

# BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



Joe Daniels Photo

## ALL OUT

**FOUR UP AND FOUR DOWN IN NCAA TOURNNEY; TWO MORE GO DOWN IN NIT**

**HIGH SCORER:** Junior guard Tawuana Cook's 19 led NC A&T in its close first round loss to Florida State.

## NCAA OPENING ROUND GAMES

### MEN - PLAY-IN

Morehead State 58, Alabama State 43

The SWAC men's champion Hornets, showing the ill effects of playing less than 72 hours after capturing their league tournament crown, had their worst shooting performance of the season and scored a season-low 43 points in falling to Morehead State in the NCAA Play-in game in Dayton, Tuesday.

The Hornets (22-10) shot 31% (18 of 58) from the field, 13.3% (2 of 15) from 3-point range and 45.5% (5 of 11) from the free throw line, all season-long worsts, in absorbing their second biggest point differential of the season. Only Nebraska's 80-51 win over ASU on Dec. 3 was by a wider margin.

SWAC Tourney MVP **Andrew Hayles** shot 5 of 17 from the field and led ASU with 14 points. SWAC Player of the Year **Brandon Brooks**, also struggled, canning just 5 of 13 shots, finishing with 10 points.

### SOUTH REGION - MEN

Oklahoma 82, Morgan State 54

MEAC champion **Morgan State** stayed within striking distance for much of the game but could not mount a serious challenge to second-seed Oklahoma in falling in the South Region in Kansas City.

The Bears (23-12) were on the short end of 9-0 and 8-0 first half runs that left them trailing 40-21 at the break. They stayed less than 20 points down until the Sooners (28-5) stretched out the lead in the last six minutes of the game.

MSU point guard **Jermaine "Itchy" Bolden** was held scoreless in 34 minutes and never really was a factor despite handling out four assists. The Bears, who were led by **Reggie Holmes'** 14 points and **Marquise Kately's** 11, shot just 28.6% (22 of 77) from the field.

### TRENTON REGION - WOMEN

Florida State 83, N. C. A&T 71

The MEAC champion Lady Aggies battled third-seed Florida State on near even terms for much of the game before the Seminoles pulled away in the final minutes.

A&T trailed 40-31 at the half and got within 51-48 on **Lamona Smalley's** layup with 13:31 to play. The Lady Aggies (26-7) stayed within single digits despite a nearly three-minute scoring drought and only trailed 63-56 after **Tawuana Cook's** 3-pointer at the 7:02 mark. But FSU scored the next three baskets producing a 7-0 run that stretched the lead to double-digits where it stayed the rest of the contest.

Cook led four Lady Aggies in double figures with 19 points. Smalley had 14 while **Amber Bland** and **Jaleesa Sams** tallied 13 each. Bland added 8 rebounds and six assists. MEAC Player of the Year **Brittanie Taylor-James** shot just 2 of 11 from the field and finished with 6 points.

### OKLAHOMA CITY REGION - WOMEN

Oklahoma 76, Prairie View A&M 47

Top seeded Oklahoma held SWAC champion **Prairie View A&M** to four field goals in the final 17 minutes to pull away to victory in a first round game in Iowa City, Iowa.

**Cynthia Cooper-Dyke's** squad (23-11) trailed by only 10 (38-38) at the half and were even closer at 42-34 on **Shondria Combs** jumper with 17:18 left. But the Sooners ran off 12 unanswered points over the next four minutes to effectively gain control of the game.

## NIT OPENING ROUND GAMES

### Women

New Mexico 72, Southern 44

The Lady Jaguars (16-14) had no players in double figures and shot 28.8% (19 of 66) from the field in falling to New Mexico.

UNM finished the first half on a 9-0 run to lead 38-15 at the break. The lead never dipped below 16 in the second half.

**Deidra Jackson** and **Tiffany Foster** both had 8 points to pace Southern.

West Virginia 70, Coppin State 40

**Coppin State** (14-15) was held to 28.6% shooting (17 of 59) and fell to West Virginia Thursday.

The Lady Eagles trailed 10-0 early, didn't score their first field goal until the 16:01 mark, went on to trail 17-2 before being down 38-21 at the break. The second half was much of the same with the lead swelling to as much as 34 points.

**Whitney Cunningham** was the lone Coppin State player in double figures with 15 points.

# Hoops Notes

## Virginia State reassigns Collins

Virginia State has decided to reassign men's head basketball coach **Anthony Collins** after four years at the helm.

Collins, a 1979 Virginia State grad, had compiled a 54-64 record during his tenure including a 14-18 mark this season.

The change comes despite Collins' team making a run to the CIIA Tournament semifinals in late February, losing to eventual champion **Johnson C. Smith**. That performance and despite the fact that Collins would have returned four starters off that team were not enough for him to retain the post.

"I was told [by administrators] that there were a lot of unhappy people, and that they wanted to go in a different direction," Collins, told *Richmond Times-Dispatch* writer Ralph Paulk last week. "I asked for some particulars, but I wasn't given any. Obviously, it's a big disappointment because we felt as if we were building something and we believed we were on the right track."

