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TOURNEY TIME HAS ARRIVED

CIAA CHAMPIONS CROWNED; SIAC, OVC, MEC AND CAA MEN IN TOURNAMENT PLAY THIS WEEK

CHRIS MARTIN: Clark Atlanta's SIAC Player of the Year leads the men's East Division top team into the league's tournament this week.

TOURNAMENT FINALS RECAPS

CIAA MEN

Lincoln 54, Fayetteville State 51

BALTIMORE, MD – North Division top seed **Lincoln (Pa.)**, one of the founding members of the CIAA in 1912, won the program's first-ever conference tournament hoops title with a come-from-behind 54-51 win over South Division top seed **Fayetteville State** Saturday at CFG Bank Arena. The win set off a wild celebration.

Lincoln (15-13) trailed 21-20 at the half and didn't take their first lead in the game until the 4:16 mark of the second half on two free throws by **Bakir Cleveland** to go up 42-40. Freshman **Chase Jackson** hit a big 3-pointer, his only basket of the game, with 1:30 left and the shot clock running down to put the Lions up 47-42. They held on to the lead and canned free throws down the stretch to salt away the win.

"We did what we said we were going to do a year ago, come back and win this championship," said Lincoln head coach **Jason Armstrong** in the postgame press conference. Lincoln lost in the 2023 championship game to **Winston-Salem State**, 57-52.

"It was wonderful to see our fans be here this whole week and cheer us on," Armstrong said. "We came back and did what we wanted to do. And now, we get ready for the NCAA Tournament."

Lincoln prevailed in the final behind the play of

6-9 junior back-up center **Ethan Garita** who led the Lions with 15 points while pulling down 5 rebounds. Garita, who scored 4 points in the 76-62 semifinal win over **Elizabeth City State** and had 13 points and 4 rebounds in the 58-52 quarterfinal win over **Claffin**, came in for starting center and Tournament MVP **Peter Sorber** who was battling foul trouble.

Sorber was the defensive anchor to Lincoln's title run as he had four blocks in each of the Lions' three wins. He finished with 9 points, 6 rebounds and four blocks in the championship game after getting 8 points, 8 rebounds and 4 blocks vs. Claffin and 10 points, 8 rebounds and 4 blocks vs. ECSU.

Bakir Cleveland added 13 points in the championship game for Lincoln. Sorber and all-CIAA guard **Reggie Hudson** were named to the all-tournament team. **Caleb Simmons** led FSU (18-13) with 21 points. **Tarell Fletcher** added 10. **Kaleb Coleman** had 8 points and a team-high 12 rebounds.

(NOTE): Lincoln left the CIAA in 1980 and rejoined it in 2008.

CIAA WOMEN

Fayetteville State 64, Elizabeth City State 59

BALTIMORE, MD – South Division top seed **Fayetteville State** topped North Division top seed **Elizabeth City State** 64-59 to take the championship of the 50th CIAA Women's Basketball Tournament here Saturday afternoon.

FSU (27-2), ranked 12th in the latest national WBCA Top 25, completed a three-day run thru the tourney. The Lady Broncos won their quarterfinal (59-45 over **Bluefield State**) and semifinal (86-61 over **Virginia State**) games by double-digits but had to hold off a determined Lady Vikings' squad in the championship game.

FSU led ECSU (20-11) 28-24 at the half and was only up 44-43 after three periods. There were three ties in the final quarter, the last at 54-54 with 3:52 to play. FSU went up five at 60-55 on a **Nyah Wilkins** putback only to see ECSU pull within 60-59 on a **Nyasha Blango** 3-pointer with :40 seconds left. But those were the Lady Vikings' final points. FSU got a jumper by league MVP **Aniyah Bryant** and two free throws by **Dazyahna Wilson** for the final points.

Starting guard **Keayna McLaughlin** had 17 points in the title game to lead FSU. Bryant, a 5-7 senior guard who had a tourney-high 31 points making 11 of 11 shots from the field and 5 of 5 3-point attempts in the semifinal win over VSU, was one of three Lady Broncos to score 12 points in the final. **Talia Trotter** and **Nyah Wilkins** also had 12. **Alanis Hill** had 16 points, **Rashauna Grant** had 14 and **Blango** and **Rasheeka Simmons** 12 to lead ECSU.

Bryant, who had 25 points in the quarterfinal game win over Bluefield State, averaged 22.6 points in the three FSU games and added the tournament's Most Valuable Player to her regular season award.

