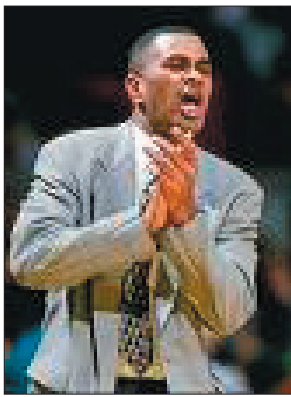


BLACK COLLEGE PAGE

SPORTS



MSU Sports Photo

MEAC/SWAC PLAY FOR SHOT AT BIG DANCE

BENEDICT, TUSKEGEE TAKE SIAC TITLES JOIN SIX OTHERS IN DIV. II PLAYOFFS

BOZEMAN: Head coach leads top-seeded Morgan State into men's MEAC Tourney in Raleigh.

FINALS RECAPS

SIAC WOMEN Tuskegee 59, Kentucky State 55

Top seed **Tuskegee** built double-digit leads in both halves and had to withstand **Kentucky State** comebacks at the tail end of both to win the women's SIAC Tournament title in Birmingham Sunday afternoon.



Yusef Davis Photo

BENTON: Drives for two of her game-high 27 in title game.

Tuskegee jumped to an 11-point lead (34-23) in the first half before KSU closed the half on a 10-2 run to trail 36-33 at the break. KSU then was held scoreless for the first 2:39 of the second half and struggled to find the basket while falling behind 55-42 with 5:55 left on **Rashaundra Gartrell's** lay-in.

But the Thorobrettes fought back again, this time jumpstarted by freshman **Kiarra Morgan's** seven straight points and culminating in **Jessica Vaughn's** 3-pointer, to go on a 13-2 run, to trail 57-55 with 1:22 to play. But KSU would commit two turnovers down the stretch while Gartrell added two free throws for the final margin.

SIAC Player of the Year and Tournament MVP, senior forward **Crystal Benton**, had game-highs of 27 points and 15 rebounds. Gartrell chipped in with 10 points and nine boards while senior guard **Aisha Johnson** also had 10. On her way to the MVP trophy, Benton had 26 points in a quarterfinal victory over **Paine** and 27 in a semifinal victory vs. **Clark Atlanta**.

Freshman back-up **Tiffany Barrantine** came off the bench to finish with a team-high 11 points.

SIAC MEN

Benedict 74, Tuskegee 69, OT

Top-seed **Benedict** beat back a determined charge from seventh-seed **Tuskegee** needing overtime to subdue the Tigers to take their third men's SIAC Tournament title in the last five years. Benedict outscored Tuskegee 16-11 in the overtime period to get the win.

Neither team led by more than the five points that separated the teams at the conclusion. Benedict (27-4) led by a similar margin at 32-27 with 1:42 left in the first half en route to a slim 32-30 halftime lead. But the up-and-down game continued in the second half with the teams producing five ties and five lead changes. For the game, there were 11 ties and 13 lead changes.



Oscar Daniel Photo

WOODY: His 22 points, 18 boards, 5 blocks led Benedict.

BC center **Martinis Woody's** lay-in on a feed from **Charles Gibbs** with 21.8 seconds left in regulation tied the game at 58 and forced the overtime period. His jump-hook with 2:49 left in the extra period gave BC a 65-61 lead and he added four free throw in the final half-minute. He finished with team-highs of 22 points, 18 rebounds and five blocks.

Junior **Bennie Lewis**, who drained a big 3-pointer in the extra period, had 17 points to compliment Woody. **Charles Gibbs** had 15 and **Darius Lane** 10 to give BC four players in double-figures.

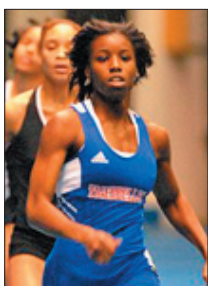
League Freshman of the Year, 6-5 forward **Michael Holmes**, who had only five points but 11 big rebounds in the championship game, was named the tournament's most valuable player. Three Tuskegee (14-16) players scored in double figures led by 23 points from freshman **Michael Kimber**.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

TIGERBELLES PREVAIL:

