

SIAC HOOPS **ROCKS IN ROCK HILL**

COMES NORTH: SIAC The league's basketball tournament invades Rock Hill, S.C. from Monday thru

WSSU, FSU CIAA CHAMPS; SIAC TOURNEY TIPS; SHOWDOWN THURSDAY FOR MEAC MEN'S TOP SEED

TOURNEY FINALS RECAPS

CIAA MEN

Winston-Salem State 63, Fayetteville State 62

CHARLOTTE, NC - The final CIAA Men's Basketball Tournament in Charlotte after a 15-year stay - the 75th in its storied history - went down to the wire as Winston-Salem State stormed back late to knock off Fayetteville State, 63-62 before a packed house at the Spec-

All-CIAA guard Robert Colon canned all three free throws after he was fouled behind the arc with 4.6 seconds left

to give the Rams the win. The free throws were the final acts of a drama that saw WSSU (19-10) storm back from a 59-48 deficit and outscore the Broncos 15-3 over the final 4:23 to pull out the win. FSU, meanwhile, was on the receiving end of some questionable calls and unfortunate play down the stretch. The clutch free throws capped a 25-point



performance by Colon, the tournament's MVP, and gave the Rams their first tournament title since 2012 and first leading the Rams for second-year head coach Cleo Hill, Jr.

WSSU, the tournament's second seed from the South Division, began the final run when Xavier Fennell scored on a layup and was fouled with 3:41 to play. He missed the ensuing free throw but grabbed the rebound and fed Jonathan Hicklin who canned a 3-pointer to cut the FSU lead to 59-53 at the 3:29 mark. The five-point swing was key to the WSSU comeback

FSU's Jalen Seagers canned one of two free throws before Colon fought through traffic to score on a layup and pull the Rams within 60-55 with 2:32 on the clock.

Two FSU misses later at the 1:49 mark, WSSU's Jaylen Alston rebounded a Colon miss in close and scored on the putback and WSSU trailed just 60-57. After a timeout, FSU (24-8), the third seed from the South, got its only basket of the final stretch on a layup by Darrion **Dixon** to lead 62-57.

Colon again fought through traffic to score on a layup to cut the lead to 62-59 with a minute left, setting up the final heroics.

After FSU center Will Brown missed a free throw, Colon was fouled just after entering the frontcourt and canned one of his two free throws to bring the Rams within 62-60 with just :17 seconds left.

After a Bowie State timeout, WSSU, needing to foul, doubleteamed Seagers. But rather than call what appeared to be an obvious foul, the referees called a held ball, giving the ball back to WSSU with

WSSU inbounded the ball to Colon who was fouled on a 3-point attempt by FSU's Denzel Hosch with just over four ticks left. He calmly sank all three free throws to give WSSU its first lead of the second half. After a timeout, BSU inbounded the ball to point guard Jalen Spicer who dribbled into the frontcourt before unleashing a 30-footer at the final buzzer that did not connect.

Fennell's 11 points and ten by Hicklin gave the Rams three players in double figures. Hosch had 13 points and Seagers ten to lead the Broncos. Brown had seven points and a game-high 14 rebounds.

With the tournament title, WSSU will receive the league's automatic berth into the Atlantic Region of the NCAA Div. II championship tournament when the field is announced next week (March 8). Virginia State (19-9), who entered the tournament as the North Division's top seed and ranked sixth in the region, is the only other team likely to get a

CIAA WOMEN

Fayetteville State 61, Bowie State 53

CHARLOTTE, NC - South Division top-seed Fayetteville State pulled away from a 32-all tie at the half to down **Bowie State**, the second-seed from the North, 61-53, in Saturday afternoon's CIAA women's tournament championship game.

The Lady Broncos (21-8), who took the rubber match after the teams split victories in the regular season, were led by Shantel Bennett's 24 points and 20 from all-CIAA guard and tournament MVP Katisha Hyman. Center Aminata Johnson added 10 points while London Thompson pulled down a game-high 17 rebounds.

It's the first championship for FSU since 2010 and the first for fourth-year head coach Serena-King Coleman. FSU and Serena-Coleman came in as the South's top team a year ago but were crushed in the championship game by North top seed Virginia Union, 74-41.



