



BCSP Photo

**TEARS OF JOY:** A tearful Morgan State coach Todd Bozeman soaks in the MEAC title that takes him back to the NCAAs and his Bears there for the first time.

## DANCIN' AGAIN

**NO. 1 SEEDS IN SWAC AND MEAC DANCIN'; 11 DIV. II TEAMS IN TOURNEY BITE THE DUST**

## MEAC & SWAC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS (Men's and Women's Results and Honors)

### MEAC MEN

**OPENING ROUND**  
Hampton 51, Delaware State 32  
B-Cookman 52, Md.-Eastern Shore 47  
Florida A&M 71, Howard 58

**QUARTERFINALS**  
Morgan State 71, Florida A&M 41  
South Carolina State 57, Hampton 58  
Norfolk State 63, Bethune-Cookman 58  
Coppin State 66, N. C. A&T 63

**SEMIFINALS**  
Morgan State 75, Coppin State 67  
Norfolk State 74, South Carolina State 71

**CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Morgan State 83, Norfolk State 69

**ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM**  
Tywain McKee, Coppin State  
Michael Deloach, Norfolk State  
Reggie Holmes, Morgan State  
C. J. Reed, Bethune-Cookman  
Corey Lyons, Norfolk State

**OUTSTANDING PERFORMER AWARD**  
Reggie Holmes, Morgan State

**OUTSTANDING COACH**  
Todd Bozeman, Morgan State

### MEAC WOMEN

**OPENING ROUND**  
Florida A&M 54, South Carolina State 50  
Hampton 68, Norfolk State 49  
Howard 63, Bethune-Cookman 43

**QUARTERFINALS**  
Florida A&M 64, Coppin State 43  
North Carolina A&T 80, Howard 52  
Hampton 58, Delaware State 56  
Md. Eastern Shore 70, Morgan State 59

**SEMIFINALS**  
N. C. A&T 74, Md.-Eastern Shore 56  
Hampton 70, Florida A&M 58

**CHAMPIONSHIP**  
N. C. A&T 76, Hampton 54

**ALL TOURNAMENT TEAM**  
Amber Bland, NC A&T  
Lamona Smalley, N. C. A&T  
April McBride, Maryland Eastern Shore  
Sharella Leslie, Hampton  
Quanneisha Perry, Hampton

**OUTSTANDING PERFORMER AWARD**  
Amber Bland, N. C. A&T

**OUTSTANDING COACH**  
Patricia Cage-Bibbs, N. C. A&T

### SWAC MEN

**QUARTERFINALS**  
Jackson State 72, Texas Southern 65  
Alabama State 70, Alabama A&M 58  
Prairie View 65, Miss. Valley State 60  
Arkansas-Pine Bluff 62, Southern 61

**SEMIFINALS**  
Alabama State 63, Arkansas-Pine Bluff 55  
Jackson State 66, Prairie View 53

**CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Alabama State 65, Jackson State 58

**ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM**  
Brandon Brooks, Alabama State  
Andrew Hayles, Alabama State  
Grant Maxey, Jackson State  
Darrion Griffin, Jackson State  
Jeremy Caldwell, Jackson State

**MOST VALUABLE PLAYER**  
Andrew Hayles, Alabama State

### SWAC WOMEN

**QUARTERFINALS**  
Southern 57, Texas Southern 49  
Prairie View A&M 64, Grambling State 35  
Miss. Valley St. 48, Alabama State 43  
Arkansa-Pine Bluff 60, Alabama A&M 49

**SEMIFINALS**  
Prairie View 71, Arkansas-Pine Bluff 60  
Southern 64, Miss. Valley State 56

**CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Prairie View A&M 74, Southern 49

**ALL TOURNAMENT TEAM**  
Gaati Werema, Prairie View A&M  
Shondra Combs, Prairie View A&M  
Candice Thomas, Prairie View A&M  
Deidra Jackson, Southern  
Colby Stallings, Miss. Valley State

**MOST VALUABLE PLAYER**  
Gaati Werema, Prairie View

## SWAC/MEAC FINALS RECAPS

### SWAC WOMEN

Prairie View A&M 74, Southern 49

Prairie View (23-10) broke from a two-point (37-35) halftime lead to outscore Southern 37-14 over the final 20 minutes in claiming the SWAC Tournament title in Birmingham.

Cynthia Cooper-Dyke's team turned up the defensive pressure limiting the Lady Jags to 17% shooting in the second half.

"We came out with a different focus defensively," Cooper-Dyke said. "I tell our players that we have to focus on our game and we were much more solid defensively. We were able to get out and get some easy baskets off our defense."

