are, in fact, related," Manley said.

Manley said investigators haven't determined a motive for the attacks, but it is possible that the victims could have been targeted because they are black.

"We don't know what the motive behind these may be," Manley said. "We do know that both of the homes that were the recipients of these packages belong to African-Americans, so we cannot rule out that hate crime is at the core of this. But we're not saying that that's the cause as well."

Special Agent Michelle Lee, a San Antonio-based spokesman for the FBI, said the agency "responded to both events" and was assisting Austin police, who were taking the lead on investigating. She said the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives was taking the lead on the federal investigation.

Manley said that a second package was discovered near the site of the initial Monday explosion and that some residents and media members were evacuated or pushed farther from the blast site as authorities determined whether it was a bomb.



REP. MAXINE WATERS

Black congresswoman: Trump racist for joking about her IQ

WASHINGTON (AP) - A black congresswoman says President Donald Trump is racist for joking about her intelligence and again called for his impeachment.

Democrat Maxine Waters of California fired back after Trump referred to Waters' previous calls for his impeachment at the Gridiron Dinner this weekend in Washington.

Trump said at the dinner: "Maxine Waters, 'He must be impeached!' That's all she knows how to say."

He added, "She has to immediately take an IQ test."

Waters said March 11 on MSNBC: "He has been name-calling. He's been saying all kinds of things. And I certainly expected him to come out with some racist remarks about me. So, he did exactly what I expected him do."

The White House did not immediately respond March 11 to a request for comment on Waters' allegation.