

# BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



Hampton Univ. and MEAC Photos

## A DANCE TO REMEMBER

MEAC AND SWAC CROWN HOOPS CHAMPIONS; MEAC & SWAC MEN'S CHAMPS MEET IN FIRST FOUR

**RESOLUTION:** MEAC Commissioner Dr. Dennis Thomas and Hampton Prez Dr. Richard R. Harvey agree on terms of Pirates' departure from MEAC.

### TOURNEY CHAMPIONSHIP GAME RECAPS

#### SWAC MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

Texas Southern 84, Arkansas-Pine Bluff 69

HOUSTON – Third-seeded Texas Southern shot 59.1% from the floor including hitting 10 of 21 from behind the arc to pull away from Arkansas-Pine Bluff and claim a 84-69 win in the men's championship game of the SWAC basketball tournament Saturday.

The title is the fourth in five years for the Tigers (15-19) and head coach Mike Davis who again head into the NCAA Tournament with the conference's automatic bid.

UAPB (14-20) trailed 45-36 at the half but pulled within 59-57 on an inside basket by Martaveous McKnight with 10:20 left. But TSU went on a 14-4 run and closed the game on a 25-12 spurt.

The Tigers had four players score in double figures led by Trayvon Reed's 17 points, 15 from tournament MVP Demontrae Jefferson, 14 from Donte Clark and 13 from Derrick Bruce. Reed led TSU with 10 rebounds.

Travon Harper led UAPB with 21 points, McKnight had 17 and Christian Robertson added 11.



Jefferson

#### SWAC WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

Grambling State 72, Southern 68

HOUSTON, TX – Third-seed Grambling State ended a 19-year title drought as the Lady Tigers made the key plays down the stretch to down top-seed Southern in the SWAC women's championship game, 72-68.

The teams entered the fourth quarter tied at 53 but GSU put together an 11-2 run to go ahead 68-62 with two minutes left. Southern's Brian Green had back-to-back baskets to pull the Lady Jags (17-13) within two at 68-66 with 31 seconds left. But that would be their final points. Monisha Neal canned a free throw and Justice Coleman scored on a breakaway layup off a steal in the final moments.

Hill led GSU (19-13) and stuffed the stat sheet with 27 points, 10 rebounds, 5 assists and three steals to claim the Most Valuable Player award. Jazmin Boyd and Neal both had 11 points.

Green had 22 points, 9 assists and 5 rebounds while Samantha Duncan had 12 points to lead Southern.



Hill

#### MEAC MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

North Carolina Central 71, Hampton 63

NORFOLK, VA – Sixth-seeded North Carolina Central closed the game on a 13-4 run over the last four-plus minutes to knock off top-seed Hampton, 71-63, in the championship game of the MEAC Men's Basketball Tournament Saturday.

Senior forward Pablo Rivas, named the tournament's most valuable player, led the Eagles (19-15) with 22 points including six points over the final stretch that saw NCCU break from a 58-all tie with 4:19 left. The go-ahead score for NCCU was on a putback by redshirt-junior center Raesean Davis with 2:21 to play after three offensive rebounds. The Davis basket was the last of 11 lead changes in the game.

Freshman guard Jordan Perkins scored 13 points and had a game-high nine assists. John Guerra added 12 points and freshman Reggie Gardner had 11 with both connecting on two 3-pointers. Davis led the Eagles off the board with 9 rebounds.

Malique Trent-Street led the Pirates (19-15) with 15 points. Kalin Fisher and Akim Mitchell finished with 11 points. All-conference guard Jermaine Marrow was held to 9 points on 3-of-14 shooting from the field.



Rivas

#### MEAC WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

North Carolina A&T 72, Hampton 65, OT

NORFOLK, VA – Hampton University was foiled in perhaps its last attempts to win men's and women's basketball titles Saturday in Norfolk, Va. Hampton is joining the Big South next year.

The Lady Pirates, the third-seeded team in the women's tournament, fell to top seed North Carolina A&T 72-65 in overtime late Saturday afternoon after the top-seeded Pirates fell to sixth-seed North Carolina Central in the early afternoon men's title game.

A&T (23-8) rode a 45-11 edge in bench points in the women's final. Three of the four Lady Aggies that scored in double figures played off the bench led by 15 from Jade Scaife, 12 from Mikaya Wilson and tourney MVP Kala Green. Starter Alexis Lessears had 10.

The Lady Aggies trailed 29-23 at the break but outscored Hampton 19-8 in the third period to lead 42-37 entering the final period. HU's Mikayla Sayle tied the game at 57 with :07 seconds left to force overtime. In the extra period, Scaife scored on a basket with :28 seconds left and later added two free throws to stretch A&T's lead to 70-65.

