



Tourney and School logos

TOURNEY TIME - TAKE TWO

JC SMITH, SHAW CLAIM CIAA TITLES; SOUTHERN, B-CU IN BASEBALL SHOWCASE

HOOPS FAVORITES: Benedict's men and Tuskegee's women are top seeds for this week's SIAC Basketball Tournament.

FINALS RECAPS

CIAA WOMEN

Shaw 61, Johnson C. Smith 50

Top-seed **Shaw University** used a tenacious defense to shut out **Johnson C. Smith** for almost 11 second-half minutes and pull away to a 61-50 win in the Women's Championship game of the CIAA Basketball Tournament Saturday in Charlotte. It was Shaw and head coach **Jacques Curtis**'s fifth CIAA Tourney championship in the last six years.



Joe Daniels Photo
BOZEMAN: On the blow-by.

Prior to its drought, JCSU (21-9) had stayed close, trailing only 32-29 at the half. But after **Shamekia Jones**'s layup off glass at the 13:42 mark pulled them within 43-40, the Lady Golden Bulls would not score again until **Tyra Breaux**'s jumper with just 2:45 left.

Shaw's 1-2-2 three-quarter court defense continuously forced JCSU into turnovers or beginning its offense late in the shot clock. As a result, JCSU committed 24 turnovers for the game and shot a dismal 9-for-33 (27.3%) in the second half.

Senior **Jamie Goshen** led Shaw (21-11) with 13 points while fellow senior **Shana Andrus** tallied 12 points with six boards. **Nikki Souther** finished with a double-double scoring 12 and snaring a game-best 11 rebounds. All-CIAA forward **Kyria Buford** and **Shemika Jones** led JCSU with 11 points each.

Shaw's **Celanese Bozeman**, who had 27 points in a semifinal win over Fayetteville State, added eight points in the final to her eight in the quarterfinals and was selected tournament MVP.

CIAA MEN

Johnson C. Smith 65, Fayetteville State 57

Fourth-seeded **Johnson C. Smith** completed its surprising run through the CIAA Men's Tournament field, disposing of sixth-seed **Fayetteville State** to win its second ever championship Saturday night in Charlotte.

The Golden Bulls (21-9), who knocked off top seed **Virginia Union** Friday night to earn its spot in the final, played solidly throughout both halves, leading 32-19 at the break, and beating back an FSU charge midway through the final stanza.



Joe Daniels Photo
HOOPER: Rises for two of his 13 points in CIAA title game.

FSU made its move after **Ronald Thornhill**'s 3-pointer with 11:30 to play gave JCSU a 46-33 lead. The Broncos put together a 14-2 run with big 3-pointers from **Phillipe Harris**, his third of the half, and **Andy Gebru**, and culminating with **Darshawn Johnson**'s two free throws to pull within 48-47 with 5:36 to play. But the Broncos would go the next five minutes without a field goal while JCSU used two free throws by **Ryan Scott** to go up 50-48 and then canned ten of 11 free throws over that span to salt away the victory.

Fayetteville had trouble penetrating the JCSU zone in the first half, connecting on only 7 of 30 shots. JCSU was able to get just about any shot it wanted, shooting 50% (13 of 26) led by **Jerry Hollis**'s eight points and six from **Maurice Hooper**.

Edmund Rainey, who led the Golden Bulls with 16 points and nine rebounds in the final game, after getting 18 points and 7 rebounds in the semis and 11 points and 5 rebounds in the quarters was named tourney MVP. Hollis finished with 15 and Hooper 13. Harris had 18 and Gebru 13 to lead FSU.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

CHANGE OF VENUE:

It was announced last week that the fourth **SWAC/MEAC Challenge** football game will be played this year in Orlando, Florida. ESPN Regional Television (ERT), which owns the game, said the game will be played on Sunday, August 31, live on ESPN2 at 2 p.m. from the Florida Citrus Bowl. The game, pitting a team from the **SWAC** versus a team from the **MEAC**, has been played the past three years at Legion Field in Birmingham, Ala. The teams for this year's game have not been announced.



