



PLAYIN' HARD IN THE ATL

SIAC Basketball Tournament logo **DOMINANT TEAMS: Miles, Clark** Atlanta men and women top seeds as SIAC Tournament continues at Morehouse Wednesday.

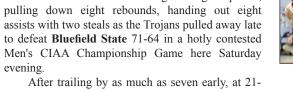
VSU MEN, FSU WOMEN TAKE CIAA TITLES; SIAC AT MOREHOUSE; TENSE SEASON-ENDERS IN SWAC, MEAC

TOURNAMENT FINALS RECAPS

CIAA MEN

Virginia State 71, Bluefield State 64 BALTIMORE, MD – Five-eight junior guard Jacob Cooper led

North Division top seed Virginia State in all three of its tournament wins including scoring 16 points, pulling down eight rebounds, handing out eight assists with two steals as the Trojans pulled away late to defeat Bluefield State 71-64 in a hotly contested



14, VSU fought back to take a 36-35 halftime edge. The teams took turns with the lead in the second half with VSU leading for the first 12 minutes of the period before a **Jordan Hinds** jumper with 7:48 to play put the Blue Tigers up 54-53. N. Div. second-seed Bluefield State held on to the lead until Jaeden Jefferson's fastbreak layup put the Trojans back on top, 63-62 with 4:16 left, beginning an 8-2 run to close out the

"Our defense was huge," VSU head coach Lonnie Blow said of his squad that held Bluefield State 30 points below its scoring average. "We knew they liked to get out and run in transition, so our focus was to make them play against our half-court defense. We wanted to make them work for every basket, and I think we did that."

White was the other Trojan in double-digit scoring with 11. Sixnine junior Jayson Harris and 6-9 sophomore Davian Coleman had 12 boards each to propel VSU to a 52-38 edge on the boards. Bluefield State (19-11) placed four in double-digit scoring led by 16 from **Terrell** Williams and 15 by Larry Howell.

CIAA WOMEN

Fayetteville State 64, Virginia State 56

BALTIMORE, MD - South Division top seed Fayetteville State pulled away to a 32-17 halftime lead and was never headed as it held off North Division top seed Virginia State to take its second straight CIAA Women's Championship 64-56 as the 50th CIAA Women's Tournament wrapped here Saturday.

Leading 11-8 after one period, FSU (21-7) canned six secondquarter three-pointers – three by Keayna McLaughlin – and closed the half on a trey by **Daziyahna Wilson** for the 15-point halftime margin. Eighteen of the 21 second-quarter points came from behind the arc as the Lady Broncos outscored VSU 21-9.

VSU outscored FSU in both of the final periods, 22-19 in the third and 17-13 in the fourth, but could only pull within

single digits once, at 41-32 at 4:49 of the third, before

McLaughlin and 5-5 junior forward Talia Trotter led FSU with 15 points each and led Bronco rebounders with eight and six respectively. Five-ten junior forward Nyah Wilkins was held to 4 points

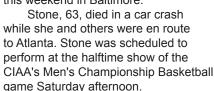
Wilkins and 4 rebounds in the final. She earned tourney MVP honors after tallying 12 points, six rebounds and two blocks in the quarterfinal win over Bluefield State and 11 points and 10 rebounds in the semifinal victory over Virginia Union.

All-CIAA forward Amesha Miller had 19 points and was the only VSU player to score in double digits.

Angie Stone felled en route to CIAA

The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association and others around the country mourned

singer Angie Stone, who was set to perform at its basketball tournament this weekend in Baltimore.





DEFENSIVE PLAYER

steals, 11 points vs. NSU.

Howard, career-high 20 points, 4 rebounds,

ppg., 6.0 rpg., 3.5 apg. in 0-2 week with 19 pts.

vs. CSU and 23 pts., 8 rebounds and 5 assists vs.