Jephany Brown led Hampton with 22 points and was joined in double-figure scoring by Ashley Brown with 12 and Sayle with 10.



Green

#### NCAA DIV. II ATLANTIC REGION WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

Indiana (Pa.) 75, Bowie State 60

RICHMOND, VA – Third-seeded Indiana (Pa.) closed the game on a 14-2 run to get by eighth-seed Bowie State 75-60 in the championship game of the women's NCAA Div. II Atlantic Regional.

Bowie State stayed close most of the game. The score was tied at the end of the first quarter at 13. BSU was outscored 20-13 in the second quarter to trail 33-26 at halftime but the Bulldogs came back to forge a 19-17 edge in the third period to enter the final quarter down just 50-45. But they were outscored 25-13 in the last period.

Kyah Proctor led Bowie State (22-10) with 23 points including hitting 4 of 9 from 3-point land. Lisa Jing had 11 points. Kiara Colston was held to 4 points on 2 of 10 shooting from the field.

Edinboro had four players score in double-digits in the win. BSU had knocked off top-seed, host and CIAA champion Virginia Union 63-56 in the opening round quarterfinal game and downed fourth-seed Edinboro 79-75 in the semifinals.

### 2018 SWAC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS (Results & Honors)

#### SWAC MEN QUARTERFINALS

- #1 Ark.-Pine Bluff 77, #8 Miss. Valley St. 73
- #2 Prairie View A&M 87, #7 Alcorn State 71
- #3 Texas Southern 90, #6 Alabama State 76
- #4 Southern 62, #5 Jackson State 60

#### SEMIFINALS

- #1 Ark.-Pine Bluff 71, #4 Southern 65
- #2 Pr. View A&M vs. #3 Texas Southern 8:30p

#### FINALS

- #3 Texas Southern 84, #1 Ark.-Pine Bluff 69

**MOST VALUABLE PLAYER**  
Demontrae Jefferson, Texas Southern

**ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM**  
Trae Jefferson, Texas Southern  
Donte Clark, Texas Southern  
Travon Harper, Arkansas-Pine Bluff  
Martaveous McKnight, Arkansas-Pine Bluff  
Gary Blackson, Prairie View A&M

#### SWAC WOMEN QUARTERFINALS

- #2 Texas Southern 70, #7 Alabama State 42
- #1 Southern 70, #8 Arkansas-Pine Bluff 60
- #3 Grambling State 80, #6 Alcorn State 71
- #4 Prairie View A&M 66, #5 Jackson State 64

#### SEMIFINALS

- #1 Southern 84, #4 Prairie View A&M 76
- #3 Grambling St. 66, #2 Texas Southern 59

#### FINALS

- #3 Grambling State 72, #1 Southern 68

**MOST VALUABLE PLAYER**  
Shakyla Hill, Grambling State

**ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM**  
Shakyla Hill, Grambling State  
Monisha Neal, Grambling State  
Taylor Robinson, Texas Southern  
Briana Green, Southern  
Samantha Duncan, Southern

### 2018 MEAC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS (Results & Honors)

#### MEN OPENING ROUND

- #4 North Carolina &T 62, #13 Delaware State 61
- #5 Norfolk State 78, #12 Md.-E. Shore 68
- #9 Florida A&M 88, #8 Howard 78
- #6 N. Carolina Central 60, #11 Coppin State 48
- #7 Morgan State 83, #10 S. Carolina State 80

#### QUARTERFINALS

- #1 Hampton 75, #9 Florida A&M 71
- #7 Morgan State 78, #2 Bethune-Cookman 77
- #6 N. Carolina Central 58, #3 Savannah St. 56
- #4 N. Carolina A&T 70, #5 Norfolk State 64

#### SEMIFINALS

- #1 Hampton 96, 4 N. C. A&T 86
- #6 N. C. Central 79, #7 Morgan State 74

#### FINALS

- #6 NC Central 71, #1 Hampton 63

**MOST OUTSTANDING PLAYER**  
Pablo Rivas, North Carolina Central

**ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM**  
Pablo Rivas, NCCU; Raesean Davis, NCCU; Malique Trent-Street, HAMP; Charles Wilson-Fisher, HAMP; Tiwain Kendley, MSU

**OUTSTANDING COACH**  
LeVelle Moton, NC Central

#### WOMEN OPENING ROUND

- #13 Savannah State 51, #4 Norfolk State 48
- #12 Florida A&M 69, #5 Howard 64
- #6 Morgan State 58, #11 Coppin State 51
- #9 S. Carolina State 76, #6 N. C. Central 67
- #7 Md.E-Shore 77, #10 Delaware State 57

