

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



FINAL PIECES TO THE PUZZLE

SIAC CHAMPS CROWNED; 11 TEAMS IN D2 FIELD; SWAC/MEAC TOURNEYS ROLL

FAVORITES: (From top l. clockwise) NC A&T's Patricia Cage-Bibbs, Morgan State's Todd Bozeman, Alabama State's Lewis Jackson and Prairie View's Cynthia Cooper-Dyke have teams favored in MEAC/SWAC Tourneys.

2008-09 BLACK COLLEGE BASKETBALL (Results, Standings and Weekly Honors)

MEN (FINAL)	CONF				ALL
	W	L	W	L	
1) Morgan State	13	3	20	11	
2) SC State	10	6	16	13	
3) Norfolk State	9	7	11	17	
4) NC A&T State	9	7	16	14	
5) Coppin State	9	7	12	18	
6) Bethune-Cookman	9	7	16	15	
7) Hampton	8	8	15	15	
8) Florida A&M	6	10	9	20	
9) Howard	6	10	8	22	
10) Delaware State	6	10	8	23	
11) Md.-E. Shore	3	13	7	22	

MEAC YEARLY HONORS
PLAYER
TYWAIN MCKEE, Sr., G, CSU, Philadelphia - Averaged 18.2 points (2nd), 5.7 rebounds (10th), 4.0 assists (14th) and 2.9 steals (1st) and shot .796 (2nd) from the FT line for the Eagles.
ROOKIE
CLIFF REED, Fr., G, BCU, Daytona Beach, FL - Averaged 14.6 points (7th), 4.0 assists (14th) and 1.3 steals for Wildcats.
DEFENSE
JASON JOHNSON, Sr., C, SCSU, Brooklyn, NY - Led MEAC in rebounding (8.5 rpg) and FG% (.620). Scored 14.4 ppg., and was 3rd in blocks (1.4 bpg.).
COACH
TODD BOZEMAN, MSU - Led Bears to second straight regular season title with 13-3 league mark, most wins since joining Div. I (20).

WOMEN (FINAL)	CONF				ALL
	W	L	W	L	
1) NC A&T State	15	1	23	6	
2) Coppin State	12	4	14	13	
3) Delaware State	11	5	15	14	
4) Md.-E. Shore	10	6	14	13	
5) Morgan State	9	7	17	12	
6) Hampton	9	7	13	15	
7) Florida A&M	7	9	12	16	
8) Howard	7	9	8	21	
9) Bethune-Cookman	4	12	16		
10) SC State	3	13	6	22	
11) Norfolk State	1	15	1	26	

MEAC YEARLY HONORS
PLAYER
BRITTANIE TAYLOR-JAMES, Sr., F, NC A&T, Evanston, IL - Led MEAC in scoring (19.5 ppg.), avgd. 5.4 rebounds per game and shot .796 FTs
ROOKIE
SONIA JOHNSON, Fr., G, DSU, Yorktown, VA - Led rookies averaging 11.5 points and 4.3 rebounds.
DEFENSE
WHITNEY CUNNINGHAM, Sr., C, CSU, Baltimore - Led MEAC with 9.5 rebounds, 2.2 blocks per game, .550 shooting while averaging 12.5 points.
COACH
PATRICIA CAGE-BIBBS, NC A&T - Led the Lady Aggies to second straight regular season crown with identical 15-1 record. Finished 23-6 overall.

