

FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 25 - 31, 2025

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



Coppin State Sports photo

AND THEN THERE WAS ONE

TOURNEY RESULTS GALORE; COACHES MOVE – VICKERS
TO AUBURN, BARLOW TO TSU, BUSSIE TO CHICAGO STATE

LAST TEAM STANDING: The Coppin State Lady Eagles, under head coach Jermaine Woods, the only black college team still alive at press time, playing at Cleveland State in the WNIT.

TOURNAMENT RECAPS

SOUTH REGION - FIRST FOUR - MEN

16) **Alabama State** 70, 16) Saint Francis 68

DAYTON, OH – Six-three sophomore guard **Amarr Knox** got March Madness off to a rousing start as his lay up after a full-court pass with :01 seconds left allowed **SWAC** men's tournament champion **Alabama State** to pull out a 70-68 win over Northeast Conference champion Saint Francis in the opening game of the 2025 NCAA Div. I Tournament.

Knox finished with a team-high 16 points. **Anthony "TJ" Madlock** had 11 and Hines 10. **Micah Simpson**, who threw the long pass, finished with 9.

It was the first NCAA tournament win for Alabama State (20-15) and head coach **Tony Madlock**.

SOUTH REGION - FIRST ROUND - MEN

1) Auburn 83, 16) **Alabama State** 63

LEXINGTON, KY – South Region and overall top seed Auburn (29-5) pulled away from a 10-point halftime lead to knock off **SWAC** champion **Alabama State** 83-63 Thursday.

ASU (20-16) stayed close most of the first half. After trailing by 13 at 26-13, the Hornets pulled within one, at 32-31 on a layup by **Amarr Knox** with 1:48 left in the half. Auburn closed the period on a 9-0 run to lead 41-31 at the break.

The Hornets closed to within nine early in the second half before the Tigers moved out to a double-digit lead that they maintained for the rest of the game.

Knox had 18 points and T. J. **Madlock** had 11 to lead ASU.



Knox

SPOKANE 1 REGION - FIRST FOUR - WOMEN

16) **Southern** 68, 16) UC San Diego 56

LOS ANGELES, CA – **SWAC** women's tourney champ **Southern** got 19 first-half points from **Soniyah Reed** and 12 from SWAC Tourney MVP **Aniya Gourdine** in jumping out to a 40-20 halftime lead and held on as Big West Tournament champ UC San Diego put on a second half rally before the Jags prevailed 68-56 in a First Four game Wednesday in the Spokane 1 Region. It was the first NCAA Tournament win for Southern and the first for a SWAC women's team in the tournament.

Reid hit on 8 of 10 shots, 3 of 4 from behind the arc and all five of her free throws to finish with a game-high 24 for the Jags (21-14). Gourdine canned 7 of 14 shots for 17 points. **Tionna Lidge** added 12.

SPOKANE 1 REGION - FIRST ROUND - WOMEN

1) UCLA 84, 16) **Southern** 46

LOS ANGELES, CA – **SWAC** women's tourney champ **Southern** trailed region and overall top seed UCLA just 38-26 at the half before the Bruins pulled away to an 84-46 win Friday night in a first round NCAA women's game.

SWAC Tourney MVP **Aniya Gourdine** had 10 points, the only player for the Jags (21-15) to finish scoring in double digits.

NAIA WOMEN - SWEET 16

2) Southern Oregon 67, **Xavier (LA)** 60

Undefeated Southern Oregon (34-0) erased a 10-point (32-22) halftime deficit, outscoring **Xavier (LA)** 29-13 in the third quarter en route to a 67-60 win Thursday at the women's NAIA Sweet 16 in Sioux City, IA.

Joy Campbell and **Patricia Sosa Lora** led Xavier (29-4) with 11 points each.

WOMENS BASKETBALL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT (WBIT)

1) Virginia Tech 61, **North Carolina A&T** 45

BLACKSBURG, VA – The Lady Aggies of **North Carolina A&T** got off to an early 9-0 lead before they were outscored 21-5 in the second quarter as Virginia Tech pulled away to a 61-45 win Thursday in a first round Women's Basketball Invitational Tournament (WBIT) contest.

Center **Chaniya Clark** made 9 of 11 field goals and had team highs of 19 points and 13 rebounds. **Jordyn Dorsey** added 11.

