

FOR THE WEEK OF FEB. 27 - MARCH 5, 2007

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



ROBINSON: Charlotte native gets her first CIAA title in hometown. Leads NC Central to South Atlantic Regional.

HOOPS HEAVEN

NEW CHAMPS CROWNED IN CIAA; BENEDICT, ALBANY STATE TAKE SIAC

TOURNAY FINALS RECAPS

CIAA (Women)

NC CENTRAL 89, ELIZABETH CITY STATE 72
Top-seeded North Carolina Central (25-5) ran out to a 49-27 halftime lead and barely let the lead dip below 20 in knocking off second-seeded Elizabeth City State to claim its second-ever CIAA Tournament title in its last year in the conference. The Lady Eagles placed four starters in double-figures led by 25 from Tournament MVP Cassie King and 23 from Lequanda Williams. NCCU freshman point guard Jasmine Newkirk added 17 points and game-highs of seven assists and six steals. The Lady Eagles shot 55.6% in the first half when they all but put the game away, forcing 13 turnovers while limiting the Vikings (21-9) to 27% shooting. NCCU built the huge working margin in the first half as ECU's CIAA Player of the Year, center Celeste Trahan, languished on the bench with two fouls. Trahan finished with 28 points, 24 in the second half, to lead three Lady Vikings in double figures. NCCU, which won its other title in 1984, ended Shaw's four-year stranglehold on the title and gave head coach Joli Robinson her first Tournament championship.



CASSIE KING

CIAA (Men)

ELIZABETH CITY STATE 63, VIRGINIA UNION 60
Seventh-seeded Elizabeth City State (16-15) completed a four-day run to its first CIAA Tournament title in 26 years as they dominated the glass in dethroning three-time defending champion and top-seed Virginia Union (21-5). The Vikings were led by their two all-CIAA players, forward Anthony Hilliard who totaled 21 points and 14 rebounds and center C.J. Pigford who had 23 points and 14 boards. Back-up center Jabylon Wilson added six points and another 12 rebounds helping ECU to a decided 53-33 edge on the glass. Hilliard was named the Tournament's MVP. That rebounding edge enabled the Vikings to make up a 34-31 halftime deficit and average two close losses to the Panthers during the regular season. VUU had won the last three CIAA Tournament titles. The win was also the first for ECU coach Shawn Walker over VUU and 29-year veteran coach Dave Robbins who was seeking his fourth straight and 14th overall Tournament title. The Panthers got 19 points from Chris Greene and 15 points and 12 rebounds from Brad Byerson.



HILLIARD

SIAC (Women)

BENEDICT 75, FORT VALLEY STATE 58
Second-seeded Benedict (19-9) shot a blistering 63.6% (14 of 22) in the second half to pull away from a 32-29 halftime deficit and subdue top-seed Fort Valley State (21-9) and earn head coach Felecia Jenkins her second SIAC women's title since the school joined the conference in 2003. Tournament MVP, senior Natasha Gray, turned in a game-high 27 points and 11 rebounds for the Tigrettes, whose five starters all scored in double figures. Valarie McQueen added 14 points, while Christy Yusuf had 12 points and nine rebounds and Aja Trotter had 10 points and 11 boards. The Lady Wildcats were led by Tracie Glawson and Deborah Jones who finished with 16 and 14 points, respectively.

SIAC (Men)

ALBANY STATE 84, FORT VALLEY STATE 60
Fifth-seed Albany State won four games in five days, knocking off second-seeded Fort Valley State to win the seventh Tournament title in school history and the first under interim head coach Chris Cameron. The Golden Rams (15-16), who led 34-33 at the half, battled the Wildcats (18-12) thru 11 ties and 14 lead changes and held on in the low-scoring second half for the victory. Senior guard Frank Pinson, who named Tournament MVP led the way with a 15-point, five rebound performance. Fellow senior Travon McGruder chipped in eight points and seven rebounds and sophomore guard Sean Glenn added another eight points. The Wildcats were led by Milton Meadows who finished with 13 points and five assists. Chauncey Hall added nine points and nine rebounds.

WVIAC (Men)

W. VIRGINIA STATE 80, ALDERSON-BROADUS 79
WVIAC Player of the Year Ted Scott's two foul shots with 16 seconds remaining lifted third-seed West Virginia State (25-6) to a dramatic win over top-seed Alderson-Broadus (24-5) and gave the Yellow Jackets their second straight WVIAC men's Tournament title. Tournament MVP Tony Corbett had 24 points, 15 rebounds, and eight assists while Scott poured in a game-high 29 points to lead WVSU, who had lost twice to A-B during the regular season. The tight contest saw 13 lead changes and 10 ties. Scott played only 11 minutes of the first half after he picked up three fouls but the Jackets still led 43-42 at the break.