INDOOR TRACK TITLES:

The Jackson State women and **Prairie View A&M** men took home titles at the **SWAC Indoor Track and Field Championships** that finished Saturday in Baton Rouge, La. JSU scored 127 points to outscore **Alabama State** (101) and **Grambling State** (99) in the women's competition. **Prairie View** tallied 143 points in the men's competition while JSU was second with 112. Southern finished third with 83.5 points. Pauline Banks of JSU (women) and Clifton Gillard of **Prairie View** (men) were named coaches of the year.

CIAA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS (Men's and Women's Results and Honors)

MEN

OPENING ROUND
Virginia State 57, St. Paul's 54
Shaw 74, Livingstone 60

QUARTERFINALS
Fayetteville St. 67, Eliz. City St. 62
Virginia Union 76, Virginia State 66
J. C. Smith 72, St. Augustine's 61
Bowie State 77, Shaw 59

SEMIFINALS
Fayetteville St. 67, Bowie State 65
J. C. Smith 61, Virginia Union 58

CHAMPIONSHIP
J. C. Smith 65, Fayetteville St. 57

ALL TOURNAMENT TEAM
Phillipe Harris, Fayetteville State
Jason Ingram, Bowie State
Brad Byerson, Virginia Union
Andy Gebru, Fayetteville State
Edmund Rainey, JC Smith
David Paris, Bowie State
Jamel Austin, Fayetteville State
Joshua Johnson, Bowie State
David Sanders, JC Smith
Maurice Hooper, JC Smith

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER
Edmund Rainey, JC Smith

TEAM SPORTSMANSHIP TROPHY
Virginia Union

WOMEN

OPENING ROUND
Virginia Union 69, Eliz. City State 65
Virginia State 54, Livingstone 49

QUARTERFINALS
Fayetteville St. 86, St. Augustine's 76
Bowie State 67, Virginia Union 59
Shaw 73, Virginia State 59
Johnson C. Smith 55, St. Paul's 50

SEMIFINALS
Shaw 87, Fayetteville State 74
J. C. Smith 58, Bowie State 56, OT

CHAMPIONSHIP
Shaw 61, Johnson C. Smith 50

ALL TOURNAMENT TEAM
Leticia Dickson, Fayetteville State
Bianca Lee, Bowie State
Erica Gilley, Fayetteville State
Markeya Watson, Bowie State
Ashley Chase, JC Smith
Jamie Goshen, Shaw
Shemika Jones, JC Smith
Shana Andrus, Shaw
Kyria Buford, JC Smith
Celanese Bozeman, Shaw

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER
Celanese Bozeman, Shaw

TEAM SPORTSMANSHIP TROPHY
St. Paul's

SIAC next up; MEAC, SWAC in final week

LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

Benedict's men and Tuskegee's women are the top seeds and favorites as the **SIAC** tips off its 75th men's and 30th women's basketball tournaments at Fair Park Arena in Birmingham on Wed., March 5.

Fred Watson's Benedict squad was a runaway winner of the regular season men's race taking the title by a whopping six games. The Tigers (20-2, 23-4) enter the tournament on a 12-game win streak and were ranked third in last week's NCAA Div. II South Region ranking. They will likely advance to regional play regardless of their finish in the tournament.

The deep and balanced Benedict team has five players averaging between 8.9 and 11.4 points per game with 6-1 junior guard **Charles Gibbs** topping the scoring chart. Six-seven junior forward **Martinis Woody** nearly averages a double-double pulling down a league-best 10.4 rebounds per game while scoring 9.8 per contest.