Hyman

15-5 before settling for a 21-13 first quarter lead. BSU (24-5) battled back and led 32-30 before Hyman beat the halftime buzzer on a jumper to send the teams into the

The nip-and-tuck battle saw Hyman score

the game's first eight points and FSU jump up

FSU took its first second-half lead, 40-38, on a layup by Bennett with 5:56 to go in the third quarter. It was a lead FSU would not surrender. Bennett also scored the last points of the quarter on a layup after a steal by Hyman with 1:55 to play that gave the Lady Broncos a 47-41

BSU pulled within two, at 49-47 with 5:15 to play on a layup by Chyna Butler but that was as close as it got. FSU scored the next four points on a layup by Hyman and two Bennett free throws. BSU made one final push, getting to within 53-50 on Kyaja Williams' 3-point play at the 2:31 mark. But FSU scored the next five points, all from the free throw line, as BSU was forced to foul.

Bowie State was led by 14 points from Williams, but she was the only Lady Bulldog to score in double digits.

By virtue of its championship, FSU will earn the CIAA's automatic berth to the NCAA Div. II national championship tournament and will be one of eight teams in the Atlantic Regional. The 64-team championship field will be announced on Sunday, March 8.

Virginia Union (23-4), the top seed from the CIAA's North Division who lost to BSU in Friday's semifinals, may also receive a berth. The Lady Panthers were ranked third in the region entering the tournament. Bowie State could also get into the field. BSU was sixth in the region prior to the tournament and defeated VUU after splitting with the Lady Panthers in the regular season.

2020 CIAA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT (Results and Tournament Honors)

MEN

OPENING ROUND

4S Claflin 70, 5N Elizabeth City State 60 6S Livingstone 74, 3N Bowie State 70 5S St. Augustine's 66, 4N Lincoln 61 3S Fayetteville State 80, 7S Shaw 65

QUARTERFINALS

Claflin 63, 1N Virginia State 58 2S Winston-Salem State 71, 6S Livingstone 52 1S Johnson C. Smith 70. St. Augustine's 68 Fayetteville State 72, 2N Virginia Union 67

SEMIFINALS Winston-Salem State 58, Claflin 56

Fayetteville State 56, Johnson C. Smith 48

CHAMPIONSHIP Winston-Salem State 63, Fayetteville State 62

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER Robert Colon, Winston-Salem State

ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

Donte Edwards, St. Augustine's Cornelius Reynolds, Claflin Roger Ray, Livingstone Donell Frayer Jr., Claflin Cayse Minor, Johnson C. Smith Will Brown, Fayetteville State Jaylen Alston, Winston-Salem State

> JOHN C. McLENDON SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

Denzel Hosch, Fayetteville State

Javlen Spicer, Favetteville State

Robert Colon, Winston-Salem State

5N Virginia State 57, 4S Livingstone 45 3N Bowie State 73, 6S Shaw 47 4N Elizabeth City State 70, 5S St. Augustine's 65

OPENING ROUND

QUARTERFINALS

1N Virginia Union 83, 2S Virginia State 43 3N Bowie State, 2S Johnson C. Smith 47 1S Fayetteville State 64, Elizabeth City State 52 3S Winston-Salem State 63, 2N Lincoln 59

SEMIFINALS

Bowie State 53. Virginia Union 41 Fayetteville State 64, Winston-Salem State 47

CHAMPIONSHIP Fayetteville State 61, Bowie State 53

WOMEN

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER Katisha Hyman, Fayetteville State

ALL TOURNAMENT TEAM Kyaja Williams, Bowie State O'Shea Hatley, Winston-Salem State Natalia Leaks, Virginia State Nyasia Davis, Elizabeth City State Katisha Hyman, Fayetteville State Shameka McNeill, Virginia Union Brandi Segars, Winston-Salem State Shankia McCallum, Bowie State Chantel Williams, Fayetteville State Talanya Hutton, Bowie State

> JOHN B. MCCLENDON SPORTSMANSHIP TROPHY

SIAC now up as Hoops Tourneys roll on

LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

The defending champion men of Miles and the women of **Benedict** are the favorites as the 2020 **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference** tipped off its basketball tournament Monday at the Rock Hill Sports & Events Center in Rock Hill, S. C.

West Division leader Miles (21-4, 16-3) had ripped off 13 consecutive wins before losing its regular seasonender to LeMoyne-Owen last week. The win streak vaulted the Golden Bears into the 19th spot in the D2SI-DA national Media Poll.

Fred Watson's troops opened tournament play Wednesday (March 4, 2:15 p.m.) vs. **Savannah State**, the East's fourth seed. SSU defeated Spring Hill Monday in an opening round contest, 79-66.