Collins best season was his second, in 2006-07, when his team posted a 21-7 record but lost in the quarterfinals of the CIIA Tournament. He followed that up with an 11-18 mark last season.

He is the third CIIA men's head coach to lose his job so far this post season.

## D'Alessio curiously out at Bowie State

**Bowie State's** most successful men's basketball coach ever, **Luke D'Alessio**, will no longer lead the Bulldogs.

BSU Athletic Director **Derek Carter** announced last week that **D'Alessio** will not return once his contract expires in June 2009.

"This was a tough decision but a change is needed at this time to take our program to a higher level," said Carter. "We appreciate the contributions that Coach D'Alessio and his staff have provided the University and wish them nothing but the best in their future endeavors."

And D'Alessio has made significant contributions. Prior to his hiring in 1999, the Bulldogs had never won a tournament game. During his ten years at the helm, Bowie State became one of the most feared programs in

the conference and annually challenged perennial title contender **Virginia Union** under then head coach **Dave Robbins** for conference honors.

D'Alessio, a former junior college mentor joined the BSU family in 1999 and posted a 7-21 record in his inaugural season. But he lived up to his "program changer" reputation a year later when his Bulldogs compiled a 19-9 record, BSU's first winning season in 30 years.

The team's 10-6 record in the CIIA also marked the Bulldog's first winning record in the conference play in school history.

Over his 10-year Bowie State career, D'Alessio captured a CIIA Championship (2003) and advanced all the way to the NCAA Division II Final Four that same year. He garnered two CIIA Eastern Division titles (2004 and 2005), was a NCAA Division II South Atlantic Regional Semifinalist (2004), and made it to the NCAA Division II Sweet 16 in 2005.

Personal accomplishments include CIIA Coach of the Year (2001-2002 and 2003-2004), Most Outstanding Coach (CIIA Tournament - 2003) and South Atlantic Region Coach of the Year (2003).

D'Alessio finished the 2008-2009 season with a 15-13 overall record, 10-8 in the CIIA and had a BSU career record of 199-96 (.674).

**Fayetteville State**, also of the CIIA, announced in the first week of March that head men's coach **Sam Hanger's** contract would not be renewed. Hanger had compiled a FSU record of 99-101 in seven years. Also within the past seven seasons, the Broncos have advanced to the CIIA Championship game twice (2005 & 2008) and had three .500+ seasons.

## UAPB women headed in new direction

**University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff** Athletics Director **Louis Perkins Jr.** has announced that the contract of head women's basketball coach **Danny Evans** will not be renewed. During his five year tenure at Arkansas-Pine Bluff Evans accumulated a 42-78 overall record.



D'ALESSIO



SCOTT



HILLIARD



BOYD

"After completing a review of our women's basketball program we feel it is necessary to move in a new direction going into next season," said Perkins.

Perkins noted that UAPB assistant women's basketball coach **Cary Shelton** will be named Interim Head Coach. Shelton has been a member of the UAPB Athletics Department for the past four years serving as an assistant coach on both the men's and women's basketball teams.

UAPB will honor Evan's contract until its completion on July 1st. A national search to fill the head coaching vacancy will follow.

## Three HBCU stars to play in Hall of Fame Classic

Three HBCU players of the year will take part in the (NCAA Div. II) Hall of Fame All-Star Classic on Friday, March 27, at 7 p.m. at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass., the birthplace of basketball. The game is a day before Saturday's NCAA Div. II national championship game in Springfield.

CIIA Player of the Year **Anthony Hilliard** of **Elizabeth City State**, SIAC Player of the Year **Kenny Boyd** of **Morehouse** and WVIAC Player of the Year **Ted Scott** are all seniors who will play for the East squad coached by Linc Darnier of Florida Southern. Both Scott and Hilliard are two-time players of the year in their conferences.

Scott, a 6-3 guard, led the Jackets to a 24-5 mark and the league regular season title by averaging 23.0 points per game. The 2007 East Region Player of the Year ranks second on the WVSU career scoring list with over 2300 points.

Hilliard, a 6-4 swingman, averaged a double-double of 22.9 points and 11.0 rebounds per game, both tops in the CIIA, while leading ECSU to its first back-to-back 20-win seasons in nearly 40 seasons. Hilliard grabbed over 1000 rebounds in his ECSU career. Boyd, a 6-7 senior, averaged 15.9 points and 9.4 rebounds per game while shooting 54.1% from the field for Morehouse.

The players were selected by the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC). Fans may attend the All-Star game by purchasing admission to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame on Friday evening.

# BCSP Notes

## Stallworth now a Steelers owner

Hall of Fame wide receiver **John Stallworth** is among three new partners in the Pittsburgh Steelers who have been approved by NFL owners.

Stallworth, Bruce V. Rauner, Chairman of GTCR Golder Rauner, LLC., and the Varischetti family of Brockway, Pa., bring to six new partners the NFL has approved under the realignment of Steelers ownership under Dan and Art Rooney.