Omar Croskey, 6-6, Gr., B, SCSU - In wins

over UMES and NSU, had 20 points, 12 re-

bounds, 2 assists and steals vs. UMES, four

CIAA Chaplain Pastor Jerome Barber called for a moment of silence and lifted her name in prayer at the

CIAA Commissioner Jacqie McWilliams-Parker issued a statement, saying: "We are heartbroken by the tragic and sudden passing of Angie Stone, an awardwinning singer, a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., a community activist, role model and mother whose soulful artistry and spirit made an indelible mark on her community, our nation and the world. She used her incredible talent, passion, and presence to inspire and touch us with strength and hope. On behalf of the CIAA family, we extend our deepest condolences and stand in support of all those mourning this tremendous loss."

Stone's hit songs include "No More Rain (In This Cloud)" and "Wish I Didn't Miss You."

TOURNAMENT DATES, TIMES, MATCH-UPS

CAA MEN - CARE FIRST ARENA, WASHINGTON, DC NC A&T vs. Hofstra - Fri., March 7, 4:30 p.m. Hampton vs. Northeastern, Sat. March 8, 6:00 p.m.

MEC - WESBANCO ARENA, WHEELING, WV WOMEN - W. Va. State vs. Point Park - Wed., March 5, 12 noon MEN - W. Va. State vs. Concord - Fri., March 7, 8:30 p.m.

OVC - FORD CENTER, EVANSVILLE, IND WOMEN - S. Indiana vs. Tennessee State - Wed., March 5, 12:30 p.m. MEN - Tenn. State vs. Morehead State/Lindenwood - Thurs., March 6, 8:30 p.m.

> GLVC - ST. CHARLES, MO MEN - Lincoln vs. Lewis - Fri, March 7 - 12 noon

MEN'S TOURNAMENT

OPENING ROUND

Lincoln (PA) 58, Winston-Salem State 42 Bowie State 68, Livingstone 64 Virginia Union 71, Shaw 45 J. C. Smith 83, Elizabeth City State 75

QUARTERFINALS

Virginia State 78, Bowie State 72 Lincoln (PA) 56, Claflin 53 Fayetteville State 69, Virginia Union 66 Bluefield State 84, J. C. Smith 69

SEMIFINALS

Virginia State 65, Lincoln (PA) 57 Bluefield State 75, Fayetteville State 61

Virginia State 71, Bluefield State 64

TOURNAMENT MVP

Jacob Cooper, 5-8, Jr., G, Virginia Statee

ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

Elijah Davis, Bowie State Rell Williams, Bluefield State KeySean Smith, Virginia Union Jared White, Virginia State Peter Sorber, Lincoln (PA) Jordan Hinds, Bluefield State Dericko Williams, Elizabeth City State Shainen Carter, Bluefield State Jamauri Bryant, Johnson C. Smith

SPORTSMANSHIP TROPHY Virginia State

Clark Atlanta

Morehouse

Savannah State

Edward Waters

Fort Valley State

Benedict

Tuskegee

Spring Hill

Central State

Kentucky State

LeMoyne-Ower

FINAL WOMEN

Clark Atlanta

Edward Waters

Savannah State

Benedict

WEST

Tuskegee

Central State

Spring Hill

Kentucky State

LeMoyne-Owen

WEST

50TH WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT

OPENING ROUND

Lincoln (PA) 54, Shaw 45 Bowie State 64, Winston-Salem State 54 Bluefield State 58, J. C. Smith 42 Claflin 50. Elizabeth City State 39

QUARTERFINALS

2025 CIAA BASKETBALL TOURNAMEMT RESULTS

Virginia State 67, Lincoln (PA) 59 Bowie State 68, Livingstone 54 Fayetteville State 72, Bluefield State 54 Virginia Union 59, Claflin 55