East Division leader Benedict (24-3) had the best conference record (14-2) for the women by two games over West Division leader Miles (19-7, 14-4). The Lady Tigers first opponent Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. is **Paine**, the fifth seed from the East, who won an opening round game Monday vs. Spring Hill, 71-55.

The SIAC Tournament runs through Saturday, March 7 (see bracket) with the women's championship game at 4 p.m. and men's final at 7 p.m.

MEAC

Bethune-Cookman (22-5, 14-1) is in as the top seed on the women's side but a showdown Thursday in Durham, N. C. between rivals North Carolina A&T and North Carolina Central will determine the top seed for the men in next week's (March 10-14) basketball tournaments at the Norfolk (Va.) Scope Arena.

NCCU (16-13) and NC A&T (16-14) have identical 12-3 conference marks as they enter Thursday's 7:30 p.m. regular season finale. NC A&T won the first meeting in Greensboro 77-60 on Feb. 17.

With Savannah State leaving the conference (moving to the SIAC) and Florida A&M ineligible for tournament play, the format for this year's tourney is different.

There will be two sessions of two games (four games total) from Tuesday's opening round through Friday's semifinals with women's games being played at 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. and men's games to follow at 6 p.m.

The four opening round games on Tuesday (March 10) involve women's and men's teams seeded 7th through 10th.

The top six men's and women's teams advance to quarterfinal play on Wednesday and Thursday. Seeds No. 1 and 2 for both the women and men play on Wednesday (March 11) with seeds No. 3 and 4 playing on Thursday (March 12).



WOMEN

OPENING ROUNDS - MON., MARCH 2 W - 5W Lane 68. Clark Atlanta 52 M - 4E Sav. State 79, 5W Spring Hill 66 W - 5E Paine 71, 4W Spring Hill 55 M - 5E Benedict 90, LeMoyne-Owen 71 W - 2W Central St. 63, 7W Kentucky St. 49

OPENING ROUNDS - TUES., MARCH 3 M - 3W CSU vs. 6E FVSU - 10a M - 7W KSU vs. 2E CAU - 12:15p W - 3W TU vs. 6E ASU - 2:30p W - 3E FVSU vs 6W LOC - 4:45p M - 2W TU vs. 7E PC - 7p

QUARTERFINALS - WED., MARCH 4

M - 3E MHC vs. 6W LC - 9:15p

W - 1W Miles vs. 5W Lane - 1p M - 1W Miles vs. 4E Savannah State - 3:15p W - 1E Benedict vs. 5E Paine - 5:30p M - 1E Albany State vs. 5E Benedict - 7:45p

QUARTERFINALS - THURS., MARCH 5 W - 2E Savannah St. vs. TU/ASU - 1p M - CSU/FVSU vs. KSU/CAU - 3:15p W - CSU/KSU vs. FVSU/LOC - 5:30p M - TU/PC vs. MHC/LC - 7:45p

> SEMIFINALS - FRI., MARCH 6 W - 1p and 5:30p M - 3:15p and 7:45p

CHAMPIONSHIP - SAT., MARCH 7 W - 4 p.m. M - 7 p.m.

Saturday's women's championship game will be played at 1 p.m. with the men's final to follow at 3:30 p.m. **SWAC**

The SWAC has two more dates on its regular season schedule (Thursday, March 5 and Saturday, March 7) before its tournament begins next week.

Only the top eight teams in the regular season advance to next week's tournament that begins with quarterfinal games at the home of the higher seed on Tuesday, March 10. The tournament will then shift to the Bartow Arena in Birmingham, Alabama on Friday, March 13 for the semifinals and Saturday, March 14 for the finals.

On the men's side of the ten-team conference, Mississippi Valley State, at 2-15, will not make the tournament field. **Arkansas-Pine Bluff**, at 3-14 is also likely out. For the women, Grambling State and MVSU will not make the field.

The top seed for the women will likely be Jackson State (17-9 15-1) who closes Thursday at Alabama State and Saturday at Alabama A&M. The top men's seed will likely be **Prairie View A&M** (17-11, 13-2) who closes on the road at Alcorn State (Thurs.) and Southern (Sat.).

INDEPENDENTS

The West Virginia State men (18-9, 13-9) finished fourth in the Mountain East Conference and the women (9-19, 7-15) finished ninth as they began tournament play on Wednesday (March 4) at the Wesbanco Arena in Wheeling, W. Va.

