

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



2026 CIAA Tournament logo

TOURNEY SEASON BEGINS

CIAA HOOPS HONORS ANNOUNCED; SIAC, MEAC, SWAC RACES IN FINAL STAGES; MOREHOUSE GETS NEW FOOTBALL COACH

FIRST UP! The action at the men's and women's CIAA Basketball Tournaments got underway in Baltimore Tuesday.

MEN'S 2025-26 BLACK COLLEGE BASKETBALL (Standings & Players of the Week)

CIAA					MEAC					SIAC					SWAC					INDEPENDENTS									
CENTRAL INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION					MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE					SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE					SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE														
TOURNEY SEEDING					CONF					CONF					CONF					CONF									
NORTH DIVISION					W L W L W L					W L W L W L					W L W L W L					W L W L W L									
1 Virginia State					9 1 12 4 19 9					Howard					8 3 18 10					Bethune-Cookman					12 3 15 13				
2 Virginia Union					8 2 13 3 24 4					Morgan State					18 6 21 7					Southern					9 5 13 14				
3 Bluefield State					7 3 11 5 13 14					Norfolk State					14 9 14 11					Alabama A&M					9 6 16 12				
4 Bowie State					2 8 5 11 7 21					N. C. Central					12 12 14 14					Arkansas-Pine Bluff					9 6 12 16				
5 Lincoln (PA)					2 8 4 12 9 19					S. C. State					11 12 12 12					Jackson State					8 6 9 18				
6 Elizabeth City State					2 8 3 13 4 19					Coppin State					11 13 11 13					Florida A&M					8 7 11 15				
SOUTH DIVISION					W L W L W L					Md. E-Shore					11 13 12 16					Texas Southern					8 7 10 16				
1 Fayetteville State					10 0 14 2 20 6					Delaware State					5 17 6 18					Grambling State					6 8 12 15				
2 Claflin					7 3 14 4 17 10					PLAYERS OF THE WEEK					19 5 20 7					Alcorn State					6 8 7 19				
3 Johnson C. Smith					5 5 7 9 10 14					Cedric Taylor III, 6-7, Jr., G, HOW - In two					17 7 19 7					Prairie View A&M					6 9 11 17				
4 Shaw					5 5 7 9 16 9					blowout wins, Morehouse transfer averaged					10 12 10 14					Alabama State					6 9 9 19				
5 Livingstone					3 7 6 10 11 16					19.0 points, 5.5 rebounds and 4.5 assists					11 12 11 13					Miss. Valley State					1 14 2 27				
6 Winston-Salem State					0 10 2 13 7 18					with 17 points, 5 rebounds, 3 assists in					9 15 12 16					PLAYERS OF THE WEEK					CONF ALL				
										91-59 win vs. DSU, 21 points, 6 rebounds,					6 18 6 21					Jakovbi Heady, 6-6, Sr, G/F, B-CU - In					CONF ALL				
										6 assits in 100-67 win vs. NCCU.					4 19 4 23					two home wins averaged 22.5.0 ppg.,					CONF ALL				
										PLAYERS OF THE YEAR					Central State					4.5 rpg, w/with team-highs of 19 points, 5					CONF ALL				
										Howell					Kentucky State					rebounds and 6 assists in Saturday's win					CONF ALL				
										Atkinson					Spring Hill					over Alabama A&M and 26 points with 4					CONF ALL				
															9 15 12 16					rebounds and 1 steal in win over Alabama					CONF ALL				
															6 18 6 21					State Thursday.					CONF ALL				
															4 19 4 23					PLAYER OF THE WEEK					CONF ALL				
															PLAYERS OF THE WEEK					CONF ALL					CONF ALL				
															Jadyn Shider,					Aaron Nkruman, 6-6, Sr., G, TNST - In					CONF ALL				
															6-8, Sr, F, CLATL - In two wins, had 15 points,					two wins that vaulted the Tigers into a first-					CONF ALL				
															8 rebounds vs. L-OC, 24 points, 4 rebounds vs.					place tie in the OVC, Nkruman averaged					CONF ALL				
															Lane. Shakur Poteat, 6-1, Gr., G, ALB - In					20.0 points and 8.0 rebound with 14 points,					CONF ALL				
															two wins, had 27 points, 7 rebounds, 4 as-					5 rebounds in win over Lindenwood, 26					CONF ALL				
															sists and 2 steals vs. Benedict, 14 points, 4					points, 11 rebounds, 4 assists and 2 steals					CONF ALL				
															rebounds, 7 assists and 3 steals vs. Allen.					vs. SIUE.					CONF ALL				
															Sincere Moore, 6-5, Jr., G, MHS - 17 pts.,										CONF ALL				
															9 rebs., vs. CSU, 15 pts., 4 rebs. vs. KSU.										CONF ALL				