NAIA MEN - SWEET 16

2) College of Idaho 95, **Langston** 65

KANSAS CITY, MO – College of Idaho (32-2) shot 59.3% from the field including 12 of 22 (54.5%) from 3-point range as they routed Sooner Athletic Conference champion **Langston** 95-65 in the men's NAIA Sweet 16 here Thursday.

Langston (26-8) was led by 6-1 senior guard **Mario McKinney's** 28 points. **Jamison Epps** had 14 points and a team-high 16 rebounds.

NAIA WOMEN - SWEET 16

1) Dordt 55, **Langston** 51

SIoux CITY, IA – Sooner Athletic Conference (SAC) champion **Langston** battled defending NAIA women's national champion and region top seed Dordt (32-2) before coming up on the short end of a 55-51 score in the NAIA Sweet 16 here Thursday.

Diamond Richardson led Langston (30-3) with 20 points. **Makayla Woods** had 13 points and a team-high 14 rebounds.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT (WNIT)

Texas Southern 54, Saint Mary's 50

HOUSTON, TX – Behind nine third-quarter points from 5-11 sophomore **Aylaysia Fantroy**, **Texas Southern** outscored St. Mary's 22-9 to break open a close game and post a 54-50 to advance in a first round WNIT game Thursday.

Fantroy finished with game-highs of 16 points and 10 rebounds while 6-2 senior **Treasure Thompson** chipped in with 10 points and 9 rebounds for TSU (17-15).

Louisiana Tech 71, **Texas Southern** 63

RUSTON, LA – Louisiana Tech (17-15) held off **Texas Southern** 71-62 in a second round postseason WNIT game Monday. After trailing 19-8 after one period, TSU (17-16) went into the half down just 31-27 and entered the final period trailing only 49-45.

Aylaysia Fantroy led four Lady Tiger starters scoring in double-digits with 16 points. **Jaida Belton** finished with 12 points and a team-best 11 rebounds. **Daedra Holmes** had 11 and **Treasure Thompson** 10.

WOMEN'S NATION INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT (WNIT) - FIRST ROUND

Howard 72, Siena 62

WASHINGTON, DC – The **Howard** women turned around a 36-30 halftime deficit by outscoring Siena 24-11 in the third quarter en route to a 72-62 win to advance out of a first round WNIT game at Burr Gymnasium Friday evening.

Zennia Thomas led the Bison (22-11) with 19 points and 7 rebounds, **Saniyah King** had 15 points and **Destiny Howell** 11.

Charleston 76, **Howard** 56

CHARLESTON, SC – Charleston (25-7) outscored Howard 19-9 in the first quarter and never relinquished the lead in ending **Howard's** season 76-56 in a second round WNIT game here Monday.

Zennia Thomas led the Bison (22-12) with 15 points and 10 rebounds. **Destiny Howell** had 13.

WEST REGION - FIRST ROUND - MEN

1) Florida 95, 16) **Norfolk State** 69

2025 FINAL BCSP MEN'S DIV. I BASKETBALL TOP FIVE

1. **NORFOLK STATE** (24-11) - Tied for **MEAC** regular season title (with **SC State**) and won the tournament title over the Bulldogs to earn third NCAA bid under **Robert Jones**. Disappointing 16th seed lost to No. 1 Florida in first round of NCAA West Regional.
2. **South Carolina State** (20-13) - In second year under **Erik Martin**, Bulldogs won 11 straight at season's end to tie Norfolk State for the MEAC regular season title and then battled the Spartans to a 67-66 loss in the MEAC Tourney final. Bulldogs should have advanced to postseason play.
3. **Alabama State** (20-16) - Head coach **Tony Madlock** guided the Hornets to the SWAC Tournament title over 2nd-seed **Jackson State** after entering as the sixth seed. They went on to get ASU's first-ever NCAA Tournament win in a First Four victory over Saint Francis before gamely battling South Region top seed Auburn in the first round.
4. **Southern** (20-12) - Jaguars won **SWAC** regular season with 14-3 record but bowed out in tournament quarterfinals to **Grambling State**.
5. **Delaware State** (16-14) - Fourth-year head coach **Stan Waterman's** Hornets finished third in MEAC with 8-6 mark and fell in tournament quarterfinals to **N. C. Central**