The host **Tennessee State** Tigerbelles, led by senior **Dominique Ward-Holmes**, literally ran away with the 2008 Ohio Valley Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships, scoring 128 points. Their nearest competitor was Eastern Illinois which scored 86.5 points. Ward-Holmes captured gold in four events (55m, 200m, 400m, and 4x400 relay) and was named Female Athlete of the Championships, adding to her previous OVC Indoor Female Athlete of the Year honor. Ward-Holmes' wins in the 200 and 400 were her third straight in those events making her only the third female in OVC Indoor Track history to win those titles three consecutive years. Tigerbelle coach **Chandra Cheeseborough** was also named OVC Coach of the Year in a vote by the conference coaches. This is the third Ohio Valley Conference Indoor Track title for Cheeseborough and her Tigerbelles. Tennessee State won titles back-to-back in 2002 and 2003. TSU hosted the event on the Wilma Rudolph Track in the Gentry Center Athletic Complex.



TSU Sports Photo

WARD-HOLMES: Captures wins in 55m, 200m, 400m and 4x400 relay.



CHEESEBOROUGH

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

MEN

OPENING ROUND
Albany St. 91, Kentucky St. 77
Clark Atlanta 85, Stillman 62
Tuskegee 88, Morehouse 78
Paine 73, Lane 65

QUARTERFINALS
Benedict 73, Albany St. 69 2 OT
Clark Atlanta 77, Miles 76
Tuskegee 114, LeM.-Owen 107 2 OT
Fort Valley St. 71, Paine 66

SEMIFINALS
Tuskegee 88, Fort Valley St. 73
Benedict 81, Clark Atlanta 57

CHAMPIONSHIP
Tuskegee 74, Benedict 69, OT

ALL TOURNAMENT TEAM
Najee Lane, Clark Atlanta
Martinis Woody, Benedict
Preston McCarter, Tuskegee
Michael Holmes, Benedict
Keith Flournoy, Tuskegee

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER
Michael Holmes, Benedict

OUTSTANDING COACH
Fred Watson, Benedict

WOMEN

OPENING ROUND
Paine 62, Lane 59
Stillman 59, Benedict 42
LeMoyn-Owen 60, Miles 58

QUARTERFINALS
Clark Atlanta 88, Albany St. 80
Tuskegee 76, Paine 52
Stillman 63, Fort Valley St. 57
Kentucky St. 75, LeM.-Owen 62

SEMIFINALS
Kentucky St. 57, Stillman 53
Tuskegee 91, Clark Atlanta 76

CHAMPIONSHIP
Tuskegee 59, Kentucky St. 55

ALL TOURNAMENT TEAM
Aisha Johnson, Tuskegee
Bianca Burton, Stillman
Shantrell Moss, Clark Atlanta
Mattie Jones, Kentucky State
Crystal Benron, Tuskegee

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER
Crystal Benton, Tuskegee

TOP TOURNAMENT COACH
Belinda Roby, Tuskegee

MEAC, SWAC tourneys take center stage

LUT WILLIAMS
BCSP Editor

The men of **Morgan State** and women of **North Carolina A&T** came in as top seeds and favorites as the MEAC Basketball Tournaments got under way Tuesday at the Raleigh (N.C.) RBC Center.

While at State Fair Park Arena in Birmingham (Ala.) Wednesday, play began in the men's and women's **SWAC** Tournament with **Alabama State** on top of the men's bracket and defending champion **Prairie View** of top of the women's.

Both tournaments will end with championship games Saturday with winners getting automatic berths into the NCAA Div. I national tournaments.

Men's play in the national tournament begins with the Tuesday, March 18, opening round or "play-in" game in Dayton, Ohio The men's Final Four is slated for San Antonio on April 5th and 7th.

The SWAC or MEAC tournament champion has played in the play-in game in six of the seven seasons since the game was instituted in 2001 with each conference making three appearances.