MEN (FINAL)	CONF				ALL
	W	L	W	L	
1) Alabama State	16	2	19	9	
2) Jackson State	15	3	16	14	
3) Prairie View A&M	12	6	16	15	
4) Ark. Pine Bluff	11	7	12	17	
5) Southern	8	10	8	22	
6) Miss. Valley St.	7	11	7	24	
7) Texas Southern	7	11	7	24	
8) Alabama A&M	6	12	8	18	
x Grambling State	4	14	6	23	
x Alcorn State	4	14	6	25	
x - Did not make Tournament field					

SWAC YEARLY HONORS
PLAYER
NA
SWAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK
PLAYER
NA

WOMEN (FINAL)	CONF				ALL
	W	L	W	L	
1) Prairie View A&M	17	1	20	10	
2) Southern	11	7	14	12	
3) Alabama State	11	7	14	15	
4) Ark. Pine Bluff	10	8	11	18	
5) Alabama A&M	9	9	11	17	
6) Miss. Valley St.	9	9	12	18	
7) Texas Southern	8	10	19	19	
8) Grambling State	6	12	8	20	
x Jackson State	5	13	8	20	
x Alcorn State	4	14	5	26	
x - Did not make Tournament field					

SWAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK
PLAYER
NA

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

11 MAKE NCAA DIV. II FIELD:

Six black college men's teams and five women's teams made the NCAA Div. II basketball championship fields announced Sunday.

CIAA Tournament champion **Johnson C. Smith** and SIAC Tournament winner **LeMoyné-Owen** received automatic bids on the men's side. **Virginia Union** of the CIAA, **Clafin** and **Benedict** of the SIAC and **West Virginia State** of the WVIAC received at-large bids.

For the women, Tournament winners **Johnson C. Smith** (CIAA) and **Fort Valley State** (SIAC) received automatic bids while **Fayetteville State** of the CIAA, **Clark Atlanta** of the SIAC and the independent **University of the District of Columbia** (UDC) received at-large bids. Women's Regional play runs March 13, 14 and 16. Men's Regionals will be contested March 14, 15 and 17.

Here are the dates, times and places for opening round Regional games.

WOMEN'S ATLANTIC REGIONAL

Friday, March 13 - **California, PA**

#3 Gannon (24-4) vs. #6 Fayetteville State (19-7) 1p
 #2 Indiana (Pa.) (25-5) vs. #7 Johnson C. Smith (20-8) 3p
 #1 California (Pa.) (26-4) vs. #8 District of Columbia (24-4) 8p

WOMEN'S SOUTH REGIONAL

Friday, March 13 - **Cleveland, MS**

#2 Fort Valley State (26-4) vs. Ouachita Baptist (18-8) 2p
 #3 Tampa (24.5) vs. #6 Clark Atlanta (23-4) 4p

MEN'S ATLANTIC REGIONAL

Saturday, March 14 - **Erie, PA**

#6 West Virginia State (24-5) vs. #3 Kutztown (24-4) 12n
 #2 Virginia Union (21-6) vs. #7 Indiana Univ. (21-7) 2:30p
 #4 J. C. Smith (23-7) vs. #5 Alderson-Broaddus (26-5) 8:30p

MEN'S SOUTH REGIONAL

Saturday, March 14 - **Lakeland, FL**

#1 Florida Southern (26-5) vs. LeMoyné-Owen (17-13) 12n
 #3 Clafin (23-3) vs. #6 Valdosta State (22-5) 2:30p
 #5 Benedict (24-5) vs. #4 Arkansas Tech (17-8) 8:30p

MEAC HOOPS HONORS:

League scoring leader **Brittanie Taylor-James** of **North Carolina A&T** and decorated **Coppin State** star **Tywain McKee** have been named the top women's and men's individual basketball award winners in the **Mid Eastern Athletic Conference**.

Taylor-James, named the women's player of the year, was the inspirational leader and top point producer as the Lady Aggies won the regular season title with a 15-1 record. The senior from Evanston, Ill., averaged a league-best 19.4 points per game, pulled down 5.4 rebounds per contest while also finishing second in the league in free throw percentage (.796).

McKee, a former MEAC rookie of the year and last year's tournament's most valuable player, takes home the league's player of the year award in his senior campaign. McKee, a Philadelphia, Pa. product, averaged 18.2 points, second best in the league, while stuffing the stat box as the league's steals leader (2.9 spg.), handed out 4.0 assists per game, tied for fourth best. He also pulled down 5.7 rebounds per game and shot .796 from the free throw line.