SEMIFINALS

Virginia State 63, Bowie State 59 Fayetteville State 62, Virginia Union 53

Fayetteville State 64, Virginia State 56

TOURNAMENT MVP

Nyah Wilkins, 5-10, Jr., F, Fayetteville

ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM Destiny Ryles, Bowie State Nyssa Fields, Lincoln (PA) Tatianna Jones, Virginia Union Nya Morris, Claflin Amesha Miller, Virginia State Ani Harris, Virginia State Azariah Binford, Bluefield State Carmen Kweti, Virginia State Keayna McLaughlin, Fayetteville State

SPORTSMANSHIP TROPHY Bluefield State

SIAC Tourney rolls into Atlanta

W L 18 9

18 11 17 11

11 12 18 15 6 23

23 15

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W

4 22 6 7 18 10

12 12 14

12 9 18

14 8

15 4 19 6

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11 9 16

13 8 19

18 9

18

2 19 6 22

10 10 16 14 10 11 15 13 7 13 9 17

16

19

13

ATLANTA - Miles (West) and Clark Atlanta (East) are the men's top

seeds and their lady counterparts are the women's top seeds as the 2024-2025 SIAC Basketball Championship Tournament tipped off with a six-pack of first round home games Saturday.

The only real upset (lower seed beating a higher seed) in the first round was the women of 6W Spring Hill knocking off No. 3E Edward Waters.

Ouarterfinal tournament play hits the court on Wednesday and Thursday as the tournament switches to Atlanta and Forbes Arena on the campus of **Morehouse College**. The semifinals will be contested on Friday with the women's (1 p.m.) and men's (4:30 p.m.) championship games set for Saturday

In Wednesday's women's quarterfinals, 3W Lane takes on 7W LeMoyne-Owen at 11 a.m followed by Clark Atlanta facing 4W Central State at 2 p.m. On Thursday, Miles matches up against 4E Savannah State at 11 a.m. followed by 2W Tuskegee playing 6W Spring Hill at 2 p.m.

On Wednesday in the men's quarters, 4E Savannah State will take on Miles at 5

p.m. and 4W Kentucky State will face CAU

at 8 p.m. For the men Thursday, 3W Central State takes on host and 2E Morehouse at 5 p.m. and 3E Albany State plays 2W Tuskegee at 8 p.m.

Keep your eye on Bhayshul Tuten, he's moving fast; Shines at NFL Combine

Anyone who saw running back Bhayshul Tuten perform during his two years at North Carolina A&T, cannot be surprised by his latest

The 5-11, 209-pound Paulsboro, New Jersey native literally showed up out of nowhere in the 2021 season as a capable back up for the Aggies before exploding for 1,363 rushing yards on 208 carries and scoring 13 touchdowns in 2022. His versatility as a running back, pass catcher and dynamic kick returner were on full display.

So many thought.

When he transferred to Virginia Tech of the ACC for the 2023 season, it was not clear how he would fare.

In his first season (2023) with the Hokies, he played in all 13 games and rushed for 863 yards and 10 touchdowns on 173 carries. Pretty good numbers. But that was just the beginning.

He continued his upward trajectory in 2024, recording 1,159 rushing yards and 15 touchdowns on 183 carries, averaging an impressive 6.3 yards per carry. Tuten finished fourth in the ACC in rushing yards and tied for 2nd in touchdowns, including a game in

which he set a new school record at Virginia Tech for most yards in a game by rushing for 266 yards against Boston College. He had TD runs of 83, 61 and 6 yards and scored on 20-yard TD reception. He carried the ball 18 times (14.7 yards per carry).

At the 2025 NFL Scouting Combine this week in Indianapolis, Tuten delivered a remarkable performance that caught the attention of scouts and analysts alike. He recorded the fastest 40-yard dash time among a deep and talented running backs group, clocking in at 4.32 seconds, which is the fourth-fastest in combine history for his position. His 4.32 40-yard dash is also faster than Jahmyr Gibbs and Saquon Barkley, two of the top active running backs in the NFL.