2025 FINAL BCSP MEN'S DIV. II/NAIA BASKETBALL TOP FIVE

1. **VIRGINIA STATE** (22-9) - **Lonnie Blow's** troops had best CIAA record (13-3) and defeated **Bluefield State** for CIAA tourney title. Won first round D2 playoff Atlantic Region game vs. West Chester before bowing to Gannon in second round.
2. **Fayetteville State** (23-9) - Fell to **Bluefield State** in CIAA semis but **Luke D'Alessio's** team got first round Atlantic Region playoff win vs. Fairmont State before losing to host West Liberty.
3. **Savannah State** (18-12) - Fourth seed from the East knocked off **Tuskegee**, a 2nd-seed from the West, in **SIAC** title game. Lost to Nova Southeastern in D2 South Region first round.
4. **Miles** (23-4) SIAC's best record all season but felled by Savannah State in tournament quarterfinals.
5. **Langston** (26-8) Won Sooner Athletic Conference tournament title and won two games in NAIA Naismith Quadrant to advance to Sweet 16. Fell to No. 2 seed College of Idaho.

BCSP Notes

Larry Vickers leaves Norfolk State to take over Auburn women's hoops

Less than 24 hours after his **Norfolk State** women's team competed

boldly in a first round NCAA Tournament loss at Maryland, head coach **Larry Vickers** has a new job.



Vickers

Sunday morning Vickers, who has led the Lady Spartans to unprecedented heights over the last decade, was named head women's basketball coach at Auburn of the Southeastern Conference (SEC).

This season, his Norfolk State squad won a record 30 games (30-5), went 17-0 against **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** (MEAC) competition and posted wins over two SEC teams, Missouri (57-54, on Nov. 10) and Auburn (63-57, on Dec. 29). They received a 13 seed, the highest for an HBCU in the last decade, and battled No. 4 Maryland for four quarters Saturday before bowing 82-69.

That win in December, as well as NSU's outstanding play under Vickers, obviously caught the eye of the Auburn folks.

"Throughout the search process, one name continually rose to the top – Larry Vickers," Auburn athletic director John Cohen said in a statement released by the university. "Coach Vickers has an incredible technical understanding of women's basketball. He demands excellence from his student-athletes while fostering an environment for young women to succeed. His understanding of the new landscape of college athletics is impressive. No one has worked harder for an opportunity like this than Coach Vickers. I am excited to welcome LV, Charisse, and their family to the Plains."

Vickers, a former NSU men's basketball player and assistant coach, led the women's program for the past 10 seasons, collecting a 177-99 record and the last three **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** (MEAC) tournament titles and NCAA berths.

"I want to thank President Roberts, John Cohen and the entire search committee for this incredible opportunity to lead the Auburn women's basketball program," Vickers said. "Auburn is a great institution with one of the best athletics programs in the country. I am excited to get to work and help bring championship-level success to our women's basketball program."

Vickers' salary at Norfolk State was \$214,200, making him the highest-paid women's basketball coach in the MEAC.

According to recent data, coaches outside of the top women's coaches in the SEC such as South Carolina's Dawn Staley (\$4 million) and LSU's Kim Mulkey (\$3.26 million), typically earn between \$650,000 to \$1.5 million annually. Vickers' salary is likely to fall within that range. Auburn's previous coach, Johnnie Harris, earned \$568,750 per year.

Reggie Barlow named new head football coach at Tennessee State

NASHVILLE — Former HBCU and NFL standout player, HBCU and professional standout head coach **Reggie Barlow** will be introduced Monday as the 23rd head football coach at **Tennessee State**.

Barlow will be replacing former Heisman Trophy winner and NFL standout **Eddie George** who left after four years leading the Blue Tigers including leading them to an FCS playoff appearance in 2024. George was announced two weeks ago as the head football coach at Bowling Green.

Barlow joins TSU after a standout two-year tenure as head coach of the UFL's D.C. Defenders, where he led the team to a league-best 9-1 record and a championship game appearance in 2023. His remarkable leadership earned him 2023 XFL Coach of the Year honors.

"Unbelievable! The chance to be at Tennessee State University, with its rich history, tradition, and legacy of amazing players and coaches – it's truly an honor to follow in their footsteps," said Barlow. "I'm humbled, blessed, and beyond excited! A huge thank you to Director of Athletics **Dr. Mikki Allen**, President Tucker, and the student-athletes who have who've remained committed through uncertainty. And to Big Blue, I'm ready to get started! So, let me ask you...do you like football?"