The WVSU women played Wednesday (2:15 p.m.) vs. No. 8 West Liberty while the men play Friday, March 6 (8:15 p.m.) vs. No. 5 Wheeling.

The **Hampton** men (13-18, 8-10) finished fifth in the Big South regular season while the Lady Pirates (17-10, 13-5) are in second place with two games left to finish out the regular season.

The men's tournament opened play on Tuesday, March

3 with Hampton playing its first game Thursday (March 4, 8 p.m.) vs. No. 4 Longwood at Radford University. The women's tournament begins on March 10. Higher seeds host games throughout both men's and women's Big South Tournaments.

The Tennessee State men (17-14, 9-9) finished tied for fifth in the Ohio Valley Conference race while the TSU women (4-24, 2-16) finished 11th. The women did not make the postseason tournament field.

The TSU men opened tournament play Wednesday (March 4, 6:30 p.m.) vs. No. 8 Morehead State at the Ford Center in Evansville, Indiana, site of the men's tournament.

BCSP Notes

SC State's Taylor at Combine

Former South Carolina State offensive lineman Alex Taylor was the only HBCU player at last week's NFL Combine at the Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Taylor, at 6-8 308 with a wingspan of 36 1/8 inches and hands of 11 1/4 inches, ran 5.09 in the 40-yard dash, did 21 reps on the bench, had a

vertical jump of 25.0 inches and a 116.0 inch broad jump. He finished the 3-cone drill in 7.77 seconds and the 20-yard shuttle in 4.79 seconds.

The former basketball player who originally signed to play football at Appalachian State, earned all-MEAC honors his junior (3rd team) and senior (1st team) senior seasons and was named a third team AP FCS all-American as a senior.

His overview on NFL.com reads " . . . Exceptional combination of length and athleticism will have NFL evaluators salivating over Taylor's potential."

Marrow, Stanley named first team all-Big South

CHARLOTTE, N.C. -- Hampton senior Jermaine Marrow and sophomore Ben Stan**lev** were named First Team All-Big South by the conference office on Monday.

Now a two-time selection, Marrow missed six games due to injury but still leads the league in scoring (24.3 ppg) and assists (6.5 apg) making him the first Big South player to lead in both. He is the only player ranked in the top 15 nationally in both categories.

Stanley exploded on the scene this year averaging 22.5 points and almost eight rebounds per game. He is ranked in the top 10 nationally in scoring and averaged 25.5 points per game in the month of December when Marrow was out.





Stanley

WOMEN

Jackson State

Alabama A&M

Alcom State

Alabama State

Prairie View A&M

Arkansas Pine Bluff

Miss. Valley State

BCSP PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Southern

Texas Southern

WOMEN

ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

First Team - Ay'Anna Bey, Jr., F, BEN; Tiffany Valentine, R-Sr., F, SHC; Sakina Wynn, Sr., G, MC; Keondra Archie, Jr., F, PC; Takyra Gilbert, Sr., PG, CSU Second Team - Lamontazia Blair, Jr., G. LOC: Le'Andrea

2019-20 SIAC

BASKETBALL HONORS

Gillis, So., G, SSU; Nola Carter, Sr., G, FVSU; Alexandria James, Sr., G, ASU; India Blakely, Jr., G, TU TOP AWARDS

Coach - Phillip Wallace, MC Defense - Rajana Johnson MC Freshman - Amari Heard. SSU Newcomer - Ta'Kyla Austin, SSU Player - Ay'Anna Bey, BC (pictured)



MEN

CONF

10 6 9 7

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13

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W L 17 9

18 9

13 14

14 13 12 16

12 16

9 18 8 21

2 26

ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

First Team - Randy McClure, Sr., G/F, ASU; James Eads, Sr., G, TU; Darweshi Hunter, Fr., G, CSU; Chase Shellman, R-Fr., F, SHC; Avery Brown, Jr. G, MC Second Team - Jelani Watson-Gavle, Jr., G. MC: Romaine Thomas, Sr. F, CAU; Myles Thomas, Sr., F, TU; Shawn Foxbrennan, Sr., F, FVSU; Tyler Singleton, Sr., G, CAU TOP AWARDS

Coach - Fred Watson, MC Defense - Romaine Thomas, CAU Freshman - Darweshi Hunter, CAU Newcomer - Darweshi Hunter, CSU Player - Avery Brown, MC (pictured)