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

CIAA HONORS, TOURNAMENT TOP SEEDS:

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) announced Sunday its 2026 Men's and Women's All-CIAA basketball teams along with its top conference honors following a regular season defined by competitive division races, late season momentum swings, and standout performances across the league as teams prepare for this week's (February 24-28) tournament competition in Baltimore.

MEN'S HONORS AND ALL-CIAA SELECTIONS:

The men's season featured strong performances throughout both divisions, highlighted by Fayetteville State's run to the top of the Southern Division standings behind an undefeated 10-0 mark against divisional opponents, securing the division's regular season championship.

Leading that charge was 6-6 senior swingman Larry Howell who earned player of the year recognition after a dominant season on both ends of the court (21.7 ppg.-1st, 6-5 rpg.-17th, .448 FG-6th, .850 FT-1st). Six-ten Claffin sophomore center/forward Alex Atkinson was named Defensive Player of the Year for his impact as a difference maker defensively and offensively (13.3 ppg.-13th, .596 FG-1st, 9.0 rpg.-2nd, 1.6 bpg.-18th), while FSU's 6-2 senior guard Ezekiel Cannedy secured Sixth Man of the Year honors for his key contributions off the bench (18.1 ppg.-3rd, .404 FG-9th, .817 FT-3rd).

Virginia Union's success this season was reflected on the on the court and on the sidelines as Jay Butler was selected Coach of the Year after leading the Panthers to a league-best 24-4 overall record that earned VUU as high as a No. 18 national ranking in the NABC Top 25. Elizabeth City State's 6-9 freshman forward Donovan Flamer was named Rookie of the Year after emerging as one of the league's most impressive first-year players (9.7 ppg., 5.4 rpg.).

By virtue of its 9-1 record Virginia State claimed the Northern Division regular season title over VUU (8-2) after another strong campaign, while Bluefield State returns looking to build on last year's championship game appearance. Claffin and Johnson C. Smith finished near the top of the Southern Division standings, and Shaw, Livingstone, and Winston-Salem State remained competitive throughout a tightly contested race.

2026 MEN'S ALL-CIAA TEAMS

FIRST TEAM

Alex Atkinson, 6-10, So., F/C, CLAF; Jacob Cooper, 5-8, Sr., G, VSU; Larry Howell, 6-6, Sr., G/F, FSU; Avery Huggins, 6-6, Sr., F, SHAW; Myles Pierre, 6-1, Sr., G, BLST

SECOND TEAM

Ezekiel Cannedy, 6-2, Sr., G, FSU; Malachi Dark, 6-7, Jr., F, VUU; Bobby Gardner, 6-1, So., G, VUU; Jaiden McGhee, 6-5, Jr., F, BSU; James Nipper, 6-3, Jr., G, LIV

ROOKIE TEAM

Amadou Fall, 6-9, Fr., C, LINCP; Donovan Flamer, 6-9, Fr., F, ECSU; Williams Hopkins, 6-2, Fr., G, VSU; Julius Olanrewaju, 6-5, Fr., F, LINCP; Charles Thomas III, 6-6, Fr., F, BSU