Whitney Cunningham of **Coppin State** and **Jason Johnson** of **South Carolina State** won defensive player of the year awards while **Clifford Reed** of **Bethune-Cookman** and **Sonia Johnson** of **Delaware State** were named the league's top rookies. Coaches **Patricia Cage-Bibbs** of **NC A&T** and **Todd Bozeman** of **Morgan State** who lead their teams to regular season titles were named coaches of the year.

ALL MEAC TEAMS

MEN

FIRST TEAM
 Tywain McKee, Coppin State
 Jason Johnson, SC State
 Reggie Holmes, Morgan State
 Eugene Myatt, Howard
 Michael Deloatch, Norfolk State

SECOND TEAM
 Clifford J. Reed, B.-Cookman
 Vincent Simpson, Hampton
 Neal Pitt, Maryland E. Shore
 Marquise Kateley, Morgan State
 Jason Flagler, SC State
 Corey Lyons, Norfolk State

WOMEN

FIRST TEAM
 Brittanie Taylor-James, NC A&T
 Corin Adams, Morgan State
 Whitney Cunningham, Coppin State
 Amber Bland, NC A&T
 April McBride, Maryland E. Shore

SECOND TEAM
 Zykia Brown, Howard
 Marie Reid, SC State
 Sonia Johnson, Delaware State
 Demetria Frank, B.-Cookman
 Chinyere Ukoh, Hampton

SWAC, MEAC to crown hoops champs

Basketball tournament eyes shift to Winston-Salem, N.C. and Birmingham this week as the **Mid Eastern Athletic Conference** and **Southwestern Athletic Conference** stage their annual hoops affairs.

At stake for both conference tournament champions are automatic bids to the NCAA Div. I Tournaments for men and women.

The MEAC Tournament runs at the Winston-Salem Lawrence Joel Coliseum beginning Tuesday, March 10 with both women's (12 noon) and men's (7 p.m.) championship games slated for Saturday, March 14.

The eight-team SWAC Tournament gets under way at Birmingham's Fair Park Arena with quarterfinal action on Wednesday, March 11 and Thursday, March 12. The women's (4 p.m.) and men's (8 p.m.) finals are also set for Saturday, March 14.

With one exception, ESPNU is televising the men's and women's finals of both tournaments live. The MEAC women's final will be on ESPNU by tape delay on Sunday, March 15 at 11 a.m.

Familiar names are on top of both the men's and women's brackets in both conferences.

On the women's side of the MEAC, **North Carolina A&T** under veteran coach **Patricia Cage-Bibbs** is back for the second year in a row as the top seed. The Lady Aggies (23-6) went 15-1 in conference play for the second straight year, winning the regular season race by three games. **Coppin State** (14-13, 12-4), who the Lady Aggies unseated last year as regular season champs but lost to in the tourney finals, is back as the second seed. **Delaware State** (15-14, 11-5), the only team to defeat A&T in the regular season, is seeded



MEAC TOURNAMENT BRACKET

TUESDAY, MARCH 10		
W - 7) Florida A&M vs. 10) South Carolina St.	11a	
W - 8) Howard vs. 9) Bethune-Cookman	1:30	
W - 6) Hampton vs. 11) Norfolk St.	4	
M - 7) Hampton vs. 10) Delaware St.	6:30	
M - 8) Florida A&M vs. 9)Howard	9	
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11		
W - 2) Coppin State vs. FAMU/SCSU winner	10a	
W - 6) Hampton vs. 11) Norfolk St.	12:30	
M - 6) Bethune-Cookman vs. 11) Maryland E. S.	3	
M - 1) Morgan St. vs. FAMU/HOW winner	7	
M - 2) South Carolina St. vs. HAM/DSU	9:30	
THURSDAY, MARCH 12		
W - 3) Delaware St. vs. HAM/NSU winner	12n	
W - 4) Maryland E. S. vs. No. 5 Morgan St.	2:30	
M - 3) Norfolk St. vs. BCU/UMES winner	6	
M - 4) N. Carolina A&T vs. No. 5 Coppin St.	8	
FRIDAY, MARCH 13		
SEMIFINALS		
W - A&T/HU/BCU winner vs. MSU/UMES winner	12n	
W - CSU/FAMU/SCSU winner vs. DSU/HAM/NSU winner	2:30	
M - MSU/HOW/FAMU winner vs. A&T/CSU winner	6	
M - SCSU/HAM/DSU winner vs. NSU/BCU/UMES winner	8	
SATURDAY, MARCH 14		
CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS (ESPNU)		
W - Championship Game	12n	
M - NC Central vs. Winston-Salem St.	3:30	
M - Championship Game	7	