The Tigers have not lost since a 76-69 overtime decision to **LeMoyne-Owen** back on Jan. 26. They begin play Thursday at 3 p.m. vs. the winner of Wednesday's

SIAC TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE		
WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT		
WED., MARCH 5		
(8) Paine vs (11) Lane	10a	
(7) Stillman vs (10) Benedict	4p	
THURS., MARCH 6		
(4) Albany State vs (5) Clark Atlanta	11a	
(1) Tuskegee vs PC/LC winner	1p	
(6) Miles vs (11) LeMoyne-Owen	5p	
FRI., MARCH 7		
(2) Fort Valley St. vs. SC/BC winner	12n	
(3) KSU vs MC/LOC winner	4p	
SAT., MARCH 8		
First Semifinal	1p	
Second Semifinal	5:30p	
SUN., MARCH 9		
Women's Championship Game	1p	
MEN'S TOURNAMENT		
WED., MARCH 5		
(6) Paine vs (11) Lane	12n	
(8) Kentucky St. vs (9) Albany St	2p	
(7) Tuskegee vs (10) Morehouse	6p	
(5) Clark Atlanta vs (12) Stillman	8p	
THURS., MARCH 6		
(1) Benedict vs KSU/ASU winner	3p	
(4) Miles vs CAU/Stillman winner	7p	
FRI., MAR 7		
(3) Fort Valley St. vs PC/LC winner	2p	
(2) LeM.-Owen vs TU/MHC winner	6p	
SAT., MAR 8		
First Semifinal	3p	
Second Semifinal	7:30p	
SUN., MARCH 9		
Men's Championship Game	4p	
All times - Central Time		

Kentucky State/Albany State game.

The Tuskegee women (18-8, 17-3) were not as dominant as Benedict's men but did win the regular season race by two games over **Fort Valley State** (18-9, 15-5). The Tigerettes

are paced by 5-9 senior forward **Crystal Benton**'s 17.4 points and 10.3 rebounds per game. Five-four senior guard 5-10 junior forward **Aisha Johnson** (14.3 ppg.) and **Rishaundra Gartrell** (10.3 ppg., 8.4 rpg.) also score in double figures. Tuskegee opens play Thursday at 1 p.m. vs. the **Paine/Lane** winner.

Both men's and women's teams are playing for the league's automatic berth into the South Region Tournament that goes to the SIAC tournament champion.

MEAC

Morgan State (men, 13-2, 19-9) and **North Carolina A&T** (women, 14-1, 22-6) have clinched the regular season titles and top seeds for next week's tournament in Raleigh, N.C., but there's still a little work to be done as the MEAC winds up play Thursday. Still to be decided are fifth-place teams for both men's and women's tournaments that will stay out of opening round games.

On the men's side, **N.C. A&T** and **Florida A&M** are tied at 8-7 for fifth place entering Thursday's finales. A&T hosts **Norfolk State** while FAMU hosts **Bethune-Cookman**. A&T has a win over FAMU but needs a win or a FAMU loss to

secure the fifth seed. On the women's side, **Morgan State** (vs. Coppin State) and **UMES** (vs. DelState) need wins or a Hampton loss (vs. Howard) to hold on to fourth and fifth place respectively.

SWAC

Only eight of the ten SWAC teams make it to the conference tournament in Birmingham next week and with two games left on the **SWAC** regular season schedule several teams will be jockeying for those final spots.

For the men, **Grambling State** (7-9), **Southern** (7-9) and **Texas Southern** (6-10) hold down spots 6 thru 8 and will try to stay ahead of **Alcorn State** and **Prairie View** (both 5-11). **Grambling** has two tough road games at **Alabama A&M** and **Alabama State**. **Southern** has home dates with **Texas Southern** and **Prairie View**. After **TSU** travels to **Southern** it then travels to **Alcorn State**.

On the women's side, **Texas Southern**, **Alabama State** and **Alcorn State** are tied at 6-10 for the eighth spot with each having two games left. **Southern** (8-8), **Arkansas-Pine Bluff** and **Mississippi Valley State** (8-9) could also be caught up in a tie for the last spot. **UAPB** and **MVSU** play their final game on Thursday.