The SWAC and MEAC champions have never played each other, though this year that is a strong possibility with the conferences ranked 30th (MEAC, .4412) and

MEAC TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT		TUES., MARCH 11	
(7) SC State 66	(10) B-Cookman 45	11a	
(9) Florida A&M 61	(8) Howard 49	1:30p	
(6) Morgan St. vs. (11) Norfolk St.		4p	
WED., MARCH 12		THUR., MARCH 13	
(1) NC A&T vs. Florida A&M		10a	
(2) Coppin St. vs. SC State		12:30p	
(3) Delaware St. vs. MSU/NSU		12n	
(4) Hampton vs. (5) UMES		2:30p	
FRI., MARCH 14		SAT., MARCH 15	
First Semifinal		12n	
Second Semifinal		2:30p	
Women's Championship Game		1p	
MEN'S TOURNAMENT		TUES., MARCH 11	
(7) Coppin St. vs. (10) Howard		6:30p	
(8) SC State vs. (9) B-Cookman		9p	
WED., MARCH 12		THUR., MARCH 13	
(6) Florida A&M vs. (11) UMES		3p	
(1) Morgan State vs. SCSU/BCU		7p	
(2) Hampton vs. CSU/How		9:30p	
(3) Norfolk St. vs. FAMU/UMES		6p	
(4) Delaware St. vs. (5) NC A&T		8p	
FRI., MARCH 14		SAT., MARCH 15	
First Semifinal		6p	
Second Semifinal		8p	
Men's Championship Game (ESPN) 8p			



31st (SWAC, .4146) out of the 31 Div. I conferences in RPI (Ratings Percentage Index). The RPI is the formula used by the NCAA to rate men's and women's college basket-

ball teams.

Women's play in the national tournament will begin on Sat., March 22nd with the Women's Final Four in Tampa, Fla., on April 6th and 8th.

Morgan State (20-9, 14-2) hopes to avoid the fate that has befallen **Delaware State** - winner of the last two men's regular season MEAC titles but a loser in both tournament title games. The Bears, who swept the conference player (**Jamar Smith**), defensive player (**Boubacar Coly**) and coach (**Todd Bozeman**) of the year awards announced Tuesday, begin play Wednesday at 7 p.m. vs. the winner of the **South Carolina State** opening round matchup.

MEAC Coach of the Year **Patricia Cage-Bibbs** of **North Carolina A&T**, whose 23-6 Lady Aggies cruised to a 15-1 conference mark to win their first regular season crown since the 1989-90 season, must also avoid the upset bug. A&T opened on Wednesday vs. **Florida A&M** in the quarterfinals.

SWAC regular season women's champ **Prairie View** (20-10, 15-3) and runner-up **Jackson State** (15-13, 13-5), both limped home in the final week of the regular season. **Prairie View** lost its final two games while **JSU** lost its final three providing hope for the rest of the women's field.

SWAC TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT		WED., MARCH 12	
(2) Jackson St. vs. (7) Alcorn St.		12n	
(1) Prairie View vs. (8) Alabama St.		5:30p	
THUR., MARCH 13		FRI., MARCH 14	
(3) Alabama A&M vs. (6) MVSU		12n	
(4) Southern vs. (5) Ark.-Pine Bluff		5:30p	
First Semifinal		12n	
Second Semifinal		5:30p	
SAT., MARCH 15			
Women's Championship Game		4p	
MEN'S TOURNAMENT		WED., MARCH 12	
(2) MVSU vs. (7) Grambling St.		2:30p	
(1) Alabama St. vs. (9) Tex. Southern		8p	
THUR., MARCH 13		FRI., MARCH 14	
(3) Alabama A&M vs. (6) Ark.-PB		2:30p	
(4) Jackson St. vs. (5) Southern		8p	
First Semifinal		2:30p	
Second Semifinal		8p	
SAT., MARCH 15			
Men's Championship Game (ESPN) 6p			



On the men's side, **Alabama State** (19-9, 15-3) finished in a flurry, winning 14 of its last 16 including five straight to close out the regular season with a three-game margin. The Hornets opened play Wednesday vs. eighth seed **Texas Southern**.

Eight teams play on in NCAA Div. II playoffs

Eight black college basketball teams, four men's and four women's squads, will begin quests this weekend to bring home an NCAA Div. II national title.

Each earned berths into the men's and women's NCAA Div. II national basketball championship playoffs which begin regional play this weekend. The 64-team playoff fields were announced Sunday.

Women's regional play begins Friday, March 14, continues to Saturday (March 15) with the title games on Monday, March 17. Men's regional play begins Saturday March 15, will stage semifinals on Sunday (March 17) with the championship game on Tuesday (March 18).

