



WSSU Photo

WSSU football team celebrates becoming CIAA Champions.

## CIAA

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"A lot of people were down and out on us with the way we started the sea-

son," said Boulware, "and we were in a crucial point late in the season. So the mission was to continue to love these guys and share the blame and let them

know we were as much a part of this thing as they were. But the key was not to mess it up and stay focused and it paid off for us in the end."

Bowie State (9-2) dropped its first game vs. a CIAA opponent after going 7-0 in the regular season. The Bulldogs and CIAA Coach of the Year Damon Wilson, selected by the Coaches Association and Sports Information Directors, went into the game ranked second in the NCAA Div. II Super Region One and awaits the announcement of the D2 playoff field on Sunday. WSSU's season is likely over.

With the score knotted at 14, WSSU started the final drive from its own 19 with 5:35 to play and needed 15 plays to set up the game-clinching kick. Going with an empty backfield, redshirt freshman quarterback Rod Tinsley Jr. calmly led them down the field. He hit wideout Rashaun Williams with a 23-yard pass on the first play of the drive. Five plays later, senior running back Tyree Massey (20 carries, 69 yards) converted a 3rd-and-10, running 21 yards down to the BSU 26 and later converted another 3rd-and-10, gaining 11 yards down to the BSU 2.

Two plays later, Johnson, the CIAA's second team all-conference placekicker, split the uprights as the horn sounded.

Tinsley, who completed 15 of 25 passes for 175 yards and ran for 32 yards on 12 carries, was named WSSU's game MVP. Bowie State freshman quarterback Nyema Washington (19-34-0, 209 yards, 1 TD) earned the Bulldogs' MVP award. Kendall Jefferson led the Bulldogs rushing for 62 yards on 18 carries.

"We knew we could do it," said Tinsley of the game-winning drive. "We had a lot of confidence. We just wanted to score. That was the most important thing, whether it was a touchdown or field goal. I just wanted to stay calm, no pressure."

The WSSU defense, who shut out BSU in the second half after trailing 14-7 at the break, was led by defensive end Michael Bloomfield who registered four sacks among five tackles for losses and had one forced fumble. He said the Rams turned it up in the second half.

"I felt like the New York football Giants because the Giants did the same thing to win the Super Bowl against the New England Patriots, twice," said Bloomfield. "So a defensive game when we're getting turnovers and stops after stops after stops, it felt great."

WSSU trailed 14-0 late in the second quarter before scoring its first touchdown with under :08 seconds left in the half on a 4-yard run by Massey. The drive started with 1:12 left with the Rams needing just four plays to reach pay dirt. The score was set up by two Tinsley to Williams passes, one covering 44 yards to the BSU 31 and another of 21 yards to the BSU 8. Williams led the Rams hauling in five passes for 102 yards. The Rams went into the breakdown 14-7.

After a third quarter with nothing but punts from both teams, WSSU struck quickly to tie the score midway thru the fourth quarter when senior wideout Reggie Wilkins

hauled in a 20-yard pass from Tinsley. It was the second play of a 45-yard drive that began with a 25-yard pass from Tinsley to Brandon Ojikutu. Johnson's PAT tied it at 14 with 8:38 to play.

The teams exchanged fumbles early in the fourth period, Bowie State losing it on a fumble by Washington. Three plays later, a botched WSSU handoff led to a recovery and run down to the WSSU 17 by Bowie defensive back Brian Hall. A scrum afterward led to the ejection of WSSU lineman Jacque Polite. BSU drove to the WSSU 4 before two false start penalties took them back to the 14. Palmer's 32-yard field goal attempt from there was blocked and fell short.

After a scoreless first quarter, Bowie State drew first blood scoring on a one-yard run by Washington at the end of a 20-play, 86-yard drive that took 6:38 off the clock. One of the key plays in the drive was a 13-yard run from punt formation on 4th-and-one from the Bowie 46 by Palmer. He later kicked thru the extra point and the Bulldogs led 7-0 with 13:20 left in the quarter.

BSU came back to score later in the period on a 64-yard pass from Washington to Kerrick Bullock to go up 14-0 with 1:29 left in the half.

The teams played on near even terms in the first half with Bowie State racking up 186 yards and WSSU getting 171. BSU held just a six second advantage in time of possession in the first half (15:03 to 14:57).



Photo by Craig T. Greenlee

Malik Brevard (32) is emerging as a shot-blocking presence who provides inside scoring and rebounding for QEA.

## QEA

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court sets because of Hill's zone. "That game was a test," said Pitts. "We turned up the defensive pressure in the fourth quarter and forced some turnovers, which led to a lot of open 3s for us."

The leading scorers for Hill Academy were UNLV commit Justin Jackson (13 points) and Justin Andrews (11 points).

In the opener, QEA went up 18-6 at the end of the first quarter and maintained a double-digits lead for the rest of the contest. Corprew finished with 26 points, 10 rebounds and 5 steals and McGill came off

the bench to score 11 points in 14 minutes

QEA's depth and overall quickness offset the production of Virginia Episcopal's Sacha Killeya-Jones, a highly regarded recruit who signed with Kentucky last week. Killeya-Jones more than lived up to advanced billing as marquee player with 17 points, 16 rebounds and 4 blocked shots. Justice Kithcart, who has committed to Pitt, scored a team-high 20 points.

## Corprew rescinds commitment

Corprew announced last weekend that he's had a change of heart about his verbal commitment to Arkansas-Little Rock. The

6-foot-5 senior who initially committed in September, wants to further explore his options. Even so, that doesn't mean that A-LR is out of the recruiting picture.

"I didn't take my visit, so I think I made the decision too early," he said. So, I'll take all of my (recruiting) visits and see what they have to offer. They (Arkansas-Little Rock) are still on my list, so I'll visit there, too."

Aside from Arkansas-Little Rock, the schools that have expressed interest in Corprew include: Washington State, Fresno State, Kansas State and Florida State. Corprew has not set a timetable for when he'll make a final decision.

## AYF

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Montae Jackson led the defense with six solo tackles.

"Last year, we beat this same team in the regionals, so now, we're all even," said coach Javon Manley, whose team finished the season at 10-1. "We're not new to this stage (regional play). I feel good about our chances to make it to the nationals next year when we move up to the next level (Cadets Division)."

South Ford earned its berth to the title game with a 20-13 win over the Beacon House Falcons (Washington, D.C.). Gavin Hardy had two touchdown runs and Brown also rushed for a score.

## Division II

Union Cross went up by three touchdowns in the first half to set the tone in a convincing win.

Quarterback Ty Lyles had a hand in all of his team's scoring. He threw four touch-

down passes and ran for another score. Javon Myers Jr. finished the game with three touchdown catches. On defense, middle linebacker Jerron Sellars and lineman Elijah Thomas were the ringleaders for a unit that allowed 9.5 points per game in the regionals.

"This is all about us playing together as a team," said coach Ralph Turner. "That's what we've been able to do all year. We have to stay hungry, be humble, and not overlook anybody."

In the opening round, the Bobcats (10-2) delivered a strong performance in a 39-7 blow-out win over the Fauquier Wolfpack (Va.). Lyles connected with Myers on two touchdown passes. Joseph Ritchens, Ken Mosquera, Christopher Joines, Jalen Thom and Lyle all scored on touchdown runs.

Since losing to the Kernersville Riders (44-12) on the final week of the regular season, Union Cross has a three-win streak going.