

BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS PAGE



2026 SIAC Tournament logo

TOURNEY ACTION CONTINUES

NEXT UP! The action at the men's and women's SIAC Basketball Tournaments continued Wednesday in Morrow, GA.

FIRST-YEAR HEAD COACHES TAKE CIAA TITLES; B-CU MEN, ALABAMA A&M WOMEN, TENNESSEE STATE MEN WIN TITLES

2026 TOURNAMENT FINALS RECAPS

CIAA WOMEN

Winston-Salem State 60, Fayetteville State 43
BALTIMORE, MD – South Division top seed **Winston-Salem State** jumped out to a double-digit second-quarter lead and never let division rival and second-seed **Fayetteville State** cut the deficit below that margin in posting a 60-43 win in the women's championship game of the **CIAA** Tournament here Saturday.

Five-four junior forward **Nevaeh Farmer**, a juco transfer, had 18 first-half points including draining four of six 3-pointers as WSSU built a 37-18 lead at the half. FSU (21-5) got within 12 several times in the second half but could never threaten the Lady Rams. WSSU forced 24 FSU turnovers that it converted to the eventual winning margin, 17 points.

The championship is the first in tournament history for the WSSU women (26-3) and completes a remarkable turnaround under first-year head coach **Tierra Terry**, who left as head coach at **Virginia Union** to take over the Rams' program. The former WSSU player turned around a team that finished 7-20 a year ago bringing in a new nucleus of players.

"The right combination of players and a united front, a united mentality," are what Terry said in the postgame press conference fueled the turnaround and the championship run. "I think winning starts in the mind. We recruited players that wanted to win and would do what it takes to win. Our women are tough."

The teams split two regular-season match ups with each team posting double-digit home wins. FSU halted a 16-game WSSU win streak with a 72-57 home win on Jan. 27. WSSU returned the favor with a 50-36 win on its home court on Feb. 7.

The rivalry was ratcheted up a notch as FSU fans were heard chanting "We want Winston" after their semifinal win Friday over N. Div. top seed **Bowie State**. WSSU fans derisively chanted "They want Winston?" back at the FSU faithful late in the championship game win. The chant should have been "You Got Winston" and couldn't handle them.

"At the end of the day, we were focused on our team," a humble Terry said of her team's being aware of the chants. "Sometimes stuff is meant to distract you. And sometimes you don't need to talk."

Each of WSSU's three tournament wins came by double digits, winning by 22 (71-49 over **Bluefield State**) in the quarterfinals, 35 (67-32 over **Claffin**) in the semis and 17 points. WSSU entered as the only nationally-ranked CIAA women's team, 18th in the latest WBCA poll.

Farmer finished with 24 points to lead WSSU with tourney MVP, Temple transfer **Makayla Waleed**, getting 14 to give the Rams two players scoring in double digits. Sophomore center **Maia Charles** was a force inside with 10 points, 7 rebounds and 4 blocks. En route to her MVP award, Waleed had 19 points and six rebounds in the quarterfinal win and four points in the semifinal victory.

FSU was led by 14 from **Talia Trotter** and 12 from **Samaya Barker**.

CIAA MEN

Fayetteville State 71, Bluefield State 68

BALTIMORE, MD – Men's South Division top seed **Fayetteville State** roared back from a 40-32 halftime and 54-47 deficit with seven minutes left to knock off N. Div. third-seed **Bluefield State** 71-68 in the men's championship game of the **CIAA** Basketball Tournament here Saturday evening.

The up-tempo Broncos (23-6) had trailed since leading 12-10 in the game's first four minutes before finally pulling even at 57 and taking a 58-57 lead on two **Romeo Aquino** free throws with 5:48 to play. FSU turned up the defensive heat and forced turnovers resulting in a 16-0 edge in points off turnovers in the second half. The Broncos outscored the Big Blue (16-15) 24-14 over the last seven minutes to pull out the victory avenging a 81-74 win by Bluefield State in the regular season.

"We knew going into this game that it was going to be a dogfight," said victorious first-year FSU head coach **Devin Hoehn**. "But we told our guys, they can be up in the first half but you've got to do this for 40 minutes. The team we played (BSU) is a great team but they played three games before this. It was their fourth game in four days and I told these guys if we can really ramp up pressure in the second half, more than what we did in the first half, I promise you their legs are going to go. Down the stretch they were missing shots. I guarantee you that we're the most in-shape team in this league and it showed today."

The game curiously matched head coaches and several players who traded places after last season. Hoehn moved from BSU to FSU replacing former FSU coach **Luke D'Alessio** with D'Alessio taking the reins at Bluefield State. All five FSU starters this season played at Bluefield State under Hoehn a season ago. D'Alessio brought two of his key players from FSU, **Myles Pierre** and **Anthony Latty**, to BSU. Under Hoehn, Bluefield State lost in last year's championship game 71-64 to **Virginia State** after beating D'Alessio's FSU squad in the tournament semifinals.