SUN CONFERENCE - MEN

Florida Memorial 65, St. Thomas 61

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. | NAIA No. 25 **Florida Memorial** pulled off the upset, defeating No. 21 and Tournament top seed St. Thomas 65-61 in the SUN Conference Men's Basketball championship game Saturday.

Florida Memorial (24-6) was led by first-team All-SUN selection **Latavious Mitchell**, who finished with a team-high 12 points to go along with eight rebounds before fouling out of the contest. FMU forward **Felix Uadiale** added 11 points and six boards for the Lions.

Florida Memorial guard **Evan Busby** generated 10 points on 3-of-5 shooting from the field, including 2-of-3 from downtown. Busby added four rebounds, two steals, and one assist while teammates **Derrius Ward** and **Chanze Cruesoe** both produced 10 points apiece.

Ward was named second-team All-SUN while Busby was named 2024 SUN Men's Basketball Championship Game MVP.

As a team, FMU generated 26 points off turnovers while scoring 38 points in the paint, dominating the interior.

FMU and St. Thomas split games in the regular season. FMU beat St. Thomas 63-62 on Jan. 10 and was blown out, 90-57 on Feb. 7.

The Lions now await the NAIA regional selections, which are set to be released next week.



Garita



Sorber



McLaughlin



Bryant



Mitchell



Busby

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S 2023-24 BLACK COLLEGE BASKETBALL (Standings and Weekly Honors)

MEAC

MEN	MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE			
	CONF	ALL	W	L
Norfolk State	10	3	20	10
Howard	9	4	15	15
S. C. State	9	4	14	16
N. C. Central	8	5	16	12
Delaware State	6	7	13	16
Morgan State	6	7	10	19
Maryland Eastern-Shore	3	10	8	19
Coppin State	1	12	2	25

OFFENSIVE
Jordan Hairston, 6-0, Gr., G, **HOW** - Averaged 21.5 points in two wins with team-high 19 points with 3 assists and 3 steals vs. UMES, team-high 24 points with 3 rebounds, 3 assists and a steal vs. DSU. Shot .652 from the field, 9 of 14 vs. DSU and 6 of 9 vs. UMES and .666 from behind the arc, 4 of 6 vs. UMES, 6 of 9 vs. DSU, also made 3 of 3 FTs vs. UMES.

DEFENSIVE PLAYER
Bryce Harris, 6-4, Jr., G, **HOWARD** - In two wins, averaged 19.5 points, 9.0 rebounds, 3.5 assists and 2.5 steals with 16 points, 10 rebounds, 3 assists, and 3 steals vs. UMES, 23 points, 8 rebounds, 4 assists and 2 steals vs. DSU.

MEAC

WOMEN	MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE			
	CONF	ALL	W	L
Norfolk State	12	1	23	5
Howard	10	3	13	14
NC Central	8	5	14	14
Maryland Eastern-Shore	7	6	14	13
Coppin State	7	6	10	17
Delaware State	4	9	8	18
Morgan State	3	10	8	20
S. C. State	1	12	2	26

PLAYER OF THE WEEK
Diamond Johnson, 5-5, Jr., PG, **NSU** - In two wins, averaged 20.5 points, 5.0 rebounds, 3.5 assists and 5.0 steals with 20 points, 7 rebounds, 5 assists, 6 steals vs. DSU, added 21 points, 3 rebounds, 2 assists and 4 steals vs. UMES.

DEFENSE
Kierra Wheeler, 6-1, Jr., F, **NSU** - In two wins, averaged 9.0 points and 11.5 rebounds with 15 points, 12 rebounds vs. DSU, 3 points 11 rebounds vs. UMES.

SWAC

MEN	SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE			
	CONF	ALL	W	L
Grambling State	13	3	16	13
Southern	11	5	17	12
Alcorn State	11	5	12	17
Texas Southern	11	6	13	15
Bethune-Cookman	10	7	15	15
Jackson State	9	7	13	16
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	8	8	13	16
Alabama A&M	8	8	8	20
Alabama State	7	9	12	16
Prairie View A&M	5	12	10	20
Florida A&M	4	13	6	22
Miss. Valley State	1	15	1	28

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK
Antwan Burnett, 6-5, So., F, **GSU** - In two wins, averaged double-double of 13.5 points and 11.5 rebounds with 18 points, 10 rebounds, 5 assists and a steal vs. FAMU, 9 points, 13 rebounds vs. B-CU.