Before his success with the Defenders, Barlow served as head coach at **Virginia State University** for six seasons leading the Trojans to a 34-15 overall record, 25-10 in **CIAA** play. He made history in 2017 leading the

MORE TOURNAMENT RESULTS

RALEIGH, NC – **MEAC** men's champion **Norfolk State** fell behind by as much as 28 points in the first half but continued to compete in failing to West Region top seed Florida 95-69 here Friday evening. Florida is 31-4.

Christian Ings led the Spartans (24-11) with 16 points. **Jaylen Darden** added 15 and **Chris Fields Jr.** had 14.

BIRMINGHAM 2 REGION - FIRST ROUND - WOMEN

4) Maryland 82, 13) **Norfolk State** 69

COLLEGE PARK, MD – Birmingham 2 Region No. 4 Maryland turned around a 32-30 halftime deficit to outscore **MEAC** women's champion and 13th-seed **Norfolk State** 52-37 in the second half, including canning 19 of 19 free throws, to pull away to a hardfought 82-69 victory in a first round NCAA Birmingham 2 Region Tournament game here Saturday.

NSU (30-5) got 16 first-half points from MEAC player of the year **Diamond Johnson** en route to the halftime lead. Johnson only could muster two second-half points to finish with 18 points, six rebounds and three steals. All-MEAC forward **Kierra Wheeler** led the Spartans with 20 points, 7 rebounds and three blocks. **Da'Brya Clark** added 14 while **Anjanae Richardson** had 11. **Niya Fields** had a team-high five assists.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT (WNIT) - FIRST ROUND

Chattanooga 53, **Alabama A&M** 49

2025 FINAL BCSP WOMEN'S DIV. I BASKETBALL TOP FIVE

1. **NORFOLK STATE** (30-5) - **Larry Vickers'** troops were dominant, running thru MEAC (17-0) including tournament title and got 13-seed in women's NCAA Tourney. Battled gamely at No. 4 Maryland in first round.
2. **Southern** (21-15) - Posted best SWAC regular season record (15-3) and swept to SWAC tournament title over Alcorn State. Got Jags and head coach **Carlos Funchess's** first NCAA win in First Four over UC San Diego before bowing to region and overall 1-seed UCLA in first round.
- 3) **North Carolina A&T** (19-12) - **Tarrell Robinson** led Lady Aggies to regular season title and top seed in CAA Tournament before being upset by 9th-seed and eventual tourney winner William & Mary in the quarterfinals. Lost in first round of WBIT to top seed Virginia Tech.
4. **Howard** (22-12) - Finished behind Norfolk State in MEAC regular season race and bowed to Lady Spartans in tournament finals. Head coach **Ty Grace's** squad got first round WNIT win over Siena before losing at Charleston.
- T5) **Alabama A&M** (21-11), **Texas Southern** (17-15), **Coppin State** (19-14) - Runners-up in SWAC regular season (AA&M, TSU), CSU third in MEAC. CSU and TSU got first round WNIT wins.

2025 FINAL BCSP WOMEN'S DIV. II/NAIA BASKETBALL TOP FIVE

- 1) **LANGSTON** (31-3) - Won Sooner Athletic Conference (SAC) regular season and tournament titles and then won two Naismith Quadrant games to advance to NAIA Sweet 16. Lost to defending national champion and NAIA top seed Dordt (55-51).
- 2) **Fayetteville State** (21-8) - Was best in CIAA S. Div and beat N. Div. best Virginia State in CIAA Tournament finals. Lost in first round of Atlantic Regional to Gannon.
- 3) **Miles** (22-7) - Tied **Clark Atlanta** for best **SIAC** record (15-4) and then prevailed in league tournament final over **Tuskegee**. Lost in first round of South Regional to host Nova Southeastern.
- 4) **Tuskegee** (20-10) - Finished behind Miles in SIAC West, beat SIAC No. 2 **Clark Atlanta** in tournament semis, lost to Miles in tourney title game.
- 5) **Xavier (LA)** (29-4) - **Bo Browder's** women won two games in NAIA Cramer Quadrant to advance to Sweet 16 where it lost to undefeated Southern Oregon.

Trojans to their first unbeaten season in school history and winning the **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association** (CIAA) title. His efforts earned him CIAA Coach of the Year honors.

Barlow began his collegiate coaching career at his alma mater **Alabama State** as quarterback coach for two seasons and head coach for eight seasons. During his time at the helm, he led the Hornets to a 49-42 record and three **SWAC** East Division titles. His influence went beyond wins and losses, as his teams also excelled in the classroom, boasting an 80% graduation rate.