third.

There's a similar scenario with the men as **Todd Bozeman's** Bears of **Morgan State** are seeded first for the second straight time. The Bears (20-11, 13-3) won the men's regular season title by three games over **South Carolina State**



SWAC TOURNAMENT BRACKET

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11		
W - #2 Southern vs. #7 Texas Southern	12n	
M - #2 Jackson State vs. #7 Texas Southern	2:30	
W - #1 Prairie View A&M vs. #8 Grambling State	5:30	
M - #1 Alabama State vs. #8 Alabama A&M	8	
THURSDAY, MARCH 12		
W - #3 Alabama State vs. #6 Mississippi Valley State	12n	
M - #3 Prairie View vs. #6 Mississippi Valley State	2:30	
W - #4 Univ. Arkansas-Pine Bluff vs. #5 Alabama A&M	5:30	
M - #4 Univ. Arkansas-Pine Bluff vs. #5 Southern	8	
FRIDAY, MARCH 13		
W - SU/TSU winner vs. ASU/MVSU winner	12n	
M - JSU/TSU winner vs. PV/MVSU winner	2:30	
W - PV/GSU winner vs. UAPB/AAM winner	5:30	
M - ASU/AAM winner vs. UAPB/SU winner	8	
SATURDAY, MARCH 14		
W - Championship Game	4	
M - Championship Game	8	

(16-13, 10-6). Four teams tied for third with 9-7 conference marks – **Norfolk State**, North Carolina A&T, defending tournament champ **Coppin State** and **Bethune-Cookman**.

Just as last season, the **Alabama State** men (19-9, 16-2) under head coach **Lewis Jackson** and **Prairie View A&M** women (20-10, 17-1) under coach **Cynthia Cooper-Dyke** are top seeds in the SWAC Tournaments.

Defending tournament champ **Jackson State** (16-14, 15-3) is a strong second seed on the men's side. Cooper's **Prairie View** squad is a big favorite among the women after winning the regular season title by six games.

FVSU, LOC take SIAC tourney titles

LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

Things went according to plan in Sunday's women's half of the **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference** basketball tournament championship in Birmingham.

The same can't be said for the men.

Regular season winner **Fort Valley State** completed a 25-0 sweep of its women's competition this season by putting on a second-half full-court blitz to knock off second-seed **Clark Atlanta** 79-69 in the ladies title game.

On the men's side, the first and second seeds, **Clafin** and **Benedict**, were sent packing in Saturday's semifinals making way for third and fourth seeds **Lane** and **LeMoyné-Owen** to battle it out for the title Sunday.

And battle they did, with LeMoyné-Owen prevailing with a hard-fought 64-61 win over the Dragons of Lane.

FVSU's full-court 1-2-2 pressure defense turned around a 32-30 halftime deficit in the women's final.

FVSU head coach **Lonnie Bartley** went away from his team's signature defense in the first half and decided to come back with it to open the second half. It resulted in a 24-8 run over the first nine minutes of the half putting his Lady Wildcats (26-4) up 54-40. CAU (26-4) could get no closer than nine the rest of the way.