SWAC

WOMEN	SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE			
	CONF	ALL	W	L
Jackson State	16	0	21	6
Grambling State	13	3	19	8
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	11	5	16	13
Southern	11	5	13	14
Alabama A&M	10	6	15	13
Prairie View A&M	7	10	11	16
Florida A&M	7	10	8	20
Bethune-Cookman	6	11	15	15
Alcorn State	5	9	7	18
Texas Southern	5	12	6	22
Miss. Valley State	3	13	4	25
Alabama State	3	13	3	24

OFFENSIVE PLAYERS OF THE WEEK.
Miya Crump, 6-1, R-Jr., G, **JSU** - In two wins averaged 19.5 points and 8.0 rebounds with 23 points, 10 rebounds vs. TSU, 16 points, 6 rebounds vs. PV A&M.

INDEPENDENTS

MEN	CONF			
	ALL	W	L	W
Langston (1st, SAC)	21	1	29	1
W. Va. State (4th, MEC)	14	6	19	8
Tenn. State (T3rd, OVC)	10	8	17	14
Fla. Mem'l (T2nd, Sun)	9	5	24	6
Lincoln (Mo.) (10th, MIAA)	9	13	14	14
NC A&T (12th, CAA)	5	13	7	24
Hampton (14th, CAA)	2	14	7	22

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK
Cortez Mosley, 6-5, Sr., G/F, **LANG** - Averaged 24.5 ppg. with game-high 36 points vs. CCU, 13 points vs. WBU.

WOMEN

CONF	ALL			
	W	L	W	L
NC A&T (T2nd, CAA)	12	4	18	9
Langston (2nd, SAC)	17	5	24	6
W. Va. State (2nd, MEC)	14	6	19	9
Tenn. State (7th, OVC)	7	11	10	18
Lincoln (Mo.) (13th, MIAA)	4	18	8	20
Hampton (14th, CAA)	2	12	2	22
Fla. Mem'l (7th, Sun)	3	11	11	16

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK
Anysa Jordan, 6-1, Gr., F, **WVSU** - 9 points, 8 rebounds in win over Charleston, 15 points, 8 rebounds in win over Concord.

SIAC Tournament takes center stage



MEN West Division

Defending champion **Miles** (21-5, 16-4 SIAC), claimed the number one seed in the West after ending the season on a nine-game winning streak. **Tuskegee** is in as the 2nd seed (13-14, 12-8 SIAC) followed by **Spring Hill** (14-12, 11-9 SIAC).

MEN - East Division

Clark Atlanta (22-5, 16-5 SIAC) secured

2023-24 SIAC ALL-CONFERENCE TEAMS & SUPERLATIVES

MEN

Player of the Year: Chris Martin, Clark Atlanta
Defensive Player of the Year: Kharye Cayne, Clark Atlanta
Newcomer of the Year: Alvin Miles, Miles
Freshman of the Year: Cedric Taylor III, Morehouse
Coach of the Year: Alfred Jordan, Clark Atlanta

ALL-SIAC FIRST TEAM

Chris Martin, Gr., G, CAU; Walter Peggs Jr., Jr., G, SHC; Willie Jackson, Sr., G, CSU; Tim Moore, Sr., G, BEN; Alvin Miles, Sr., G, MILES

ALL-SIAC SECOND TEAM

Martez Jones, Jr., F, TUSK; Asanti Price, Sr., G, BEN; Isaiah Veal, R-Sr., PG, SHC; Darell Johnson, Sr., F, LANE; Shakur Poteat, So., G, ALB;

WOMEN

Player of the Year: Gracen Kerr, Kentucky State
Defensive Player of the Year: Shekinah Rachel, Fort Valley State
Newcomer of the Year: Marta Duda, Spring Hill
Freshman of the Year: Kellyn Hunter, Spring Hill
Coach of the Year: Amani Williams, Kentucky State I

ALL-SIAC FIRST TEAM

Iemyiah Harris, Jr., G, MILES; Gracen Kerr, Sr., PG, KSU; Amari Heard, Gr., G, SAVST; Shekinah Rachel, Sr., F, FVSU; Nyla Allen, Sr., G, SAVST

ALL-SIAC SECOND TEAM

Corriana Eevans, Sr., F, CAU; Marta Duda, R-Jr., F, SHC; Brailyn Tate, Jr., PG, LANE; Taleah Dilworth, Jr., G, KSU; Brittney Bolin, Jr., G, TUSK

BCSP Notes

Hoops Round-Up

OVC

The **Tennessee State** women and men are in the Ohio Valley Conference Basketball Tournament at the Ford Center in Evansville, Indiana running from March 6-9.

