FAMU may get spot in tournament

By DAVID BULLA Chronicle Sports Editor

A rather significant off-thecourt development has occurred in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference in the last month.

Bethune-Cookman is not classified by the NCAA this school year because of an infraction committed in a non-revenue sport. The Wildcats are not eligible for any post-season NCAAsponsored playoffs or tournaments, including the Division I basketball tournament.

The MEAC has an automatic bid to that tourney that goes to the MEAC Tournament winner.

B-CC may be asked not to participate in the MEAC Tournament in March, said Commissioner Ken Free.

"We would lose our automatic berth in the MEAC Tournament if Bethune-Cookman won the tournament," Free said. "If they had been the champion in football, we would have lost our automatic berth in the I-AA playoffs."

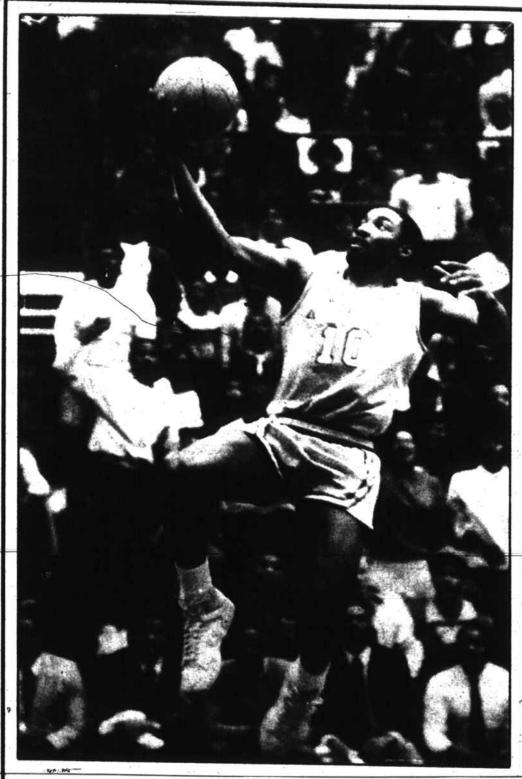
Accordingly, Florida A&M was readmitted to the conference last month by a vote of the Delegate Assembly with the hope of getting the Rattlers to take the Wildcats' place in the MEAC Tournament. The NCAA requires that a conference have at least six teams in a post-season tourney that determines the recipient of an automatic berth for the NCAA playoffs. Coppin and Morgan State are ineligible again this year because of a mandatory three-year grace period for promotion from Division II to I.

Free said no final decision has been made on whether FAMU would play in the MEAC Tournament instead of B-CC. Free said the faculty representative of each school has voted to make FAMU eligible if B-CC can be persuaded to sit out this year.

This news caused consternation among some conference coaches because FAMU plays only home-and-home games with South Carolina State and Bethune-Cookman this season.

"I'm not sure I understand how they're eligible for the tourney without playing a conference schedule," North Carolina A&T's Don Corbett told the Greensboro News & Record.

Corbett, who has won the last five automatic berths to the NCAA tourney, wanted to know how FAMU, an independent before last Dec. 20, could put itself in position for a NCAA appearance without playing a full load of conference games.



Hot Hand

A&T's Corvin Davis drives in for a layup in the Aggies' 84-68 win over Howard; the sophomore had a career-high 17 points (photo by Joe Daniels).

Moreover, the conference tourney winner gets a guaranteed appearance fee for the NCAA berth. Last season, it was worth \$167,000, part of which was divided among the other conference members.

Florida A&M had been in the conference from 1979-84. The Rattlers withdrew from the league in '84 because of a dispute with Bethune-Cookman over the site of their annual football game. The school had had an open invitation to join the Southwestern Athletic Conference, but did not because too many of the teams were too far away.

"We have more in common regionally with the MEAC schools," FAMU Athletic Director Nelson Townsend said. "Originally, Florida A&M left the MEAC because of its dispute with Bethune-Cookman over the football game (annually between the two). We got along with the conference at-large."

Townsend said the automatic berths for the revenue sports are important to FAMU, especially because the NCAA tends to overlook independents in its selection of post-season playoff and tournament participants.