Southern, B-CU on center stage at MLB Invitational

DENNIS J. FREEMAN

Special to the BCSP

Southern and **Bethune-Cookman** wanted to show a nationally televised audience that not only can they compete against the big-name schools such as **Southern Cal** and **UCLA** in baseball, but they can play them as tough as any team in the country. The two historically black colleges may have opened some eyes with their play this past weekend against the **Trojans** and **Bruins** in the first **Major League Baseball Urban Invitational**.

UCLA defeated **Bethune-Cookman** 2-0 in the first game of the tournament's double-header on Saturday. **USC** needed to score eight runs in their half of the eighth inning to come-from-behind to hand **Southern** a 13-9 defeat in front of a large and enthusiastic crowd at **MLB Urban Youth Academy** in **Compton, California**. Not only did fans get a chance to see some good baseball, they also were treated to the sounds of **Southern University's** band, "The Human Jukebox."

Boxed around the two showcase games there was plenty of good baseball on display. On the first day of the tournament, **USC** defeated **Bethune-Cookman** 2-0, while **Southern** fell to **UCLA** 11-2. **UCLA** clawed its way past **USC** 4-3 on the invitational's last day. **Bethune-Cookman** beat **Southern** 10-4 Saturday, the first time the two schools had ever played each other.

The six-game tournament, which was televised Saturday by **ESPN 2**, and sponsored by **MLB**, was put on to accomplish several things; increase the exposure of historically black colleges and universities and try to attract more young African Americans back into the sport of baseball.

"This is about dreaming big," said Darrell

Miller, **Urban Youth Academy** director. "This is about having a positive image about **Compton**, having a positive image about **Los Angeles** and taking it to the next level. The gist of what we're trying to do is bring the exposure...historical black colleges are very competitive, these are great schools. They can play against these guys. The idea is if you dream big, believe in yourself, then you can do it."

Southern coach **Roger Cador** said he was pretty excited when he first found out about the prospect of having his team play in the inaugural **Urban Invitational**. To **Cador**, playing against the like of **Division I** baseball powers **UCLA** and **USC** was something he couldn't resist. But **Cador** also realizes the tournament has greater meaning and significance.

"These games have implications and historical proportions when you look at what it means to kids that play baseball, specifically African-American kids who are getting the opportunity to play two powerhouses in **UCLA** and **USC**," **Cador** said. "It just means a great deal to them because now kids can dream even more now with the opportunities that lies ahead for them. I just think this so important. This will motivate them. They can go tell a story and get other people involved."

The three-day tournament was played at the **MLB Urban Youth Academy**, **USC's** **Dedeaux Field** and **UCLA's** **Jackie Robinson Stadium**. Longtime major league baseball player **Kenny Lofton** called the tournament "historic." "This is big," **Lofton** said. "This is an opportunity for a lot of kids and a lot of people to come to this academy."

Playing in the tournament was a big deal for **Bethune-Cookman** left fielder **Patrick Jones**. **Jones** said he and his teammates didn't get on a plane and



Photo courtesy of Major League Baseball.com

THE PLAYERS: Southern and BC-U players pose after participating in first MLB Urban Invitational.

fly to **Los Angeles** just to be playing. They were there to make a statement that African-Americans do play baseball. The message was delivered to tell young people, especially black children, that baseball doesn't have to be a foreign sport to them.

"We're role models for them," **Jones** said. "They see us playing and they see that we can still advance. There still are African-Americans playing baseball today. I think we give them motivation to continue to play baseball."

Bethune-Cookman right fielder **Neal Jones** echoed his teammate's thoughts about the exposure the tournament would give to black youths.

"We came here to show that **Bethune-Cookman** can compete with any team in the nation," **Jones** said. "The exposure on television will hopefully get more kids motivated to play baseball. I'm happy to be out here. It's been a wonderful experience. I'm enjoying myself."