Rauner, Stallworth and the Varischetti family join James Haslam III, the Paul family and Thomas Tull as new partners to help maintain the Rooney family ownership of the Steelers.

The agreement among the Rooney family for closing the transaction was originally set to take place before March 31, 2009, but with the possible addition of new investors the closing will be postponed until May.

Two or three more partners could be added by then, team president Art Rooney II has said.

Stallworth, 56, who earned both undergraduate (B.S. in Business Administration) and master's (M.B.A. in Business Administration) degrees at **Alabama A&M**, is the president and CEO of Genesis II, a family business office created in 2006 to enhance the partner's philanthropic support efforts, investments and related business interests.

He previously served as President and CEO of Madison Research Corporation (MRC) before selling the company and retiring in 2006. MRC is a technology and government contracting corporation in Huntsville, Ala., with operations in South Carolina, Georgia, Texas, Florida, Tennessee and Washington D.C.

Stallworth played 14 seasons with the Steelers and was a member of four Super Bowl championship teams. He earned four trips to the Pro Bowl and was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2002. He retired as the Steelers' all-time leader in receptions but has since been passed by Hines Ward.

He currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors for the John Stallworth Foundation, a non-profit organization he founded in 1984 to provide scholarships to students attending Alabama A&M. He also serves on the Board of Directors for many organizations, including Crestwood Medical Center, First Commercial Bank, Big Spring Partners, Alabama Sports Hall of Fame and the Huntsville Botanical Garden Foundation.

## Alcorn State chooses Collins as grid coach

**Alcorn State** has announced the promotion of **Earnest E. Collins, Jr.** to head football coach. Collins has accepted a one-year contract from ASU President **Dr. George E. Ross**.

"Coach Collins is providing our student-athletes with much needed consistency and stability during this transitional period," said President

Ross. "I am thankful for his ability to keep the team pulled together as a family, and am delighted he is willing to continue to lead our program. I am looking forward to a great season."

In a statement released on January 27, 2009, ASU announced that head football coach **Ernest Jones** has been terminated on the grounds of "malfeasance and contumacious conduct." The school's decision was reached after ASU said it fulfilled due process procedures as indicated under the terms of Jones' employment contract.

Jones, a former Alcorn State receiver in his playing days, was hired in December 2007 and went 2-10 in this past season, his first year on the job. Collins was one of seven assistant coaches fired by the university in November before being reinstated days before firing Jones.

Collins will be assisted this season by offensive line coach **Willard Scissum**; defensive coordinator **Zachary S. Shay**; offensive coordinator **Dino J. Dawson**; Quarterback coach and recruiting coordinator **Michael Armour**; special teams and defensive line coach **Keith Majors**; running backs coach **Terrance D. Robinson**; secondary coach **Jack Phillips**; and assistant defensive line coach and football operations **Quentin Qualls**.

## DelState wins MEAC Bowling title

The **Delaware State** Lady Hornets won the **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC)** Bowling Championship title with a victory over the **Florida A&M** Sunday afternoon at the Gate City Lanes in Greensboro, North Carolina.

The match will be televised in a tape-delayed format and will air on April 2nd on ESPN2 at 7 p.m.

The Lady Hornets, who are ranked fourth in the nation, won four straight Baker matches to clinch to the title. **Adriana Jaime**, the 2009 MEAC Rookie of the Year, and sophomore anchor **Angela Reynolds** led the Hornets to their first-ever MEAC bowling title after falling in the championship game a year ago.

DSU head coach, **Kim Terrell-Kearney** was named the Outstanding Coach. The Lady Hornets currently hold a 114-34 mark overall and concluded the regular season at 25-5 in MEAC play.

Florida A&M upset the defending NCAA National Champion **Maryland Eastern Shore** Lady Hawks 4-1 in the semifinal round to advance to the championship match. The Lady Rattlers battled back after a loss to Delaware State yesterday by winning three matches in the double-elimination bracket for a chance at the MEAC title. Maryland Eastern Shore's **Martha Perez** earned Outstanding Performer Honors. The sophomore knocked down 869 pins and averaged a 217.25 during the qualifying round. Joining Perez on the All-Tournament team were aime (Delaware State), **Cathryn Myrick (Norfolk State)**, **Kimberly Roe (Bethune-Cookman)** and **Dara Martin (Hampton)**.

## Elizabeth City State wins CIIA Bowling title

On the brink of elimination, **Elizabeth City State** battled back to capture its first ever CIIA Women's Bowling Championship Monday (March 23) at AMF Durham Lanes.

Led by most valuable bowler **Tiffany Johnson**, the top seed Lady Vikings knocked off No. 2 seed Bowie State 4-1 and 4-0 in the finals after being nearly ousted from the tournament. The Lady Vikings advanced to the finals only after edging third seed Virginia State University 4-3-1 in the semifinals. BSU had beaten ECSU 4-2 earlier Monday.



COLLINS