#### QUARTERFINALS

- #1 N. Carolina A&T 54, #1 S. Carolina State 38
- #2 B-Cookman 71, #7 Md. E-Shore 65
- #3 Hampton 66, #6 Morgan State 57
- #12 Florida A&M 66, #13 Savannah State 64

#### SEMIFINALS

- #1 NC A&T 65, #12 Florida A&M 61
- #3 Hampton 61, #2 Bethune-Cookman 60

#### FINALS

- #1 N. C. A&T 72, #3 Hampton 65, OT

**MOST OUTSTANDING PLAYER**  
Kala Green, NC A&T

**ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM**  
Kala Green, NCA&T; Alexis Lessears, NC A&T; Ashley Willis, HAMP; Makeda Sayle, HAMP; Angel Golden, B-CU;

**OUTSTANDING COACH**  
Tarrell Robinson, NC A&T

# MEAC/SWAC champs clash early in Big Dance

## LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

When black college teams are seeded sixth and third in their respective men's conference basketball tournaments and end up as upset winners of those tournaments, it's a likely scenario that they'll be playing in what the NCAA dubs its First Four playoff games.

Well, that's the reality now for North Carolina Central who won the MEAC tournament this past weekend as a sixth seed and Texas Southern who took the SWAC title Saturday as a third seed (See related RECAPS).

What perhaps wasn't expected is that they would face each other in the First Four, Wednesday in Dayton, Ohio (6:40 p.m., ET, truTV).

As 16th seeds, the 19-15 team of North Carolina Central head coach LeVelle Moton and 15-19 squad of Texas Southern head coach Mike Davis will square off Wednesday with the winner taking on West Region top seed Xavier (28-5) in a Friday first round game in Nashville, Tennessee (7:20 p.m., TBS).

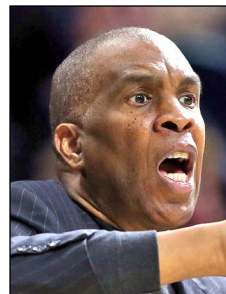
NCCU and TSU are among the eight teams vying for the last four spots in the 64-team field that will compete for the Div. I men's national championship.

The NCAA instituted a 'play-in' game in 2001 and continued it through 2010. Five teams from the SWAC and four from the MEAC were involved in nine of the ten games but never faced each other. Florida A&M of the MEAC and Arkansas-Pine Bluff out of the SWAC were the only HBCUs to win 'play-in' games.

Since the concept was expanded in 2011 to include the so-called 'First Four' games, the SWAC champion has been involved three times and the MEAC champ four times, but again they have never faced each other. North Carolina A&T in 2013 and Hampton in 2015, both out of the MEAC, are the only teams to win First Four games.

There will be another First Four winner this year.

Davis is taking his SWAC champion Tigers to the Big Dance for the fourth time in five years. Moton is taking his MEAC champion Eagles to the Big Dance for the third time in five years. Both coaches and teams won league tournament



Davis



Murray

## BLACK COLLEGES IN 2018 DIV. I NCAA TOURNAMENT

### MEN

FIRST FOUR / WEST REGION on truTV  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 6:40 P.M. (EDT) - DAYTON, OH

#16 North Carolina Central (19-15) vs. #16 Texas Southern (15-19)

FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 7:20 P.M. - NASHVILLE, TN on TBS

Noth Carolina Central/Texas Southern winner vs. #1 Xavier (28-5)

### WOMEN

ALBANY REGION on ESPN2  
FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 7:30 P.M. ET - COLUMBIA, S.C.

#15 North Carolina A&T (23-8) @ #2 South Carolina (26-6)

LEXINGTON REGION on ESPN2  
FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 7:30 P.M. ET - WACO, TX

#15 Grambling State (19-13) @ #2 Baylor (31-1)



Moton



Robinson

titles last season and advanced to the NCAA Tournament. NCCU eventually lost in the First Four to UC Davis, 64-63, while TSU lost to eventual national champion North Carolina in the second round, 103-64.

This will be Davis's ninth appearance in the tournament overall. He made four others as head coach at Indiana and one trip while leading Alabama Birmingham.

In Moton's first appearance in 2014, his 28-5 Eagles received a 14th seed, the highest ever for an HBCU in the NCAA Tournament. They lost to 3rd-seed Iowa State, 93-75.

The SWAC and MEAC women's tournament champions – 19-13 Grambling State and 23-8 North Carolina A&T respectively – received 15th seeds in the women's championship field and will face off against powerful 2nd-seeded teams on their home courts this week.

Grambling State is in the Lexington (Ky.) Region and will travel to meet 31-1 Big 12 champion Baylor in a 7:30 p.m. first round game on the Lady Bears' home floor in Waco, Texas (7:30 p.m. ESPN2).