CIAA tournament champion **Shaw** and tournament runners-up **Johnson C. Smith** will play in the women's South Atlantic Regional Friday in Florence, S.C. **JCSU** (21-9) is seeded eighth and will take on top-seed **Wingate** (23-7) at 1 p.m. **Shaw** (21-11) is seeded fourth and will play fifth-seed **Augusta State** (19-9) at 3 p.m. Sixth seeded **Francis Marion** is hosting the tournament.

SIAC tournament champ **Tuskegee** (21-8) will face second-seed **Arkansas-Tech** (25-5) in the opening round of the women's South Regional in Cleveland, Ms. SIAC tourney runner-up **Kentucky State** (19-11) plays undefeated host **Delta State** (29-0) at 1 p.m.

On the men's side, **CIAA** Tournament champion **Johnson C. Smith** earned the conference's automatic bid into the South Atlantic Region and is seeded seventh in the eight-team field. The **Golden Bulls** (21-9) face host and second-seed **Augusta** (Ga.) State (22-6) Saturday at 1 p.m. **CIAA** regular season champ **Virginia Union** (22-7) is seeded fourth and will face fifth-seed **Lenoir-Rhyne** (22-6) Saturday at 8:30 p.m.

SIAC regular season and tournament champ **Benedict** was the only SIAC men's team to make the

South Region field. The **Tigers** (26-4) are seeded second and will face seventh-seeded **Eckerd** (19-9) Saturday in the opening game at 12 noon of the regional at Lakeland, Fla. Host **Florida Southern** (24-8) is the South Region's top seed.

The other men's team to make the field was **Cheyney** who was the East Division regular season winner of the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference. The **Wolves** (19-9) earned a berth and fifth seed into the East Regional in California, Pa. where they will face fourth-seeded **Alderson-Broaddus** (25-6), regular season and tournament champions of the **WVIAC**, at 6 p.m. Saturday.

Men's regional winners will advance to the Div. II Elite Eight, the national quarterfinals, semifinals and championship game, to be held on March 26, 27 and 29 at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, Mass. The women's Elite Eight will be contested on the same dates at the Health and Sports Center at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

2007-08 SIAC ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

WOMEN - FIRST TEAM Crystal Benton, 5-9, Sr., F, Tuskegee; Aisha Johnson, 5-4, Sr., G, Tuskegee; Shantrell Moss, 5-9, Sr., F, Clark Atlanta; Takesha Riggs, 5-8, So., F, Fort Valley St.; Nikia Trice, 5-7, Jr., G, Albany St.; **SECOND TEAM** Mattie Jones, 6-2, Jr., C, Kentucky St.; Cyntonia Jones, 5-8, So., F, Miles; Savioya Barrett, 5-4, Sr., G, Paine; Bianca Burton, 6-1, Sr., C, Stillman; Sylbrena Johnson, 5-7, Sr., G, Stillman

PLAYER OF THE YEAR - Crystal Benton, Tuskegee

MEN - FIRST TEAM Kenny Jones, 6-6, Sr., F, Kentucky State; Rasuul Buulu, 6-6, Jr., F, LeMoyn-Owen; Flawaan Flagg, 6-1, Jr., G, Miles; Kenny Boyd, 6-8, Jr., F, Morehouse; Scheraun King, 6-4, Jr., F, Albany State; **SECOND TEAM** Kevin Johnson, 5-10, Jr., G, Clark Atlanta; Michael Holmes, 6-5, Fr., F, Benedict; Bennie Lewis, 6-7, Jr., F, Benedict; Martrez Scott, 6-3, So., G, Fort Valley State; Julian English, 6-0, So., G, Paine

PLAYER OF THE YEAR - Kenny Jones, Kentucky State

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

MEAC

MEN (FINAL)		CONF		ALL	
W	L	W	L	W	L
1-Morgan State	14	2	20	9	1
2-Hampton	11	5	18	11	
3-Norfolk State	11	5	15	14	
4-Delaware State	10	6	13	15	
5-NC A&T State	9	7	15	15	
6-Florida A&M	9	7	14	16	
7-Coppin State	7	9	12	20	
8-SC State	7	9	12	19	
9-Bethune-Cookman	5	11	11	20	
10-Howard	3	13	6	25	
11-Md.-Eastern Shore	2	14	4	27	