Junior tournament MVP Gaati Werema tallied game highs of 29 points and 16 rebounds and was aided by 18 points from Candice Thomas and 15 points, 8 rebounds and 8 assists from point guard Dominique Smith.

"What can I say about her," said PVAMU head coach Cynthia Cooper-Dyke of Werema, who went down in last year's tourney with a torn ACL. "She is a great, great player and she deserves all of the success she's earned. She led us back to here and to this win."

Deidra Jackson had 19 to lead Southern (17-13).

### SWAC MEN

Alabama State 65, Jackson State 58

Tournament MVP Andrew Hayles scored 15 of his game-high 17 points in the second half to spur Alabama State (22-9) from a 25-23 halftime deficit to the victory over Jackson State for the SWAC title.

Hayles, last year's SWAC player of the year, threw in three critical second-half 3-pointers. The first, with 13:34 to play, broke a 34-all tie. After a basket by Hornets' super-sub Roland Fitch, the next 3 put ASU up 8, at 42-34 at the 11:49 mark. The teams traded baskets before Hayles threw in his third 3, this one from NBA range, for a 47-36 lead. JSU got as close as 49-46 at the 5:22 mark before the Hornets pulled away and made free throws down the stretch to preserve the win.

Wesley Jones added 14 points and Fitch finished with 12. Grant Maxey had 15 while Darrin Griffin and Garrison Johnson had 12 to lead JSU (18-15).

### MEAC WOMEN

North Carolina A&M 76, Hampton 54

Senior tournament MVP Amber Bland had a team-high 18 points, 16 in a decisive first half, and fellow senior and MEAC scoring leader Brittanie Taylor-James tallied 17, 14 of hers in the second half, to lead top seed North Carolina A&T (26-6) to the win over sixth-seeded Hampton in the championship game of the MEAC Women's Tournament Saturday afternoon.

Behind Bland's 16 first-half points, including four 3-pointers, and another 11 points from reserve center Lamona Smalley, the Lady Aggies jumped out to a 37-23 halftime lead. With Taylor-James catching fire in the second half, the lead reached 21 points several times in the second half, never dipping below 16.

The Lady Aggies (26-6) thus claim their first tourney championship since 1994, setting a school record for wins in a season for the second year in a row, and get the first title for fourth-year head coach Patricia Cage-Bibbs.

### MEAC MEN

Morgan State 83, Norfolk State 69

Top seeded Morgan State, playing under former blacklisted head coach Todd Bozeman, ended a 32-year title drought with a win over Norfolk State in the championship game Saturday night.

Bozeman, the former Cal Berkeley coach who was subjected to a show-cause ban by the NCAA that kept him out of the game for ten years, guided the Bears, once the doormat of the conference, to their first title in over three decades and first NCAA bid in just his third year on the job.

"It's been a long road back," said Bozeman, who coached Jason Kidd and Sharief Abdur-Raheem and took Cal to the Sweet 16 in the mid '90s before the scandal put him on the coaching sidelines. Bozeman, whose dad passed while he was out of coaching, cried tears of joy on the court after the victory, remembering his father and his long road back. At the postgame press conference he was in a more upbeat mood, quoting the rapper JayZ and his song entitled "Show Me What You Got" saying, "Sorry, I'm b-a-a-a-ck."

First-team all-MEAC guard and tournament MVP Reggie Holmes had a team-high 20 points and led four teammates in double figures as the Bears (23-11) pulled away to the victory over Norfolk State (16-16). Point guard Jermaine "Itchy" Bolden had 18, senior forward Marquis Kately added 16 and freshman power forward Kevin Thompson came thru with 15 points and a game-high 11 rebounds. The quartet was more than enough to offset the Norfolk State scoring duo of Michael Deloach and Corey Lyons who were the only Spartans in double figures with 30 and 14 points respectively.



SWAC Photo  
**WEREMA:** Double-double leads Lady Panthers to victory.



ASU Sports Photo  
**HAYLES:** Second-half barrage propels ASU to SWAC title.



Joe Daniels Photo  
**BLAND:** Her 16 first-half points were the driving force behind A&T's victory.



Carroll Smith Photo  
**SHARPSHOOTER:** MSU junior guard and tourney MVP Reggie Holmes had a team-high 20 points in the championship game win.

# Top seeds win, advance to NCAAs

### LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

Last year, no regular season winners and tournament top seeds won championships in the Mid Eastern Athletic Conference and the Southwestern Athletic Conference basketball tournaments.