"But the most important thing is the opportunity to play in conference championships for our non-revenue sports like track and field," Townsend said. "We field cross country, indoor and outdoor track teams. But unless an individual has a good enough time to qualify for the NCAA regionals, then it is an empty experience not winning any championship."

Townsend said the FAMU women's basketball team will compete in the 2-year-old, sixmember New South Women's Athletic Conference Tournament this season.

"We will make a decision on where the better placement is for next season at a later date," he Please see page B13

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1987 DUKE BLUE DEVIL **BASKETBALL SCHEDULE**

Jan. 3	Virginia
Jan. 5	WILLIAM & MARY
Jan. 7	ST. JOSEPH'S
Jan. 10	NORTH CAROLINA
Jan. 14	Maryland,
Jan. 17	WAKE FOREST
Jan. 21	N.C. State
Jan. 24	Clemson
Jan. 26	CORNELL
Jan. 29	Georgia Tech
Jan. 31	Wake Forest
	STETSON
Feb. 4	VIRGINIA
Feb. 7	MARYLAND
Feb. 10	Harvard
Feb. 15	Notre Dame
Feb. 19	N.C. STATE
Feb. 21	GEORGIA TECH
Feb. 26	North Carolina
Feb. 28	CLEMSON
Mar. 6-8	ACC Tournament
	(All 7 games)
Schedule sub	ject to change

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Black College Standings

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0	0	7	4		
1	1	7	3		
1	2	4	6		
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	Nor Div.		Division All Games		
Team	W	L	1967	W	L
Union	1	0		10	2
Norfolk	0	0	-	10	•
Hampton	.0	0		9	-3
ECSU	0	0		5	5
St. Paul's	0	0		5	8
Bowie	0	0		1	10
Va State	0	- 11		6	6

Dec. 20 Results

UDC 69. WSSU 64 0T Virginia State 83 Delaware State 74 Norfolk State 83. Alabama A&M 66

Jan.2 Results

Norfolk 105. Central State 75 ECSU 102, Clark 95 Hampton 84, Bowie State 64 Savannah State 75. St. Paul's 68

Jan. 3 Results

Hampton 87., Savannah State 78. St Paul's 54. Bowie State 44 Norfolk State 62, Clark 40 ECSU 88 Central 81 OT

Last Monday's Result

St. Paul's 75. Clinch Valley 61

Last Thursday's Results

Virginia Union 79 N.C. Central 63 Elizabeth City 83. Bowie State 70

Norfolk State 89 St. Augustine's 70 Va State 108 Rutgers-Camden 75

J C Smith 57. Shaw 55

Last Friday's Result

WSSII 78 Hamp' - 2

Last Saturday's Resums

WSSU 79. Elizabeth City 67 Fayetteville at Shaw J C Smith 112 Livingstone 78 St Paul's at Virginia Union N.C. Central 67 St. Augustine's 65 Virginia State at Bowie State

Thursday's Games

Shaw at WSSU Bowie State at St. Paul s. Roxboro at L vingstone Fayetteville State at Va. State

WSSU at St Augustine's. UDC at Bowie State Fayetteville at N.C. Central Hampton at St. Paul's Paine at J.C. Smith Shaw at Livingstone Va State at Norfolk State

Next Monday's Games

WSSU at Fayetteville State St Paul's at Bowie J C Smith at Livingstone

Next Tuesday's Games

Livingstone at St. Augustine's

UDC at Hampton

CIAA Women Southern Division

	Conf.	ieiii e	All Games			
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haw	0	0	5	1 .		
t Aug	0.	0	6	2		
rssu *	0	0	5.	4		
€CU -	0	0	3	4		
sione	0	0	2	4		
CSU	0	1	3	4		
CCU stone			3 2	4 4		

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	Nort Conf.	rn D	Division All Games			
Team	W	L		W	L	
Va State	1	0		7	1	•
Hampton	0	0		7	1	
Norfolk	0	0		6	2	
St Paul's	0	0		4	4	
ECSU	0	0		1	4	
Bowie	0	0		1	4	
Union	0	1		0	5	

Thursday's Games

C Smith at Shaw Bowie State at Elizabeth City Saturday's Games

Livingstone at J C Smith Hampton at Delaware State Fayetteville State at Shaw Virginia State at Bowie State