2019-20 BLACK COLLEGE BASKETBALL (Standings and Outstanding Players)

MEAC MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE CONF W L W L 12 3 16 13 12 3 16 14 North Carolina Central Bethune-Cookman Norfolk State North Carolina A&T 12 3 4 15 15 North Carolina A&T Bethune-Cookman 6 15 14 Morgan State 9 6 15 15 Delaware State Morgan State 9 10 20 North Carolina Central SC State 10 11 17 Howard Maryland Eastern Shore 4 11 5 25

Florida A&M

Ineligible

12 4 25

14 3 27

10 5 12 14

BCSP PLAYERS OF THE WEEK **Jermaine Bishop**, 6-1, Sr., G, **NSU** - Had 24 points, with six 3s and 7 rebounds in win over DelState, 26 points with six 3s and 4 assists in win over Howard. Kam Langley, 6-0, Jr., G, NC A&T - 14 points and

Florida A&M

12 assists in win over SC State. Malik Miller, 6-4, So., G, MSU - 18 rebounds and three steals vs. Coppin State. Scored 14 points with three assists

Wavne Bristol Jr., Fr., G. HOWARD - Had 20 points and 8 rebounds in win over UMES and 11 points and 4 assists in loss to Norfolk State.

MEAC MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

L W L 1 22 5 3 18 10 19 8 15 13 12 16 14 14 Maryland Eastern Shore 4 12 3 24 Coppin State 2 14 3 25 4 11 6 20

PLAYER OF THE WEEK Chanette Hicks, NSU - Tallied 20 points with 4 assists and 7 steals vs. Howard, 22 points with 3 assists, 3 blocks and 2 steals vs. DelState.

Paulina Afriye, 5-11, Sr., F, NCCU - Averaged a double-double of 16.5 points and 11.5 rebounds in 1-1 week getting 13 points and 10 rebounds with 4 steals in win over SCSU, 20 pts., 14 rebs. 2 blocks and a steal in loss to B-CU.

Anissa Rivera, 6-1, Fr., F, NCCU - Had 10 points, 2 assists and 5 blocks vs. SCSU, 11 points, 7 rebounds 1 block, steal and assist vs. B-CU.

SWAC SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE MEN

W L 17 11 Prairie View A&M 13 2 15 14 Texas Southern Southern 14 15 10 6 9 7 Grambling State 16 13 13 14 Alcorn State 12 17 Jackson State 8 21 7 19 Alabama State Alabama A&M 11 Arkansas-Pine Bluff Miss. Valley State 2 15 2 27

BCSP PLAYER OF THE WEEK **Tristan Jarrett**, 6-0, Jr., G, **JSU** - Averaged 21.5 points and 6.0 rebounds in two wins tallying 16 points with 2 assists and 3 rebounds in win over UAPB 27 points with 9 boards, 3 assists and 2 steals in

Devonte Patterson, 6-7, Sr., F, PVA&M - Threw in 21 points with 8 rebounds and an assist in win over Alabama State, had 13 points, 11 rebounds, 7 assists and a steal in win over Alabama A&M. NEWCOMER ROOKIE NA

Dayzsha Rogan, JSU - In two wins averaged 20.0 ppg., and 3.5 rpg., 3.0 spg. getting 14 points with 2 rebounds and 4 steals vs. UAPB, 26 points with 5 ebounds and 2 steals vs. MVSU DEFENSIVE PLAYER

Ameshya Williams, 6-1, So., F, JSU - Averaged 17.5 ppg., 9.5 rpg., 4.0 blocks in two wins getting 24 points, 12 rebounds and 4 blocks in win over UAPB, 11 points with 7 rebounds, 4 blocks and 3

SWAC SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE INDEPENDENTS

W. Va. State Tennessee State 17 14 13 18 Hampton Lincoln (Mo.)

BCSP PLAYERS OF THE WEEK Jermaine Marrow, 6-0, Sr., G, HAMP-TON - Averaged Had 30 points and six assists vs. USC-Upstate, 27 points

Ben Stanley, 6-6, So, F, HAMP - Had 25 pts., with six rebounds vs. USC-Upstate, 29 points, six rebounds in

17 10 Hampton W. Va. State 9 19 UDC Tennessee State Lincoln (Mo.) 3 25 PLAYER & ROOKIE OF THE WEEK

Nylah Young, 5-10, Fr., F, HAMPTON - Scored 13 points and grabbed 11 rebounds in win over Charleston Southern