Grambling State head coach Freddie Murray is in his first full season as head coach after serving as interim head coach last season.

A year ago his team won the SWAC regular season title but lost in the SWAC tournament championship game to Texas Southern. His Lady Tigers went on to post the first postseason win in SWAC women's NCAA basketball history as they upset Ole Miss 78-75 in the first round of the WNIT before falling to Tulane in the second round.

Meanwhile, TSU was crushed by Baylor in the NCAA first round, 119-30.

Murray and the Tigers will have their hands full with the Bears who average 88.6 points per game this season and feature four starters at least 6-1 in height.

North Carolina A&T was placed in the Albany (N.Y.) Region and will take on four-time SEC Tournament champion South Carolina (26-6) Friday on its home floor in Columbia, S. C. (7:30 p.m., ESPN2).

Sixth-year N. C. A&T head coach Tarrell Robinson is taking his Lady Aggies to the NCAA Tournament for the second time.

The Lady Aggies won the MEAC Tournament title in 2016 to earn their first trip under Robinson. They were seeded 16th in the Lexington Region and lost to top seed Notre Dame on its home floor in the first round, 95-61.

# BCSP Notes

## More Hoops Action

MEAC regular season men's champion Hampton and women's champion Bethune-Cookman along with SWAC women's regular season champion Southern received automatic bids to the respective NIT and WNIT postseason tournaments this week.

Hampton (20-14) shared the MEAC regular season title with Bethune-Cookman and Savannah State but was awarded the top seed in the league's tournament last week. The Pirates lost in the MEAC tournament championship game to North Carolina Central (see related RECAP).

The Pirates travelled to South Bend, Indiana Tuesday to face ACC member Notre Dame (19-15) in a first round NIT matchup. The Pirates are seeded eighth and the Fighting Irish first in their bracket of the 32-team NIT field.

Southern (17-13) won the SWAC women's regular season title but fell in the tournament championship game to Grambling State (see related RECAP). The Lady Jags headed to Tuscaloosa, Alabama Wednesday to face Alabama (17-13) in a first round WNIT contest.

The Lady Wildcats of Bethune-Cookman (24-6) shared the MEAC regular season title with North Carolina A&T but fell in the tournament semifinals to Hampton. The Lady Wild-



cats play Thursday in Atlanta against Georgia Tech (18-13) in a 7 p.m. matchup.

In hoops action Monday, North Carolina A&T (20-14), who finished tied for fourth in the MEAC men's regular season and lost in the tournament semifinals to Hampton, lost at Liberty 65-52 in the CIT Tournament. Senior Aaren Edmead led the Aggies with 14 points.

# MEAC/Hampton agree to amicable separation

NORFOLK, Va. - The Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Council of Chief Executive Officers and Hampton University have come to an amicable agreement with regards to Hampton's departure from the conference.

Hampton University consents to a fine of an undisclosed amount for failing to meet the MEAC's July 1, 2017 deadline for withdrawal from the conference.

The two have also agreed to terms that allows for Hampton and MEAC member institutions to play as non-conference opponents in the future and preserves the traditional rivalries held by stakeholders of both Hampton University and the MEAC. Hampton announced in November that it was leaving the MEAC to join the Big South Conference. The decision prompted competing letters from both sides challenging the terms of the separation.

"Hampton University values our relationship with the MEAC and I believe this agreement is best for all parties going forward," said Dr. William R. Harvey, President of Hampton University. "This agreement is not only what's best for Hampton University and the MEAC, but it is what's best for our collective students, alumni, boosters and fans."

"We are very pleased with the agreement reached between the MEAC and Hampton University," said Dr. Dennis E. Thomas, MEAC Commissioner. "We wish Hampton University student-athletes, coaches and staff continued success in their future endeavors."



## MEN ATLANTIC REGION - in Petersburg, VA QUARTERFINALS

#1 Virginia State 81, #8 Virginia Union 76

SEMIFINALS  
#5 Shippensburg 77, #1 Virginia State 58

SOUTH REGION - in Atlanta, GA QUARTERFINALS

## BASKETBALL REGIONAL RESULTS

#3 Claflin 72, #6 Clark Atlanta 61  
#8 Florida Southern 98, #1 Morehouse 97

SEMIFINALS  
#7 Barry 89, #3 Claflin 64

WOMEN ATLANTIC REGION in Richmond, VA QUARTERFINALS

#8 Bowie State 63, #1 Virginia Union 56

#4 Edinboro 80, #5 Virginia State 55

SEMIFINALS  
Bowie State 79, Edinboro 75

CHAMPIONSHIP  
Indiana (PA) 75, Bowie State 60

SOUTH REGION - Jackson, TN  
#1 Union 94, #8 Clark Atlanta 50