Additionally, he led all running backs with a 40.5-inch vertical jump, showcasing his exceptional athleticism, had the fastest 10-yard split time (1.49) and the fourth-highest broad jump (10'10"). Tuten shined in the drills as well and cemented his status as one of, if not the top running back in the draft this year. NFL scouts were notably impressed by Tuten's blend of speed and power. His 40-yard dash time demonstrated his breakaway

and 5.0 steals with 19 pts., 8 rebs., 3 assists,

assists, 2 steals and rebounds vs. CSU. Aver-

aged 10.0 points, 1.5 rebounds, 3.5 assists in

7 steals vs. SCSU.

ROOKIE

SIAC TOURNAMENT FIRST ROUND

Sat., March 1 at home of higher seed

MEN

2E Morehouse 62, 7W LeMoyne-Owen 51 3E Albany State105, 6W Lane102 4W Kentucky State108, 5E Edward Waters 87 4E Savannah State 79, 5W Spring Hill 74 3W Central State 78, 6E Fort Valley State 71 2W Tuskegee 82, 7E Benedict 69

6W Spring Hill 71, 3E Edward Waters 62 4E Savannah State 66, 5W Kentucky State 47 2W Tuskegee 73, 7E Albany State 53 3W Lane 42, 6E Fort Valley State 28 4W Central State 61, 5E Benedict 56 LeMovne-Owen 78. Allen 70



BLOWING AWAY THE COMPETITION: Former NC A&T running back Bhayshul Tuten shows his form while clocking a 4.32-second 40-yard dash at the NFL Combine. It was the fastest time among running backs and the fourth fastest ever posted by a running back at the event.

speed and solidified his potential as a game-changing running back at the professional level. Analysts have suggested that his combine performance could elevate his draft stock, transforming him from a potential day-three pick to an early-round selection. Here are the three fastest 40 times by running backs in Combine

- 1 Chris Johnson (4.24)
- 2 Dri Archer (4.26) 3 - Keith Marshall (4.31)
- T4 Bhayshul Tuten & De'Von Achane (4.32)

Regular season close outs, tourney results

After back-to-back close road losses at S. C. State (91-88) and N. C. Central (91-87, OT), the Norfolk State men have fallen into a first-place tie with Erik Martin's SC State Bulldogs at 10-3 headed into this week's final regular season games Thursday.

Martin's hot team, winners of eight straight, will host NCCU in Thursday's 7:30 p.m. finale. A win earns his Bulldogs a share of the league regular season title, their first in 21 years. NSU can earn a share of the title with a win at Howard.

In the women's race, it all comes down to Thursday's showdown finale in Washington where the 13-0 Lady Spartans of NSU look to cement their perfect MEAC season at second-place Howard (12-1). The SWAC men and women have dates on Thursday (March 6) and

Saturday (March 8) to close out the regular season. Men's leader Southern (14-2) needs a win at home either vs.

Alabama State Thursday or Alabama A&M Saturday to secure the top spot headed into next week's tournament in Atlanta. The Southern women (14-2) have a showdown at home Saturday vs. second-place Alabama **A&M** that should determine the ladies' top seed.

The 3rd-seeded Florida Memorial men lost in the semifinals of the Sun Conference Tournament Friday to second-seed Ave Maria (81-70). The FMU women won the Sun title 89-63 over Southeastern.

The second-seed Langston men (23-7) were in Wednesday's final of the Sooner Athletic Conference (SAC) Tournament final in Langston, OK. The Lions posted wins over Central Christian (71-68) and Mid America Christian (76-71) to reach the title game. They faced Nelson in Tuesday's 8 p.m. championship game.

The top seed Lady Lions (26-2) defeated Oklahoma City (78-43) and College of the Ozarks (73-56) and played for the SAC women's title on its home floor vs. Mid-America Christian (25-5) Wednesday (5:30 p.m.).

