



For Updates on COVID-19
cdc.gov

PANDEMIC: ADJECTIVE - (of a disease) prevalent over a whole country or the world.
NOUN - an outbreak of a pandemic disease.

CANCEL CULTURE!

CORONAVIRUS BRINGS A HALT TO ATHLETIC COMPETITION, FORCING CLASSES ONLINE

2020 SWAC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS (Results)

MEN QUARTERFINALS	WOMEN QUARTERFINALS
#1 Prairie View A&M 82, #8 Alabama A&M 60	#1 Jackson State 71, #8 Alabama State 53
#2 Texas Southern 75, #7 Grambling State 62	#2 Texas Southern 77, #7 Arkansas-Pine Bluff 46
#3 Southern 67, #6 Alabama State 53	#3 Southern 59, #6 Prairie View A&M 55
#4 Jackson State 69, #5 Alcorn State 52	#4 Alabama A&M 74, #5 Alcorn State 54

CANCELLED

CANCELLED

2020 MEAC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS (Results)

MEN OPENING ROUND	WOMEN OPENING ROUND
#8 Delaware St. 69, #9 Md.-E. Shore 64	#8 Md.-E. Shore 62, #9 Coppin State 50
#10 Howard 70, #7 SC State 63	#7 Howard 79, #10 SC State 72

CANCELLED

CANCELLED

Coronavirus halts tournaments, spring sports

LUT WILLIAMS
BCSP Editor

Last week on Thursday, March 12, the entire sports world decided to take a pause to deal with the present and potential future effects of the dangerous worldwide COVID-19 pandemic.

A slew of closings, suspensions and cancellations from major professional sports organizations, beginning with the NBA and eventually including the NCAA and other conferences early Thursday, prompted the **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** and the **Southwestern Athletic Conference** to announce the suspension of play at their basketball tournaments and competition in all spring sports.

By early this week, in addition to shutdowns in major cities and state of emergency declarations in several states, many college campuses halted in-person classes and were conducting instruction online.

The SWAC cancelled its men's and women's basketball tournament early Thursday afternoon before announcing in a Friday press release cancellation of all winter/spring sports activities through the end of the academic year. The SWAC had played quarterfinal games of its basketball tournament at home sites and was scheduled to begin quarterfinal play last Friday in Birmingham, Alabama.

The MEAC Tournament in the Norfolk, Va. Scope Arena staged two women's quarterfinal games Thursday afternoon with regular attendance before shutting down the tournament after 4 p.m. The **Morgan State vs. Delaware State** women's quarterfinal game began just after 2 p.m. Thursday and finished just past 4 p.m. It was the last college game played in the country.

The cancellation announcement was made at a press conference following the game by **Howard University President Dr. Wayne I. Frederick**, president of the MEAC Council of Presidents.

"We've taken this decision out of abundance of caution given the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 and the fact that the athletes are potentially at-risk," said Frederick, who is also a practicing surgical oncologist. "They have to return to their campuses and we do have some concerns about that."

The MEAC, which began with opening round play Tuesday and quarterfinal round play Wednesday, announced on Wednesday night that Thursday afternoon's women's and Thursday evening's men's quarterfinal games would be played with regular attendance and Friday and Saturday's games would proceed with restricted attendance.

However, that changed Thursday afternoon when the slew of closings were announced.

"All of this is done with the health and safety of the athletes in mind recognizing that this is a very fluid situation and decisions are being made as we get more information," Fredrick said.

One of the first questions at the press conference was why it took the MEAC so long to make its decision after the flood of cancellations earlier. Frederick said that Thursday's 12 p.m. game had started as MEAC officials met at 12:30 p.m. and the second game was beginning



IT'S ALL OVER: Howard University President, Dr. Wayne I. Frederick makes the announcement last Thursday cancelling the rest of the MEAC Tournament in Norfolk and all MEAC spring sports.

as "we were making the decision." They decided to wait until the second game finished to announce the decision.

As a medical professional, Frederick went on to shed light on the wisdom of the decision.

higher - about (age) 65 - but I have sickle cell and I'm a Type-1 diabetic, which means that I'm at-risk.

"So, apart from the hand-washing, we have to practice significant social distancing in order

"We don't want to get into the situation which is taking place in Italy now where we're making decisions about who should get care based on what we think their outcome would be, or for that matter, their value to society - especially in our circumstance where those decisions may be made primarily around those who have access and money. So we have to be very careful that we don't stress the health care system."

DR. WAYNE I. FREDERICK,
President, Howard University and Chairman of MEAC Council of Presidents who is also a practicing surgical oncologist

"This is a very complicated situation. This virus - while we have experience with influenza - is very different. It's highly contagious. It has a different presentation depending on your age group and co-morbidities. As a result, as a country in general, we have to be very careful, especially when we think of these athletes.