This year, they all did.

All four regular season champs and No. 1 tourney seeds – the North Carolina A&T women and Morgan State men in the MEAC and Prairie View A&M women and Alabama State men in the SWAC – took care of business and completed the difficult sweep, most in dominating fashion Saturday (See FINALS RECAPS). And with their tournament wins each earns automatic bids to the respective NCAA Div. I national tournaments.

In contrast to last year when upsets and buzzer-beaters were the order of the day, each of the champions, with the exception of the Alabama State men, won their tournament's final game by double-digits.

Cynthia Cooper-Dyke's Lady Panthers of Prairie View (23-10) were the most dominant putting on a second-half blitz to dispose of second-seed Southern (16-13) in the SWAC women's final, 74-49.

Patricia Cage-Bibbs Lady Aggies of North Carolina A&T (26-6) began their onslaught in the first half in taking care of Hampton (16-16) in the MEAC women's final by almost as wide a margin, 76-54.

After a slow start, Todd Bozeman's Bears of Morgan State were impressive in both halves downing Norfolk State, 83-69, in the MEAC men's final.

Only Lewis Jackson's Hornets of Alabama State (22-9) came in minus the double-digit margin, knocking off second-seed Jackson State 65-58 in the SWAC men's final.

The scene now shifts to the NCAA 'Big Dance' where each conference winner will have to play giant killer against a much higher ranked opponent.

Cage-Bibbs' Lady Aggies and Bozeman's Bears both got decent seedings when the fields were

## NCAA TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

### MEN

#### PLAY-IN

Tues., March 17 - Dayton, OH - 6:30p (CT)  
Alabama State (22-9)  
vs. Morehead State (19-15)

#### SOUTH REGION

Thur., March 19 - Kansas City, MO - 9:40p  
#2) Oklahoma (27-5) vs.  
#15) Morgan State (23-11)

#### MIDWEST REGION

Fri., March 20 - Dayton, OH - TBD  
#1) Louisville (28-5) vs.  
#16) Alab. State./Morehead State winner

### WOMEN

#### TRENTON REGION

Sat., March 21 - Duluth, GA - 2p  
#3) Florida State (27-5) vs.  
#14) N. C. A&T (26-6)

#### OKLAHOMA CITY REGION

Sun., March 22 - Iowa City, IA - 7p  
#1) Oklahoma (28-4) vs.  
#16) Prairie View A&M (23-10)

announced Sunday and Monday.

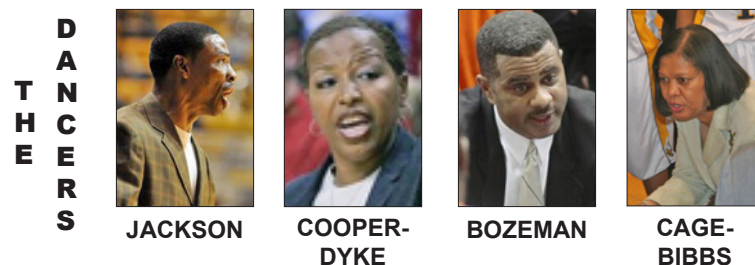
The Lady Aggies got the highest placement Monday when they were designated a 14th seed in the tough Trenton Region that includes women's top seed, undefeated (33-0) UConn. A&T will play Saturday (2 p.m.) in Duluth, Ga. against the Region's No. 3 seed, ACC runner-up Florida State (27-5).

The seeding represents a milestone for MEAC women's teams who've never been seeded above 15th in previous years.

"A fourteenth seed just shows the kind of respect these young ladies have earned over the last two seasons," said Bibbs, whose Aggies won back-to-back regular season titles and set school records for wins in each of the last two seasons. The Lady Aggies got a big win on the road at Atlantic 10 champion UNC-Charlotte, a 10th seed in this year's tournament.

"We are excited, but we are not just happy to be there. We're going to come ready to play," Bibbs said. This will be her seventh trip to the Big Dance taking three teams from Hampton ('00, '03 and '04) and two teams from Grambling State ('94, '96 and '97).

Morgan State received a 15th seed in the men's South Region and



will play 2nd seed Oklahoma (27-5) Thursday (9:40 p.m.) in Kansas City. The Bears also have a win over a team seeded 10th in the championship field, Maryland (20-13), who is playing in the West Region.

While this is Morgan State's first trip to the NCAA Tournament since moving to Div. I, Bozeman will be going for the third time in seven years as a head coach.