2024-25 BLACK COLLEGE BASKETBALL (Standings and Weekly Honors)

MEAC	MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	MEAC MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	SWAC	SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	SWAC	SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE	INDEPENDENTS
MEN	CONF ALL	WOMEN CONF ALL	MEN	CONF ALL	WOMEN	CONF ALL	CONF ALL
	W L W L	W L W L		WLWL		W L W L	W L W L
Norfolk State	10 3 20 10	Norfolk State 13 0 26 4	Southern	14 2 19 10	Southern	14 2 16 13	SAC
S. C. State	10 3 17 12	Howard 12 1 19 9	Jackson State	12 4 12 17	Alabama A&M	13 3 20 8	Langston M - T2nd 17 7 23 7
Delaware State	7 6 15 13	Coppin State 8 5 17 12	Bethune-Cookman	12 5 15 15	Texas Southern	13 4 14 14	Langston W - 1st 22 2 26 2
Morgan State	7 6 13 16	Md. E-Shore 7 6 12 16	Texas Southern	11 6 14 16	Jackson State	12 4 14 13	CAA
Howard	7 6 12 18	Morgan State 5 8 12 16	Alabama State	10 6 14 15	Grambling State	10 6 13 14	NC A&T M - 14th 3 15 7 24
N. C. Central	6 7 13 17	N. C. Central 5 8 8 20	Florida A&M	10 7 13 15	Alcorn State	9 7 11 16	NC A&T W - 1st 13 3 17 10
Coppin State	3 10 5 23	Delaware State 1 12 5 22	Alcorn State	9 7 9 20	Prairie View A&M	6 11 9 17	Hampton M - 10th 8 10 16 15
Md. E-Shore	2 11 6 23	S. C. State 1 12 2 27	Alabama A&M	6 10 10 19	Florida A&M	6 11 9 19	Hampton W - 13th 3 13 7 20
			Grambling State	6 10 9 20	Bethune-Cookman	n 6 11 9 20	SUN
PLAYER		OFFENSIVE & DEFENSIVE PLAYER	Prairie View A&M	4 13 5 25	Alabama State	4 12 6 22	Florida Memorial M - 3rd 12 4 23 7
Toby Nnadozie, 6	6-3, Jr., G, CSU - 25 points,	Diamond Johnson, 5-5, Gr., PG, NSU - Av-	Arkansas-Pine Bluf	f 3 13 6 23	Miss. Valley State	4 12 5 22	Florida Memorial W - T1st 13 3 23 4
3 rebounds, assis	sts and steals in win over	eraged 20.5 points, 6.0 rebounds, 3.5 assists	Miss. Valley State	1 15 3 26	Arkansas-Pine Bliu	uff 1 15 3 23	MEC

PLAYER OF THE WEEK Trey Thomas, 6-2, Jr., G, B-CU - Had 20 Blake Harper, 6-5, Fr., G, HOW - Averaged 21.0 Saniyyah King, Fr., G, HOW - 17 points, 5

points, 3 rebounds, 5 assists in win over first-place Southern Saturday, 27 points, 3 rebounds in win vs. Grambling **DEFENSE**

Jesus Carralero Martin, 6-7, Sr., F, B-CU -Triple-double of 10 points, rebounds and assists vs. Grambling, 2 points, six re bounds. 7 assists in win over Southern

PLAYER OF THE WEEK Lydia Freeman 6-5, Gr., C, GSU - 10 points, 9 rebounds in win over FAMU, 21 points, 12 rebounds in win vs. B-CU. DEFENSIVE PLAYER

13 3 17 10 3 13 7 20 norial M - 3rd 12 4 23 orial W - T1st 13 3 23 W. Va. State M - T3rd 11 9 16 12 W. Va. State W - T7th 10 10 16 12 OVC Tennessee State M - 5th 12 8 16 15 Tennessee State - 8th 6 14 10 20 Lincoln (Mo.) M - T4th 12 8 20 8

Lincoln (Mo.) - 15th

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