"So, apart from the hand-washing, we have to practice significant social distancing in order to really contain the spread of the virus."

FREDERICK

"These are young very healthy people who may not present with any symptoms but may become vectors, who may take this back to our campuses and give it to people who are potentially immuno-compromised."

Frederick explained that he himself is one of those immuno-compromised. "I'm not in that age group where the mortality is significantly

to really contain the spread of the virus."

He added his concerns about the ability of the health and medical industry to "quickly ramp up and expand itself.

"We don't want to get into the situation which is taking place in Italy now where we're making decisions about who should get care based on what we think their outcome would be, or for that matter, their value to society - especially in our circumstance where those decisions may be made primarily around those who have access and money. So we have to be very careful that we don't stress the health care system." He noted that he was particularly sensitive to that reality because at Howard "we have a hospital, so I have a responsibility to a much wider community in the District of Columbia. So I have to make sure that the medical resources that we supply for that community that I don't put an unnecessary burden on it, if I can avoid it."

Frederick also said that a couple of MEAC institutions had already made decisions not to participate in the league's bowling championships scheduled for the following week and other spring sports championships.

"That certainly was a factor in the decision."

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

NFL'S HBCU COMBINE CANCELLED:

The NFL released a statement last week, canceling its much anticipated inaugural HBCU Combine. The cancellation comes after the cancellation of its Annual Meeting, alongside several other upcoming sporting events.

The league also cancelled the Regional Combine; both were set to take place March 27-29 at the Miami Dolphins' Health Training Facility.

"These decisions were made consistent with the league's primary concern to protect the health of club and league employees, combine participants, and the public," NFL Football Operations stated.

"We will continue to closely monitor developments, consult with leading experts, and be prepared to make any other changes necessary as circumstances warrant."

The HBCU Combine had 51 potential participants spanning from NCAA Div. I and FCS to NAIA programs.

HARGRAVE SIGNS WITH EAGLES:

Former **South Carolina State** and **Mid Eastern Athletic Conference** standout **Javon Hargrave**, who spent four productive years with the Pittsburgh Steelers, has signed a lucrative free agent contract with the NFL's Philadelphia Eagles.

The reported three-year, \$39 million deal with \$26 million guaranteed, makes Hargrave the NFL's highest-paid nose tackle.

Hargrave, 27, was drafted in the third round of the 2016 NFL Draft by Pittsburgh after winning back-to-back Defensive Player of the year honors in the MEAC. Hargrave had been a pass-rushing terror and one-man wrecking crew while playing for the Bulldogs under head coach **Buddy Pough**.

Hargrave has played outstandingly in his four seasons with the Steelers, recording 168 combined tackles, 22 tackles for loss and 14.5 sacks.

He has been the starting nose tackle in Pittsburgh's 3-4 base defense though his role in Eagles defensive coordinator Jim Schwartz's 4-3 scheme will be different. For the Steelers, the 6-foot-2, 305-pound Hargrave didn't just play on running downs but played as many passing-down snaps and was a productive rusher.

He has also played in 16 games each of the last three seasons. He has missed only one game throughout his four-year career. In addition, Hargrave has started 52 games out of his 63 career games with the Steelers. This past season, the 27-year-old finished with career-highs in total tackles (60) and tackles for loss (seven).

Although the Steelers would've loved to keep Hargrave, they simply couldn't afford it with already signed defensive tackles Cameron Heyward and Stephon Tuitt still on the roster. Earlier this week, the Steelers placed the franchise tag on outside linebacker Bud Dupree, limiting their 2020 salary cap.

DAVIS OUT AT ELIZABETH CITY STATE:

The **Elizabeth City State University** Vikings have parted ways with head women's basketball coach **Antonio O. Davis**, who took the helm of the Lady Vikings basketball program in 2017-18 and completed his third season.

"We thank Coach Davis for his quality work, dedicated service and guidance of our women's basketball program over the past three seasons," ECSU athletic director **George Bright** said in a news release last week.

ECSU finished the 2019-20 season with an 11-19 overall record, including a 6-10 mark in the CIAA and finished 1-7 in the CIAA Northern Division.

The university said Wednesday a search for the next head coach will begin immediately.

Davis came to ECSU after serving as an assistant women's basketball coach at **Shaw University** under head coach **Jacques Curtis**. He has also served as women's head coach at **Kentucky State**, **Saint Augustine's** and **Livingstone**.

He is a CIAA legend based on his playing career at Livingstone that resulted in his induction last month into the CIAA Hall of Fame. Davis led the nation in scoring at 35 points per game in the 1987-88 season.