COACH OF THE YEAR:

Jay Butler, VUU

MEN'S DIVISION CHAMPIONS

Northern Division Champion: VSU

Southern Division Champion: FSU

FREDDIE VAUGHN ACADEMIC AWARD RECIPIENT

Lincoln (PA) University

WOMEN'S HONORS AND ALL-CIAA SELECTIONS:

The women's season was marked by breakthrough storylines and standout individual play across the conference. Virginia Union's six-foot, senior forward Bruni Martinez earned player of the year honors (14.2 ppg. - 3rd, 9.3 rpg. - 3rd, .475 FG - 3rd, 2.6 spg. - 7th) after leading one of the league's most consistent teams throughout the season.

Livingstone 6-2 sophomore center Breasia Coit was named Defensive Player of the Year for anchoring a strong defensive effort (13.2 ppg., 12.2 rpg. - 1st, .493 FG - 1st, 2.1 bpg. - T3rd), while Virginia State 5-6 junior guard Kendahl Spearman earned Sixth Woman of the Year recognition for her production and impact in a reserve role (13.4 ppg. - 5th, .740 FT - 6th).

Winston-Salem State's historic 23-3 season brought additional honors, including Rookie of the Year recognition for 5-7 freshman point guard Breonna Roaf after a standout debut campaign (5.8 ppg., 3.8 rpg., 2.3 spg.). WSSU head coach Tierra Terry was named Coach of the Year after guiding the program to a division leading finish following a season highlighted by significant improvement and consistent success.

In the divisional races, Winston-Salem State and Fayetteville State shared the Southern Division regular season title, while Bowie State secured the Northern Division championship after a steady and successful conference run. With multiple teams carrying confidence and momentum into postseason competition, the women's field reflects the depth that defined the regular season.

2026 WOMEN'S ALL-CIAA TEAMS

FIRST TEAM

Bruni Martinez, 6-0, Sr., F, VUU; Breasia Coit, 6-2, So., C, LIV; Ashari Lewis, 5-9, Sr., F, CLAF; Jasmine Jenkins, 5-8, Sr., G, BLST; 5-5, Sr., F, FSU

SECOND TEAM

Ka'Nyah O'Neal, 5-8, Jr., G, FSU; Kendahl Spearman, 5-6, Jr., G, VSU; Maia Charles, 6-3, So., F, WSSU; Nevaeh Farmer, 5-4, Jr., F, WSSU; Makayla Waleed, 5-8, Sr., G, WSSU

ROOKIE TEAM

Tionna Pettus, Elizabeth City State; Ah'Kiyah Pie, Winston-Salem State; Breonna Roaf, Winston-Salem State; Shayla Wyatt, Virginia State; Shanon Hoover, Bluefield State

WOMEN'S DIVISION CHAMPIONS

Northern Division Champion: Bowie State

Southern Division Co-Champions: Winston-Salem State and Fayetteville State

FREDDIE VAUGHN ACADEMIC AWARD RECIPIENT

Shaw University

BCSP Notes

CIAA Tourney tips in Baltimore

The men of Virginia State (North) and Fayetteville State (South) and the women of Bowie State (North) and Winston-Salem State (South) are the top seeds and favorites as the CIAA Basketball Tournaments tipped off in Baltimore on Tuesday morning February 24.

The tournaments will run thru championship games on Saturday, Feb. 28 (women 1:00 p.m., men 4:00 p.m.).

Tuesday's play included four women's first round games involving seeds 3 thru 6 (10 a.m., 12:10 p.m., 2:40 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.) and two men's first round games involving seeds 4 and 5 as nightcaps (6:40 and 8:50 p.m.).