2007-08 BLACK COLLEGE BASKETBALL (Men's and Women's Standings and Weekly Honors)

MEAC					MEAC					SIAC					SWAC					SWAC														
MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE					MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE					SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE					SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE					SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE														
MEN		CONF		ALL	WOMEN		CONF		ALL	WOMEN (FINAL)		CONF		ALL	MEN		DIV		ALL	WOMEN		DIV		ALL										
W	L	W	L	W	W	L	W	L	W	W	L	W	L	W	W	L	W	L	W	W	L	W	L	W										
Morgan State	13	2	19	9	NC A&T State	14	1	22	6	1-Tuskegee	17	3	18	8	Alabama State	13	3	17	9	Prairie View A&M	15	1	20	8										
Norfolk State	11	4	15	13	Coppin State	12	3	18	11	2-Fort Valley State	15	5	18	9	Miss. Valley State	11	6	13	15	Jackson State	13	3	15	11										
Hampton	10	5	17	11	Delaware State	11	4	16	13	3-Kentucky State	14	6	17	10	Alabama A&M	10	6	12	17	Alabama A&M	10	6	12	13										
Delaware State	9	6	12	15	Mid-Eastern Shore	10	5	17	11	4-Albany State	14	6	16	11	Ark. Pine Bluff	9	7	12	14	Southern	8	8	10	15										
NC A&T State	8	7	14	15	Morgan State	10	5	18	10	5-Clark Atlanta	13	7	17	10	Ark. Pine Bluff	8	9	12	16	Ark. Pine Bluff	8	9	10	18										
Florida A&M	8	7	13	16	Hampton	9	6	16	12	6-Miles	12	8	17	10	Grambling State	7	9	7	16	Miss. Valley St.	8	9	13	14										
Coppin State	7	8	12	19	SC State	9	7	12	15	7-Stillman	8	12	10	17	Southern	7	9	9	18	Texas Southern	6	10	8	20										
SC State	7	9	11	19	Howard	3	12	4	24	8-Paine	5	15	5	20	Texas Southern	6	10	7	22	Alabama State	6	10	10	17										
Bethune-Cookman	5	10	11	19	Florida A&M	2	13	12	16	9-Lane	4	16	6	22	Prairie View A&M	5	11	7	21	Alcorn State	6	10	10	17										
Howard	3	12	6	24	Bethune-Cookman	2	13	6	22	10-Benedict	4	16	5	20	Alcorn State	5	11	6	23	Grambling State	1	15	2	24										
Mid-Eastern Shore	2	13	4	26	Norfolk State	1	14	5	21	11-LeMoyne Owen	4	16	5	22	SWAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK					SWAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK														
MEAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK					MEAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK					MEN (FINAL)					CONF					CONF					CONF									
PLAYER					PLAYER					CONF					ALL					CONF					ALL									
DEWAYNE PETTUS, 6-2, Sr., G, B-CU, Pittsburgh					AMBER BLAND, 5-11, Jr., G, NC A&T, Boardman, OH					1-Benedict					20					20					CARL LUCAS, 6-5, Sr., F, MVSU, Hollandale, MS					ARICA GREEN, UAPB				
- Averaged 30 points and 7.5 rebounds in 1-1 week. Had 29 points, 6 rebounds vs. UMES and 31 points, 9 rebounds vs. SCSU.					- Averaged 23.5 ppg. and 5 rpg. in two games. Shot 63% (17 of 27) from the floor and 50% (6 of 12) from behind the arc. Had 23 points & 8 steals vs. SCSU, 24 pts and nine rebs. vs. Howard.					2-LeMoyne Owen					14					14					- Tallied a game-high 21 points and pulled down 5 rebounds in Monday's win over Grambling State. Had double-double of 10 points and 10 rebounds in Saturday's big buzzer-beating win over Jackson State that propelled the Delta Devils to second place in the standings.					- Had team-high 13 points and 7 rebounds in upset win over Jackson State Monday. Also had 1				