2019-20 SWAC MEN'S BASKETBALL ALL-CONFERENCE TEAMS/INDIVIDUAL SPECIALTY AWARDS

All-SWAC First Team
G - Tyrrik Armstrong, Texas Southern
G - Gerard Andrus, Prairie View A&M
F - Devonte Patterson, Prairie View A&M
F - Roland Griffin, Jackson State
G - Ivy Smith, Jr., Grambling State

All-SWAC Men's Basketball Second Team
G - Tristan Jarrett, Jackson State
G - Troymain Crosby, Alcorn State
G - Tobi Ewosho, Alabama State
F - DeVante Jackson, Grambling State
F - Yahuza Rasas, Texas Southern

PLAYER OF THE YEAR
Devonte Patterson, Prairie View A&M

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR
Jayveous McKinnis, Jackson State

FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR
Caleb Hunter, Mississippi Valley State

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR
Roland Griffin, Jackson State

COACH OF THE YEAR
Byron Smith, Prairie View A&M

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. - **Prairie View A&M University** forward **Devonte Patterson** was named the 2019-20 Southwestern Athletic Conference Men's Basketball

Player of the Year and PV A&M head coach **Byron Smith** was named Coach of the Year. The announcement comes as part of the league's announcement of its 2019-20 all-conference teams and individual specialty award recipients last Thursday afternoon.

Jackson State's **Jayveous McKinnis** was tabbed Defensive Player of the Year, **Mississippi Valley State's Caleb Hunter** earned Freshman of the Year accolades, and **Roland Griffin** was named Newcomer of the Year.

Patterson was third in the league in points per game (15.8), and ranked fourth in rebounds per game (6.4 rpg). He also ranked near the top of the conference in field-goal percentage (.463).

McKinnis averaged 9.3 points per game and led the league in blocks at 1.9 per outing. He served as key factor for a JSU defense that ranked second in the league in points allowed per game (67.4 ppg).

Hunter ranked fourth in the league averaging 15.7 points per game and ranked second in three point field goal percentage (.278).

Griffin was a key member for the Jackson State Tigers this season ranking sixth in the league in points per game (15.3) and third in rebounding (6.5 rpg).

Smith guided the Panthers to their second regular-season championship since 2003, posting a 14-4 record in SWAC play (19-13 SWAC). Prairie View A&M's offense averaged more than 71 points per game, ranking third in the conference.

2019-20 SWAC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL ALL-CONFERENCE TEAMS/INDIVIDUAL SPECIALTY AWARDS

All-SWAC Women's Basketball First Team
G - Ciani Cryor, Texas Southern
F - Dariauna Lewis, Alabama A&M
F - Niya Mitchell, Texas Southern
C - Ameysa Williams, Jackson State
F - Marneisha Hamer, Jackson State

All-SWAC Women's Basketball Second Team
G - Justice Coleman, Grambling State
G - Brittany Rose, Southern
G - Dayzsha Rogan, Jackson State
G - Ataiya Bridges, Texas Southern
G - Deshawna Harper, Alabama A&M

PLAYER OF THE YEAR
Ciani Cryor, Texas Southern

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR
Ameysa Williams, Jackson State

FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR
Aniyah Smith, Alabama State

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR
Dariauna Lewis, Alabama A&M

COACH OF THE YEAR
Tomekia Reed, Jackson State

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. - **Texas Southern's Ciani Cryor** was named Women's Basketball Player of the Year, while **Jackson State's Ameysa Williams** took home

the conference's Defensive Player of the Year award as the **Southwestern Athletic Conference** revealed its 2019-20 all-conference women's honors last Thursday.

Alabama A&M's Dariauna Lewis was tabbed Newcomer of the Year, **Alabama State's Aniyah Smith** was selected as Freshman of the Year, and **Jackson State's Tomekia Reed** was voted Coach of the Year.

Cryor led the league in scoring with 18.2 points per contest. The Philadelphia, Pa. native finished first in the conference and fourth in the nation in assists with 6.5 per game (183).

Williams completed the season 11th in the nation and first in the league in blocked shots per game (2.8). The Gulfport, Miss. native was second in the league in rebounds averaging 9.8 per contest. Smith ended the season averaging 9.2 points per game for the Lady Hornets this season.

Lewis finished first in the conference and third in the nation in field goal percentage (.652). The Omaha, Neb. native was second in the conference in scoring with an average of 16.7 points per game, and second in blocked shots with an average of 1.7 per contest.

Coach Reed closed out her second season leading the Jackson State Lady Tigers to their first regular-season title in over a decade. Reed's Lady Tigers finished 18-10 overall, 16-2 in the SWAC and had a 13-game win streak including a 12-0 SWAC start, the best in program history.