The TSU women (10-18, 7-11) are seeded 8th and opened at 1 p.m. Wed. (March 6) vs. No. 5 Morehead State. The TSU men (17-14, 10-8) enter as a No. 5 seed and opened Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. (on ESPN+) against No. 8 Southern Indiana.

MEC

Men's and women's teams of **West Virginia State** enter the Mountain East Conference (MEC) Tournament this week (March 6-10) at the Westbank Arena in Wheeling, W. Va.

The WVSU women (19-9) are seeded second and will face the Glenville State/Frostburg State winner Thursday at 12 noon. The No. 4 WVSU men (19-8) will play No. 5 Fairmont State at 8:30 p.m. Friday.

CAA

The men's Coastal Athletic Association (CAA) Basketball Tournament begins Friday, March 8 and runs thru Sunday, March 12 at the Entertainment and Sports Arena in Washington, DC.

The women's CAA basketball championship tournament will be held at the same arena next week from March 13-17.

The No. 12 N. C. A&T men (7-24) open the tournament on Friday (March 8, 2 p.m.) vs. William & Mary. The No. 14 Hampton men take on Elon at 4:30 p.m. Friday.

MEAC - Men

Howard got impressive performances from little-used 6-foot graduate guard **Jordan Hairston** in a 70-66 road win over **Maryland-Eastern Shore** Saturday and an 85-66 home win over **Delaware State** Monday. Hairston had team-highs of 19 points vs. UMES and 24 points vs. DelState as the Bison moved into a second-place tie with **South Carolina State** at 9-4, a half-game behind league-leader **Norfolk State** (10-3).

NSU suffered an 85-73 loss on the road Saturday to DelState before

rebounding with a 69-50 home win over UMES Monday. The surprising SC State Bulldogs used balanced scoring to get road wins over **Morgan State** Saturday (72-61) and **Coppin State** Monday (61-58).

MEAC regular season play ends Thursday with key match ups – Howard at Norfolk State (7:30 p.m.) and SCSU at NCCU (7:30 p.m.) – to determine seeding at the top of next week's (March 13-16) Tournament in Norfolk, Va. at The Scope.

The other match ups Thursday have CSU at MSU and DSU at UMES.

MEAC - Women

With wins over DSU Saturday (65-51) and UMES Monday (52-40), Norfolk State (12-1) has wrapped up the regular season title and top seed for next week's women's tournament. The Lady Spartans will close out the regular season Thursday (5 p.m.) hosting second-place Howard (10-3). Howard is the only MEAC team beat Norfolk State this season, 73-60 back on Jan. 20. Each team will be looking for momentum headed into the tourney.

SWAC - Men

Five straight wins in SWAC play have propelled 13-3 **Grambling State** to the No. 1 spot in the men's standings with just two dates – Thursday, March 7 and Saturday, March 9 – left before the top eight teams go at it at the March 13-16 men's and women's tournaments at Birmingham's Bartow Arena. The G-Men have a two-game lead over **Southern** and **Alcorn State** who are at 11-5 and a two-and-a-half game lead over **Texas Southern** at 11-6.

Grambling closes this week on the road at **Alabama A&M** Thursday and **Alabama State** Saturday. Southern is at Bama State Thursday and A&M Saturday. Alcorn is at MVSU Thursday and UAPB Saturday while TSU hosts **Prairie View** Saturday.

SWAC - Women

Jackson State kept its SWAC ledger clean at 16-0 and clinched the top seed for next week's tournament with wins over **Texas Southern** (101-51) and **Prairie View A&M** (75-65). JSU hosts UAPB Thursday and MVSU Saturday to close out the regular season.

Grambling State is three games back at 10-3 followed by UAPB and Southern at 11-5.

2024 CIAA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT RESULTS

79TH MEN'S TOURNAMENT

OPENING ROUND
Bluefield State 50, St. Augustine's 48

FINAL
Lincoln 54, Fayetteville State 51

SECOND ROUND
Bluefield State 67, Winston-Salem State 66
Virginia State 66, J. C. Smith 65
Bowie State 69, Livingstone 66
Elizabeth City State 70, Shaw 67

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER
Peter Sorber, 6-9, Jr., F, LINCP

ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

Jordan Hines, BLST
Reggie Raynor, ECSU
Jailen Williams, CLAF
Tremere Brown, VSU
Alston Terrell, JCSU
Kaleb Coleman, FSU
Peter Sorber, LINCP
Jaylan Alston, WSSU
Tairell Fletcher, FSU
Reggie Hudson, LINCP

SPORTSMANSHIP TROPHY

Johnson C. Smith

50TH WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT

OPENING ROUND
Winston-Salem State 64, Bowie State 61