2007 CIAA AND SIAC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT RESULTS

CIAA TOURNAMENT

WOMEN	MEN
OPENING ROUND Virginia State 57, Virginia Union 48 St. Paul's 50, Livingston 56 J.C. Smith 58, St. Augustine's 45	OPENING ROUND Eliz. City St. 71, Livingston 54 Bowie State 62, Shaw 65 N.C. Central 75, St. Paul's 74
QUARTERFINALS Bowie State 76, Fayetteville State 68 Eliz. City St. 77, St. Paul's 61 N.C. Central 75, Virginia State 41 J.C. Smith 58, Shaw 47	QUARTERFINALS Eliz. City State 57, Virginia State 55 St. Augustine's 61, Fayetteville St. 60 Bowie State 88, J.C. Smith 82 Virginia Union 79, N.C. Central 68
SEMIFINALS N.C. Central 76, Bowie State 65 Eliz. City State 57, J.C. Smith 82	SEMIFINALS Virginia Union 58, St. Augustine's 63 Eliz. City State 59, Bowie State 54
FINAL N.C. Central 89, Eliz. City State 72	FINAL Eliz. City State 63, Va. Union 60
ALL TOURNAMENT Rochelle Bodie, Britany Bumpier, JCSU; Marleya Watson, BSU; Monique Mason, VBU; Deanna Price, Celeste Trahan, ECU; Jeannine Newkirk, Joli Robinson, LeQuanda Williams, Cassie King, NCCU	ALL TOURNAMENT Antonio Fitzgerald, SAC, Chris Greene, Brad Byerson, VUU, C.J. Pigford, Anthony Hilliard, Jabylon Wilson, ECU; Tyrone Beale, Gil Goodrich, Joshua Johnson, BSU; Jason Harvey, NCCU
MOST VALUABLE PLAYER Cassie King, NC Central	MOST VALUABLE PLAYER Anthony Hilliard, Elizabeth City State

SIAC TOURNAMENT

WOMEN	MEN
OPENING ROUND Leflore-Owen 65, Clark Atlanta 30 Salem 75, Lane 71 Paine 63, Kentucky State 59	OPENING ROUND Albany State 67, Clark Atlanta 43 Kentucky State 101, Tuskegee 65 Lane 80, Leflore-Owen 67 Miss 75, Morehouse 73
QUARTERFINALS Fort Valley State 79, Salem 66 Albany State 62, Miss 64 Benedict 65, Leflore-Owen 53 Albany State 61, Tuskegee 48	QUARTERFINALS Albany State 64, Salem 68 Benedict 84, Lane 80 Fort Valley State 72, Miss 80 Kentucky State 88, Paine 82
SEMIFINALS Fort Valley State 67, Paine 48 Benedict 58, Albany State 53	SEMIFINALS Albany State 73, Benedict 66 Fort Valley State 86, Kentucky State 70
FINAL Benedict 75, Fort Valley State 56	FINAL Albany State 54, Fort Valley State 50
ALL TOURNAMENT Natasha Gray, Christy Yusuf, BC; Anthony Peck, ABU; Tamasha Riggs, Debraun James, FVSV	ALL-TOURNAMENT Frank Pinson, Travon McGruder, ABU; Chauncey Hall, Milton Meadows, FVSV; Karay Jones, KSU
MVP Natasha Gray, Benedict	MVP Frank Pinson, Albany State

SWAC, MEAC tournaments underway

LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor
The Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference basketball tournaments tipped off Tuesday in Raleigh, while the Southwestern Athletic Conference got its tournaments underway Wednesday as both conferences start the final process of selecting their participants to the NCAA Big Dance, the Div. I Championship Tournament.
Delaware State (16-2, 19-11), with four starting seniors led by two-time player of the year Jahsha Blunt, is the MEAC men's top seed after winning its third straight regular season title. The Hornets will try to avoid an upset in the tournament for the second year in a row.
Last season, Hampton knocked off DSU in the championship game and earned the conference's automatic NCAA Tournament bid. By winning the regular season title last year, DSU earned an automatic bid to the NIT, where they played and won a first round game before losing to Louisville in the second round.
DelState has earned the NIT bid again but is hoping to a return to the NCAA. Head coach Greg Jackson, with his seniors then sophomores, led the Hornets to their first MEAC Tournament title and NCAA bid in 2005. They played ACC champion Duke tough in the first round before losing 57-46.
Coppin State (18-0, 23-6), who completed its second straight undefeated regular season and has won 47 straight MEAC contests, is the women's top seed and is looking for its third consecutive tournament title and trip to the NCAA