Junior **Shekiya Tarpkins** led FVSU with 23 points, including 14 in the decisive second



MVPs: Fort Valley State's **Shekiya Tarpkins** (l.) and LeMoyné-Owen's **Rasul Buluu** (r.) took home the respective SIAC Tournament MVP trophies after leading their teams to championship victories.

half. Tarpkins was 10 of 16 from the field and had 8 rebounds, 3 assists and four of the team's 14 steals. Tarpkins averaged 21 points and 5 steals in the three tournament games to earn the tournament MVP honor.

Senior SIAC Player of the Year **Shantrell Moss** of **Clark Atlanta** was again brilliant, tallying 27 points in a losing effort. Moss also gobbled up a game-high 18 rebounds. In three tournament games, the 5-9 product of Fort Lauderdale, Fla. averaged 29 points and 16 boards per game.

Bartley, who won his ninth tournament championship in his 25 years leading the Lady

Cats, and first since 2003, will take his 15th team to the Div. II South Regionals as a result of the automatic bid that goes to the SIAC Tournament champion. **Clark Atlanta** also received an at-large bid when the field was announced Sunday night.

In a scrappy men's final, fourth-seeded **LeMoyné-Owen** (17-13) battled back from a 12-point halftime deficit (38-26) to down Lane.

The Magicians opened the second half on a 16-4 run to pull even at 42 with 13:46 left and took their first second-half lead at 56-55 on a **Rashard Weathers** follow shot with 4:45 to play.

From there the teams exchanged the lead five times before LOC went up for good 60-59 on tournament MVP **Rasul Buluu's** two free throws with 45.9 seconds left. The Magicians made just enough free throws in final half-minute to hold off the Panthers and give second-year coach **Edward Newton** his first title.

Buluu finished with 14 points and five rebounds. Junior starting point guard **Maurice Mickens** led LOC with 17 points and handed out six assists. **Calvin Stoudemire** had 10 points off the bench. Lane (22-8) was led by 13 points from **Nick Beauregard**, 12 each from **Lincoln Blache** and **Rodney Chatman** and 11 from **Gregory Lott**.

LeMoyné-Owen earned the conference's automatic bid to the men's South Region tournament as a result of its tourney title. They will be joined in the field by **Clafin** (24-3) and **Benedict** (24-5) who were both awarded at-large bids Sunday night.

2009 SIAC TOURNAMENT RESULTS (Scores and Top Players)

MEN

OPENING ROUNDS

Paine 66, Stillman 60
 Miles 56, Tuskegee 50
 Fort Valley State 79, Paine 75
 Kentucky State 64, Albany State 59
QUARTERFINALS
 Clafin 70, Miles 65
 LeMoyné-Owen 82, Ft. Valley St. 79
 Benedict 80, Kentucky State 64
 Lane 69, Clark Atlanta 67, OT
SEMINFALS
 LeMoyné-Owen 65, Clafin 61, OT
 Lane 64, Benedict 63
FINAL
 LeMoyné-Owen 64, Lane 61

ALL TOURNAMENT

David Cobb, Clafin
 Martinez Woody, Benedict
 Rodney Chatman, Lane
 Greg Hill, LeMoyné-Owen
 Rasul Buluu, LeMoyné-Owen

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER
 Rasul Buluu, LeMoyné-Owen

WOMEN

OPENING ROUND

LeMoyné-Owen 56, Stillman 54
 Tuskegee 64, Lane 50
 Miles 79, Benedict 62
 Albany State 65, Paine 61
QUARTERFINALS
 Ft. Valley St. 80, LeMoyné-Owen 60
 Tuskegee 58, Clafin 54
 Clark Atlanta 68, Miles 62
 Kentucky State 58, Albany State 56
SEMINFALS
 Ft. Valley St. 68, Tuskegee 63
 Clark Atlanta 64, Kentucky State 54
FINAL
 Ft. Valley State 79, Clark Atlanta 69

ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

Takesha Riggs, Fort Valley State
 Shekiya Tarpkins, Fort Valley State
 Shantrell Moss, Clark Atlanta
 Rashaundra Gartrell, Tuskegee
 Sheaywond Williams, Clark Atlanta

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER
 Shekiya Tarpkins, Fort Valley State