On Wednesday (Feb. 25), women's top seeds WSSU (2 p.m.) and BSU (4:30 p.m.) first play against Tuesday's winners in quarterfinal matches followed by men's top seeds VSU (6:40 p.m.) and FSU (8:40 p.m.) in their quarterfinal match-ups.

Quarterfinals will have a different format on Thursday (Feb. 26). Women's N. Div. second seed Virginia State will play at 12 noon followed by men's S. Div. second seed Claffin at 2 p.m. The evening session has women's S. Div. second seed Fayetteville State playing at 6 p.m. and men's second seed Virginia Union taking the floor at 8 p.m.

Friday's women's semifinals are set for 12 noon and 6 p.m. with the men's semis at 2 and 8 p.m.

As usual, the CIAA Tournament has a plethora of ancillary events going on all week.

They include the CIAA Fan Fest 2026 Friday and Saturday at the nearby Baltimore Convention Center, Greek Step Shows Friday and Saturday at the Convention Center, a Tech Summit Friday and a Financial Summit Saturday at the Rita Rossi Colwell Center, a host of day and night parties and shows featuring 2 Chainz Friday night (9 p.m. to 2 a.m.) and Mya Saturday night (9 p.m. to 2 a.m.) at Power Plant Live.

SIAC all but set; Tourney begins this weekend

Morehouse in the East and Tuskegee in the West are set as men's top seeds for the men's and women's SIAC Tournaments which begin Saturday, February 28 at the home of the higher seeds.

Quarterfinals, semifinals and championship rounds are set for the Clayton County Convocation Center in Morrow, Ga. from Wed., March 4 thru Sat., March 7.

After a blowout 91-56 win at Kentucky State Thursday and a narrow 65-63 win at Central State Saturday, Morehouse (17-5) enters the final week of men's SIAC regular season play with a slim one-game lead over Clark Atlanta (17-5) in the East Division. CAU won this week at LeMoyne-Owen (67-65) and at Lane (71-60).

Morehouse has games left at 11-12 Fort Valley State Tuesday and at 4-19 Spring Hill Thursday while Clark Atlanta finishes the season at 6-18 KSU Monday.

Tuskegee (19-5), coming off wins at home over Savannah State (70-65) and Edward Waters (75-55), has a two-game lead over Miles (17-7) in the West Division. That lead will hold as the Golden Tigers have finished regular season play.

For the women, Edward Waters, 21-3 in the East, and Miles (20-4) in the West have insurmountable leads and will be the tournament's top seeds. Both have finished regular season play.

BCSP News

Morehouse chooses Sherrod

Morehouse named Brad Sherrod Tuesday, most recently the head coach at Texas Wesleyan University, as the next head football coach of the Maroon Tigers.

Sherrod, a veteran with more than 30 years of coaching experience across the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS), Football Championship Subdivision (FCS), and National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) levels, brings championship leadership, proven program development, and sustained success to his new role.

He arrives at Morehouse following a two-season run at Texas Wesleyan in which he posted a 17-6 overall record, including a 10-1 mark in 2024, and guided the Rams to two NAIA playoff appearances.

"Coach Sherrod is a proven program builder with a track record of sustained success and postseason performance," said Harold Ellis '92, Director of Athletics at Morehouse. "More importantly, he understands what it means to develop young men with purpose."

"I'm honored to join Morehouse College and guiding this program is a responsibility that I do not take lightly," Sherrod said. "Our goal will be to build a championship-caliber program rooted in toughness, accountability, and brotherhood, while representing the college the right way on and off the field."

Sherrod's resume includes stops at UT-San Antonio, Wake Forest, Sam Houston State, Delaware, Elon, Tennessee State, Western Carolina, East Tennessee State, and UMass.

Brown gets late Combine invite

While participating in Saturday's HBCU Legacy Bowl in New Orleans, North Carolina A&T placemaker Andrew Brown received an invitation to participate in the NFL Combine's Specialist Showcase. He was set to kick for NFL teams Wednesday.

