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A battle is won, but the war continues

Schools in the Southwestern Athletic and Mid-Eastern Athletic conferences came away from last month's NCAA Convention in Nashville, Tenn., feeling good about themselves and their future in Division I.

They had reason to.

Going into the convention, they faced the real possibility of being demoted to Division II in light of some of the reforms that had been proposed. Thanks to modifications in some of the proposals -- brought about through lobbying and politicking -- SWAC and MEAC members were able to remain in Division I.

They got a bonus when the membership approved a postseason bowl game between the two conference champions, which if staged properly could be a financial bonanza.

A word of warning though. SWAC and MEAC members shouldn't become too comfortable with their gains.

The Ohio States, Oklahomas, and Notre Dames of college athletics still resent being equals with the SWAC, MEAC and smaller conferences.

The cost containment measures that the larger schools sought is proof of that. While they're talking about ways to cut spending, SWAC and MEAC schools are now in a position of having to spend more just to meet the minimum requirements.

Sooner or later, they'll come up with some new requirements that will squeeze out the have nots. That has been the pattern over the years.

First they created Division 1-AA. Next they stripped the NCAA of its power to negotiate television contracts in football, a move that robbed the smaller schools of exposure and

They appeared poised to deliver the coupe de grace at the Nashville convention.

They proposed that Division I schools be required to:

Field seven men's and seven women's sports;

 Award a minimum of 50 percent of the maximum allowable grants in each sport or spend \$250,000 on men's sports and \$250,000 on women's sports, or give 25 scholarships in men's and women's sports, excluding football and men's and women's basketball.

Those proposals would have forced most SWAC and MEAC schools to add two sports or scramble to come up with some non-existent dollars.

The modified proposals allows indoor track and outdoor track and cross country to be counted as separate sports. That means that only one that has to be added. For many schools, adding two sports would have been asking the impossible.

Another modification allows Pell Grants to be counted towards the financial requirement.

When the convention ended, SWAC and MEAC members could hardly contain their euphoria. But they must remember that they've only won a battle. The war continues.

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PHOTO CREDITS: Cover photo -- Fayetteville State coach Jeff Capel by T-Lee; Inset photo by BCSR Staff; SWAC photo--Southern U's Robert Youngblood by James W. Terry III; Trife defense photo--Coppin State's Larry McCollum by Max Dunhill.

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Photo by Max Dunhill

A&T gridmaster Bill Hayes is the Sheridan Broadcasting Network's Coach of The Year. SBN team honored in Feb.

The Southwestern Athletic Conference took top honors as 10 of that league's players were named to the 1990 Sherdian Broadcasting Black College All-America football team.

Additionally, SWAC captured the MVP awards --Grambling running back Walter Dean was named Offensive Player Of The Year and Southern cornerback Aeneas Williams was tabbed the Defensive Player Of The Year. Bill Hayes of North Carolina A&T was named Coach Of The Year.

The Sheridan team will be honored on Feb. 9 at the Sheridan Broadcasting Network's All-America Banquet in Richmond, Va.

Please see page 5

Sheridan All-Americans

PLAYER	POS.	HT.	WT:	SCHOOL	CLASS
Raymond Smith	OT	6-6	390	Grambling	Sr.
Charles Hope	OG	6-4	278	Central State	Jr.
Eric Williams	OG OT	6-4 6-6	285	Central State	Sr.
Terry Beauford	0G 00	6-3	280	Florida A&M	Sr.
Rod Daniels		6-2	290	Norfolk State	Sr.
David Jones	TE	6-4	220	Delaware State	Sr.
Jake Reed	WR	6-4	215	Grambling	St.
Chris Holder	WR	6-0	185	Tuskegee	Jr.
Maurice Heard	QB RB *	5-11	200	Tuskegee	Jr.
Walter Dean	KB T	5-11	205	Grambling	Sr.
Ivory Lee Brown	RB PK	6-2	230 207	Arkansas Pine Bluff	Sr.
lke Ayozie	rn.	5-11	201	Jackson State	Sr.
	7		DEFEN	ar.	
Eric Elzy .	מיייום	6-4	305	Jackson Stune	Sr
lames Dozier	DB.	6-3	240	Morgan State	Sr.
Leon Crenshaw	DE	6-2	307	Tuskegee	St.
Henry Blades	DT	6-2	280	Grambling	Sr.
David Wonlard	LB	6-3	245	Mississippi Valley St.	Sr.
Eddie Robinson Jr.	LB	6-3	240	Alabama State	Jr.
Simon Shanks	LB DB	6-1	215	Tennessee State	Soph.
A am an a lifelt anne	000000000 P / + 700000000	5-11	186	Southern	Sr.
Mario Black	DB	6-0	190	Fort Valley State	Şr.
Mario Black Ricky Hill	DB DB	5-9	165	South Carolina State	Jr.
Aeneas Williams Mario Black Ricky Hill Robert Turner Colin Godfrey	DB			South Carolina State Jackson State Tennessee State	

Mensive Priver of the Year Walter Dean Defensive Player Of The Year Aeneas Williams Coach Of The Year Bill Hayes, North Carolina A&T