As a player, Barlow was a standout wide receiver and return specialist at Alabama State before being selected in the fourth round of the 1996 NFL Draft by the Jacksonville Jaguars. During his NFL career, he played for the Jaguars, Oakland Raiders, and Tampa Bay Buccaneers, leading the league in punt return yards in 1998 and earning a Pro Bowl alternate selection. He capped his playing career by winning Super Bowl XXXVII with the Buccaneers in 2002.

"Reggie Barlow's appointment as the head football coach of TSU is a testament to his dedication to the game of football and his deep-rooted passion for developing young athletes. With a rich legacy as a player and coach, Barlow is poised to lead the TSU football program to new heights, building a culture of excellence and success that will benefit both the players and the university for years to come," said Allen.

Barlow inherits a TSU program on the rise and is eager to defend its share of the OVC-Big South Championship. The Tigers reached the NCAA FCS Playoffs for the first time since 2013 and claimed their first conference title since 1999. TSU will play eight home games in 2025 beginning with the *John Merritt Classic* on August 30th against **North Carolina A&T**.

The press conference to introduce Coach Barlow took place at Nissan Stadium on Monday, March 24 at 11 AM.

Landon Bussie leaves Alcorn State to take over Chicago State men's basketball

CHICAGO – **Chicago State University** (CSU) is proud to announce



Bussie

the hiring of **Landon Bussie** as the new head coach of the Cougars' men's basketball program. Bussie, an accomplished leader with a strong record of success, brings a championship pedigree and a passion for developing student-athletes both on and off the court.

Bussie joins CSU following a standout tenure as the head coach at **Alcorn State University**, where he led the Braves to back-to-back **Southwestern Athletic Conference** (SWAC)

regular-season championships in 2022 and 2023. He was named SWAC Coach of the Year in both seasons, solidifying his reputation as one of the top coaching minds in college basketball.

"In our search for a head coach, we prioritized leadership, excellence, and a relentless drive to compete at the highest level, Coach Bussie embodies these qualities and more," said Vice President and Director of Intercollegiate Athletics **Dr. Monique Carroll**. "With his championship pedigree and ability to develop top-tier talent, we are confident that he will build a culture of success that our student-athletes, fans and the Chicago community can be proud of."

"I am excited, grateful, and motivated to begin my journey at Chicago State University," said Bussie. "It's an honor to be part of this great institution and to work under Dr. Carroll. Cougar fans, get ready for a lot of winning—both on and off the court! I am fully committed to giving my all to Chicago State University and its student-athletes, working tirelessly to build this program into championship form."

Before his time at Alcorn State, Bussie spent five seasons as an assistant coach at **Prairie View A&M University**, helping guide the Panthers to multiple SWAC championships and an NCAA Tournament appearance. His coaching career also includes successful stops at Xavier University of Louisiana, where he played a key role in the program's sustained success.

Bussie, a Baltimore, Maryland native, earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from **Xavier University** of Louisiana. His experience in player development, recruiting, and program building will be instrumental as he takes the reins at Chicago State.

CHATTANOOGA, TN - **SWAC** member **Alabama A&M** stormed back from seven points down in the fourth quarter to take the lead and was tied at 49 in the last minute before succumbing at Chattanooga, 53-49 Saturday afternoon.

In its two possessions in the final minute, the Lady Bulldogs (21-11) had two shot clock violation turnovers. Chattanooga canned four free throws when fouled for the final margin.

Six-two senior forward **Alisha Wilson** led A&M with 13 points and 14 rebounds. Five-five senior guard and scoring leader **Kaila Walker** had 11 points.

WOMEN'S NATION INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT (WNIT) - FIRST ROUND

Coppin State 58, Colgate 48

HAMILTON, NY - **MEAC** member **Coppin State**, down 43-38 after three quarters, went on a 15-0 run to open the final period and outscored Colgate 20-5 in the stanza to post a 58-48 win here Saturday afternoon in a first round WNIT contest.

Angel Jones scored 14 points to lead the Lady Eagles (19-14), **Dani McTeer** had 12. All-MEAC first teamer **Laila Lawrence** had 10 points and a game-high 12 rebounds. **Tiffany Hammond** had 7 points as did point guard **Tyler Gray**. Hammond had seven rebounds.

Coppin State played at Cleveland State on Tuesday at 7 p.m. in a second round WNIT game.