MEAC PLAYERS OF THE YEAR
PLAYER
JAMAR SMITH, 6-4, Sr., F, MSU, Brooklyn Park, MN - Averaged 17.6 points, 5.7 rebounds per game while shooting 47.3% from the field in leading Bears to regular season title.
ROOKIE
CARRIO BENNETT, 6-1, Sr., G, SCSU, Greenville, SC - Averaged 9.5 ppg., 3.5 rpg.
DEFENSE
BOUBACAR COLY, 6-9, Sr., C, MSU, Senegal - Led MEAC in rebounds (11.1) and blocks (3.2) scored 9.6 ppg., and shot 51.2% from the field.
COACH
TODD BOZEMAN, MSU - In just his second year, led Morgan State to regular season title with 14-2 conference, 20-9 overall mark.

MEAC

WOMEN (FINAL)		CONF		ALL	
W	L	W	L	W	L
1-NC A&T State	15	1	23	6	
2-Coppin State	13	3	19	11	
3-Delaware State	11	4	16	13	
4-Hampton	9	6	16	12	
5-Md.-Eastern Shore	10	5	17	11	
6-Morgan State	10	5	18	10	
7-SC State	9	7	12	15	
8-Howard	3	12	4	24	
9-Florida A&M	2	13	12	16	
10-Bethune-Cookman	2	13	6	22	
11-Norfolk State	1	14	5	21	

MEAC PLAYERS OF THE YEAR
PLAYER
SHALAMAR OAKLEY, Sr., G, CSU, Camden, NJ - Led league in scoring (17.6 ppg.), shot 48.6% from the field, dishing out 3.77 assists.
ROOKIE
CASEY MORTON, 5-9, Fr., G, UMES, Maryland Springs, MD - Led rookies with 11.1 ppg., got 2.9 assists, 3.8 rebounds and 1.3 3s per game.
DEFENSE
CORIN ADAMS, 5-7, So., G, MSU, Brooklyn, NY - Averaged 4.1 steals, 5.3 rebounds, team-highs of 17.0 points and 4.2 assists (league best) per game.
COACH
PATRICIA CAGE-BIBBS - Led A&T to 15-1 league, 23-6 overall records, regular season title.

2007-08 All-MEAC Basketball Teams

WOMEN - FIRST TEAM
Corin Adams, 5-7, So, G, Morgan State, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Amber Bland, 5-11, Jr., G, North Carolina A&T, Boardman, OH
April McBride, 6-1, So., F, Md. Eastern Shore, New Rochelle, N.Y.
Shalamar Oakley, 5-6, Sr., G, Coppin State, Camden, N.J.
Rashida Suber, 5-8, Sr., G, Coppin State, Reading, Pa.

SECOND TEAM
Rachel Butler, 5-8, Sr., G, Hampton, Dallas, Texas
Raquel Collier, 5-9, Sr., G, Delaware State, Schenectady, N.Y.
Ta'Wuana Cook, 5-8, So., G, North Carolina A&T, Fayetteville, N.C.
Tiffany Reid, 5-9, So., G/F, Md. Eastern Shore, Philadelphia, Pa.
Brittanie Taylor-James, 6-0, Jr., G, North Carolina A&T, Evanston, Ill.

MEN - FIRST TEAM
Roy Bright, 6-7, Sr., F, Delaware State, Durham, N.C.
Boubacar Coly, 6-9, Sr., C, Morgan State, Zinguinchor, Senegal
Tony Murphy, 6-4, Sr., G, Norfolk State, Paterson, NJ
Tywain McKee, 6-2, Sr., G, Coppin State, Philadelphia, Pa.
Jamar Smith, 6-3, Sr., G, Morgan State, Brooklyn Park, Minn.

SECOND TEAM
Jason Johnson, 6-7, Jr., F/C, South Carolina St., Bronx, N.Y.
Marquise Kately, 6-5, Jr., F, Morgan State, San Francisco, Calif.
Steven Rusly, 5-11, Sr., G, North Carolina A&T, Greensboro, N.C.
Ed Tyson, 6-2, Jr., G, Maryland E. Shore, Baltimore, Md.
Rashad West, 6-1, Jr., G, Hampton, Raleigh, N.C.

SWAC

MEN (FINAL)		DIV		ALL	
W	L	W	L	W	L
1-Alabama State	15	3	19	9	