WOMEN	MEN
WEDNESDAY, March 7 Quarterfinals #2 Prairie View vs. #7 Southern - 12 n #1 Jackson St. vs. #8 Miss. Valley St. - 5:30 pm THURSDAY, March 8 #3 Alabama A&M vs. #6 Grambling St. - 12 n #4 Ark.-Pine Bluff vs. #5 Alabama St. - 5:30 pm FRIDAY, March 9 Semifinals - 12 n, 2:30 pm SATURDAY, March 10 Championship Game - 3 p.m.	WEDNESDAY, March 7 #2 Jackson St. vs. #7 Southern - 2:30 pm #1 Miss. Valley St. vs. #8 Alabama St. - 8 pm THURSDAY, March 8 #3 Grambling St. vs. #9 Ark.-Pine Bluff - 2:30 pm #4 Alcorn St. vs. #5 Texas Southern - 8 pm FRIDAY, March 9 Semifinals - 5:30 pm, 8 pm SATURDAY, March 10 Championship Game - 5 pm

Tournament. Head coach **Derek Brown's** squad is led by conference Player of the Year, Rashida Suber and fellow all-conference point guard Shalamar Oakley.
Mississippi Valley State (13-5, 16-14) is the men's top seed in the SWAC Tournament. Head coach **James Green's** Delta Devils won their last four and eight of their last ten conference games to overtake Jackson State (12-6, 18-13) for the top spot. Stanford Speech (12.3 ppg.) is MVSU's top scorer.
On the women's side, Jackson State (20-9) and upstart Prairie View (16-13) tied for the top

WOMEN	MEN
TUESDAY, March 6 Opening Round #10 Norfolk State 58, #7 UMES 54 #8 Howard 77, #9 SC State 74 #6 Florida A&M vs. #11 B-Cookman - 4 pm WEDNESDAY, March 7 Quarterfinals #1 Coppin St. vs. Howard - 12n #2 Delaware St. vs. #11 Norfolk St. - 2:30 pm THURSDAY, March 8 #3 NC A&T vs. FAMU/CC winner - 12 n #4 Morgan St. vs. #5 Hampton - 2:30 pm FRIDAY, March 9 Semifinals - 12n, 2:30 pm SATURDAY, March 10 CHAMPIONSHIP GAME - 3 pm	TUESDAY, March 6 Opening Round #10 Howard vs. #7 Hampton - 8:30 pm #6 Coppin St. vs. #9 Bethune-Cookman - 9 pm WEDNESDAY, March 7 #6 Norfolk St. vs. #11 UMES - 6 pm Quarterfinals #1 Delaware St. vs. CSU/BCU winner - 8 pm #2 Florida A&M vs. MUHU winner - 10 pm THURSDAY, March 8 #3 NC A&T vs. NSU/UMES winner 8 pm #4 SC State vs. #5 Morgan State - 8 pm FRIDAY, March 9 Semifinals - 6 pm, 8 pm SATURDAY, March 10 Championship Game - 8 pm

spot with identical 14-4 conference marks. **Denise Taylor's** JSU squad earned the top seed because it swept **Cynthia Coopers** Pantherettes in their two head-to-head meetings.

BCSP Notes

Eight HBCUs to play on in NCAA Division II basketball tournament

Eight black college teams, five from the men's side and three ladies' teams, were selected Sunday to participate in the 64-team NCAA Div. II Basketball Championship Tournament.
Men's and women's CIAA and SIAC Tournament champions received automatic bids to the while the CIAA had one additional women's and men's team receive at-large bids. SIAC regular season men's champion Benedict also received an at-large bid. West Virginia State (25-6), which won the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Tournament title also received an automatic bid.
Men's CIAA Tournament champion Elizabeth City State (16-15) is seeded eighth in the South Atlantic Region Tournament and will meet host and top seed Augusta State (23-6), Sat. (March 10) at 6 p.m. in Augusta, Ga. CIAA regular season champ and tournament runner-up Virginia Union (21-5) is seeded second and opens play earlier Saturday at 2:30 p.m. against seventh-seeded Lander (20-10).
CIAA women's Tournament champion North Carolina Central (25-5) is seeded second in the women's South Atlantic Regional and will play seventh-seed Newberry (24-6), the South Atlantic Conference champion, Friday (March 9) at 3 p.m. at Clayton State in Morrow, Ga. CIAA Tournament runner-up Elizabeth City State (21-9) is seeded fourth in the region and faces No. 5 Columbus State (20-10) at 8 p.m.
SIAC men's Tournament champion Albany State (15-16) enters the South Regional as an eighth seed and will face top seed and host Montevallo in Montevallo, Al. at 6 p.m. CST. Benedict (25-4) is seeded third in the Region and will take on sixth-seed Eckerd (25-5) at 12 noon.
SIAC women's champion Benedict (19-9) plays in the women's South Regional as an eighth-seed and will face top seed and host Florida Gulf Coast (29-0) on their home court in Fort Myers, Fla. at 7 p.m.