Brown, A&T's all-time leader in field goals made (51), was 5-for-5 on 50-yard field goal attempts during the 2025 season including a program-record 56-yarder against Towson on November 1, 2025. He is the only black college player at the Combine

WOMEN'S 2025-26 BLACK COLLEGE BASKETBALL (Standings and Players of the Week)

CIAA					MEAC					SIAC					SWAC					INDEPENDENTS									
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TOURNEY SEEDING					CONF					CONF					CONF					CONF									
NORTH DIVISION					W L W L W L					W L W L W L					W L W L W L					W L W L W L									
1 Bowie State					9 1 10 5 18 7					Howard					10 1 20 7					Alabama A&M					14 1 18 9				
2 Virginia State					7 3 11 5 17 7					Norfolk State					17 7 17 11					Alcorn State					11 3 14 11				
3 Virginia Union					7 3 10 6 16 8					Md. E-Shore					15 7 16 8					Alabama State					11 4 14 12				
4 Bluefield State					5 5 8 8 14 11					Coppin State					16 8 16 8					Southern					10 4 14 11				
5 Elizabeth City State					2 8 2 14 5 21					N. C. Central					13 11 14 11					Arkansas-Pine Bluff					8 7 11 14				
6 Lincoln (PA)					0 8 0 11 3 24					Morgan State					6 17 7 17					Jackson State					7 7 9 17				
SOUTH DIVISION					W L W L W L					Delaware State					6 18 6 20					Grambling State					6 7 9 17				
1 Winston-Salem State					8 2 14 2 23 3					S. C. State					2 9 5 21					Florida A&M					6 9 7 19				
2 Fayetteville State					8 2 13 3 19 4					PLAYERS OF THE WEEK					20 4 23 4					Miss. Valley State					5 9 6 19				
3 Claflin					5 4 10 5 15 7					OFFENSE					17 5 18 5					Texas Southern					5 10 9 18				
4 Livingstone					5 4 7 8 8 18					Jermasha Frierson, 5-7, Jr., G, DSU - Had					12 12 12 13					Bethune-Cookman					4 11 6 22				
5 Shaw					2 6 5 10 8 15					20 points, 9 rebounds, 2 steals and 3 as-					9 15 9 17					Prairie View A&M					0 15 2 24				
6 Johnson C. Smith					1 7 4 12 7 17					sists in win over MSU.					5 18 7 19					PLAYERS OF THE WEEK					CONF ALL				
										Nile Miller, HOW - Had 15 points with 9					Central State					Aniya Palmer, 6-1, Jr., G, ALA&M - 11					CONF ALL				
										of 13 FTs, 12 rebounds, 4 steals in win					LeMoyne-Owen					points, 9 rebounds in win at B-CU, 13					CONF ALL				
										vs. NCCU.					2 20 2 21					points, 10 rebounds in win at FAMU.					CONF ALL				
										PLAYER OF THE WEEK					Dyani Bernestine,					Charles McClendon, 5-11, Jr., C, ALST					CONF ALL				
										5-10, Fr., F, LANE - Had just 9 pts., 5 rebs, 3 as-					sists in Thursday win vs. FVSV, came back with					- 8 points, 8 rebounds in win at BCU, 12					CONF ALL				
										season-highs of 31 points, 11 rebounds, 6 steals					in 80-79 win over Clark Atlanta Saturday.					points, 21 rebounds in win at FAMU.					CONF ALL				
																				PLAYERS OF THE WEEK					CONF ALL				
																				Kenly Rogers, 5-7, So., G, WVSU - In 2-0					CONF ALL				
																				week, Rogers averaged 21.5 ppg. with 33 points					CONF ALL				
																				including 9 of 10 FGs, 7 of 8 3s, vs. Davis					CONF ALL				
																				and Elkins, 10 points (3-13 FT, 3-8 3s) vs. WV					CONF ALL				
																				Wesleyan.					CONF ALL				