Cooper-Dyke's Lady Panthers are seeded 16th in the women's Oklahoma City Region and will also face Oklahoma (28-4), the women's team, on Sunday (7 p.m.) in Iowa City, Iowa. Oklahoma features all-American center Courtney Paris.

"We're going to come in and spread the court and get our one-on-one game going," Cooper-Dyke told the *Houston Chronicle* Monday. "We're going to defend, we're going

to change the defense and we're going to press and then once we get the ball we are going to run it right down their throats and keep the pressure up on their defense.

"And then let the chips fall where they may."

The WNBA legend has guided a Prairie View program that had never had a winning season prior to her arrival to three straight post-season appearances, two trips to the NCAAs and one to the WNIT.

Jackson's Alabama State men (22-9) kick things off in the opening round game Monday in Dayton, Ohio vs. Ohio Valley Conference champ Morehead State (19-15). The winner of that game will advance to take on men's overall No. 1 seed Louisville, Friday in the Midwest Region also in Dayton.

This is third trip to the Dance for the Hornets the first for Jackson.



**RANGE OF EMOTIONS:** NC A&T head coach Patricia Cage-Bibbs (top l.) smiles when she finds out her Lady Aggies will not get a 16th seed and face No. 1 UConn in the NCAA Tournament, claps and cheers (top r.) when her team is awarded a 14th seed in the Trenton Region before addressing over 200 Aggie fans (r.) and her team at a selection show party at the school Monday.



BCSP Photos

# BCSP Notes

## WNIT Reps

The 48-team field of the Postseason Women's National Invitation Tournament has been announced with Southern of the SWAC and Coppin State of the MEAC making the field.

Southern (16-13) will play at New Mexico Wednesday. Coppin State (14-14) will travel to West Virginia for its first round game on Thursday. Both teams finished second in the regular season in their respective conference.

The WNIT championship game will begin at 2 p.m. ET Saturday, April 4, and will be hosted by one of the two final participating schools.

The WNIT awards an automatic berth to each of the nation's 31 conferences. The spot goes to the team that finishes the highest in the regular-season conference standings that does not advance to the NCAA Tournament. To be considered for a WNIT automatic or at-large berth, a team must have an overall record of .500 or better.

Game times will be announced Tuesday, March 17, by the WNIT. For more information, visit the website at www.womensnit.com

## SWAC hoops honors

Prairie View A&M junior forward Gaati Werema and Alabama State senior point

guard Brandon Brooks were named SWAC basketball players of the year last week.

Werema, a junior from Miami scored 11.6 points and grabbed 7.5 rebounds per game while shooting 48% from the field and 76% from the line for the regular season and tournament champs. Ciara Shields of Arkansas-Pine Bluff was named defensive player of the year. Shay Holmes of UAPB was named newcomer of the year while Mississippi Valley State's Kaneshia Smith earned freshman of the year. Prairie View's Cynthia Cooper-Dyke was named coach of the year.

Brooks, at 6-2 from Irving, Tx., averaged 14.2 points per game while leading the league in assists (6.8 apg.) and finishing third in field goal percentage (51.4%) and fourth in free throw percentage (77.6%). His teammate Chief Kickingstallionsims, was named defensive player of the year while ASU coach Lewis Jackson earned coach of the year.

## NCAA Div. II Flameout

Eleven black college teams entered the NCAA Div. II basketball playoffs last week and 11 got sent home.

Ten went out in opening round games with only SIAC regular season champ Claflin getting an opening round win.

The Panthers knocked off Valdosta State 54-50 Saturday to advance to the semifinal round

Sunday of the South Region in Lakeland, Fl. But the Panthers fell to Christian Brothers in that game, 72-53.

## NCAA DIV. II RESULTS

### MEN

#### ATLANTIC REGION

##### QUARTERFINALS

Alderson Broaddus 92, J. C. Smith 81  
Indiana (PA) 69, Virginia Union 63  
Kutztown 99, West Virginia State 88

#### SOUTH REGION

##### QUARTERFINALS

Arkansas Tech 63, Benedict 62  
Fl. Southern 94, LeMoyn-Owen 77  
Claflin 54, Valdosta State 50 - Final  
**SEMIFINALS**  
Christian Brothers 72, Claflin 53 - Final

### WOMEN

#### ATLANTIC REGION

##### QUARTERFINALS

California (PA) 73, UDC 55  
Gannon 68, Fayetteville State 53  
Indiana (PA) 78, J. C. Smith 66

#### SOUTH REGION

##### QUARTERFINALS

Quachita Baptist 69, Fort Valley State 55  
Tampa 70, Clark Atlanta 63