West Virginia State is seeded fifth in the East Region in Wilson, N.C. and will open play against fourth-seed Alderson-Broadus (24-5), its opponent in the WVIAC final game, Saturday (March 10) at 6 p.m.

MEAC announces all-conference teams

Delaware State guard Jahsha Blunt repeated as player of the year and Coppin State guard Rashida Suber won women's player of the year as the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) announced its top players and award winners for the 2007 basketball season Monday.
Two other of Blunt's teammates, point guard Darrin Shine and forward Roy Bright, were named to the all-conference teams while Delaware State head coach Greg Jackson won men's coach of the year.
Morgan State head man Donald Beasley took home the women's coach of the year award.
DelState senior center Aaron Fleetwood was named the league's defensive player of the year while Hampton forward Mike Freeman was named the top rookie.
On the women's side, Howard guard Shannon Carlisle was named the top defender while North Carolina A&T guard Ta'Wuana Cook was named the best rookie. (SEE DETAILS BELOW).



DYNAMIC DUO: Senior guard Jahsha Blunt (l.) and Delaware State head coach Greg Jackson (r.) took home top player and coach of the year awards at Monday's MEAC Banquet.

FINAL STANDINGS AND SEEDING 2006-07 FOR MEAC AND SWAC BASKETBALL

MEAC										SWAC									
Mid Eastern Athletic Conference										Southwestern Athletic Conference									
MEN					WOMEN					MEN					WOMEN				
CONF	W	L	ALL	W	L	ALL	CONF	W	L	ALL	CONF	W	L	ALL	CONF	W	L	ALL	
PLAYERS OF THE YEAR JAHSHA BLUNT, 6-4, Sr., G, DSU, Los Angeles, CA - Averaged 16.1 ppg., second best in the league, and 2.2 st. per game. Top in the MEAC and second in the nation for the 18-0 regular season championship.					PLAYERS OF THE YEAR RASHIDA SUBER, 6-4, Jr., G, DSU, Reading, PA - Averaged 19.1 ppg., second best in the league, and 2.2 st. per game. Top in the MEAC and second in the nation for the 18-0 regular season championship.					PLAYERS OF THE YEAR SHANNON CARLISLE, 6-4, Jr., G, HOWARD, Indianapolis, IN - Led the MEAC in steals (3.7 ppg.) while scoring 15.8 points per game.					PLAYERS OF THE YEAR TA'WUANA COOK, 6-4, Fr., G, NC A&T, Fayetteville, NC - Led MEAC with 4.2 assists per game and led rookie scorers at 14.5 points per game.				
DEFENSIVE ROOKIE MIKE FREEMAN, 6-4, Fr., R, HAMPTON, Ft. Belvoir, VA - Averaged 14.4 points and 6.4 rebounds and was the NCAA leader in held fouls percentage (97.8) while an all-around forward.					DEFENSIVE ROOKIE AARON FLEETWOOD, 6-4, Sr., C, DSU, Raleigh, NC - Averaged 6.1 ppg., 3.0 ppg. and led the MEAC in blocks (1.8 ppg.).					DEFENSIVE ROOKIE TAVUANA COOK, Fr., G, NC A&T					DEFENSIVE ROOKIE FRANK PINSON, Sr., G, HAMPTON				
COACH GREG JACKSON, DSU - Led the Hornets to their third straight regular season title with a 16-2 conference mark.					COACH DONALD BEASLEY, MSU - Finished 10-0 in MEAC while doubling overall win total and recording his winning season since 1989-2000.					COACH JAMES GREEN, MSU - Led the Devils to their first MEAC title since 1989-2000.					COACH JAMES GREEN, MSU - Led the Devils to their first MEAC title since 1989-2000.				