"Last year, we were supposed to get it (the championship at BSU), but it wasn't written," said 6-3 FSU senior guard **Terrell Williams**, one of those five starters that transferred. "We worked our butts off all summer, preseason and into the season to be here right now."

Williams was the only Bronco to reach double-figures in the first half with 16 points and added another 13 after the break to finish with a game-high 29 points. He was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player. CIAA Player of the Year **Larry Howell** and **Darius Boben** added 14 points each. Bolden led the Broncos with seven steals.

BSU had forged the lead and controlled the tempo early behind the play of **Shaw** transfer point guard **Elija Preddy**, Pierre and Latty. Preddy finished 20 points and nine rebounds, Latty had 18 points and 10 boards while Pierre contributed 13 points. BSU had a decided 37-16 edge in rebounds but the trio also committed 14 of the team's 21 turnovers.

"It was a really tough game," said D'Alessio. "We just had too many turnovers. We had crucial turnovers. You can't have 21 turnovers and beat a team in the conference championship game like we had today. It's too many."

2026 CIAA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT RESULTS

MEN'S TOURNAMENT

OPENING ROUND

Bowie State 100, Livingstone 77
Lincoln (PA) 69, Shaw 63
Johnson C. Smith 61, Elizabeth City State 60
Bluefield State 65, Winston-Salem State 55

QUARTERFINALS

Bluefield State 70, Claffin 68
Virginia State 76, Lincoln (PA) 60
Johnson C. Smith 64, Virginia Union 63
Fayetteville State 86, Bowie State 83

SEMIFINALS

Bluefield State 71, Virginia State 66
Fayetteville State vs. Johnson C. Smith

FINAL

Fayetteville State 71, Bluefield State 68

TOURNAMENT MVP

Terrell Williams, 6-3, Sr., G, Fayetteville State

ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

Jacob Cooper, Virginia State
Alex Atkinson, Claffin
Larry Howell, Fayetteville State
Julius Olanrewaju, Lincoln (PA)
Anthony Davenport, Bluefield State
Malachi Dart, Virginia Union
Terrell Williams, Fayetteville State
Myles Pierre, Bluefield State
K. J. West, Bowie State
Jared Davis, Johnson C. Smith

SPORTSMANSHIP TROPHY

Johnson C. Smith

WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT

OPENING ROUND

Livingstone 59, Elizabeeth City State 46
Virginia Union 59, Johnson C. Smith 48
Bluefield State 82, Shaw 56
Claffin 53, Lincoln (PA) 50

QUARTERFINALS

Bowie State 72, Livingstone 51
Fayetteville State 56, Virginia Union 49
Winston-Salem State 71, Bluefield State 49
Claffin 56, Virginia State 42

SEMIFINALS

Winston-Salem State 67, Claffin 32
Fayetteville State 49, Bowie State 46

FINAL

Winston-Salem State 60, Fayetteville State 43

TOURNAMENT MVP

Makayla Waleed, 5-8, Sr., G, WSSU

ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

Tyra Floyd, Claffin
Makayla Waleed, Winston-Salem State
Mayah Garner, Bowie State
Jasmine Jenkins, Bluefield State
Bruni Martinez, Virginia Union
Ashari Lewis, Claffin
Talia Trotter, Fayetteville State
Nevaeh Farmer, Winston-Salem State
Navaeh Colon, Fayetteville State
Jakaiya Mack, Winston-Salem State

SPORTSMANSHIP TROPHY

Virginia State

BCSP News

SIAC Tourney tips just outside Atlanta

The 2026 basketball tournament spotlight shifts this week to the Clayton County Convocation Center in Morrow, Ga., 19 miles outside Atlanta, as the annual **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference** (SIAC) Tournament tipped off in earnest Wednesday after opening round play this past Saturday.

Opening round games involved teams seeded from third to the bottom of the men's and women's standings and were hosted by the higher seeded teams.

Morehouse (19-9, 19-5 SIAC) and **Clark Atlanta** (21-7, 18-6) in the East and **Tuskegee** (20-7, 19-5) and **Miles** (19-7, 17-7) in the West are seeded 1 and 2 in their respective men's divisions and received first-round byes. The top seeds for the ladies in the East are **Edward Waters** (24-4, 21-3 SIAC) and **Clark Atlanta** (19-7, 17-7) and **Miles** (22-5, 20-4) and **Lane** (20-5, 19-5) in the West. They also received first-round byes.

After Saturday's opening round, quarterfinal play that began Wednesday had top women's seeds playing at 11 a.m. (**Miles** vs. 4E **Allen**) and 2 p.m. (**Edward Waters** vs. 5E **Albany State**) followed by the men's top seeds at 5 p.m. (**Tuskegee** vs. 4E **Benedict**) and 8 p.m. (**Morehouse** vs. 5E **Edward Waters**).

Quarterfinals continue on Thursday with second women's seeds going at 11 a.m. (**Clark Atlanta** vs. 3W **Tuskegee**) and 2 p.m. (**Lane** vs. 3E **Benedict**) and men's second seeds taking the court at 5 p.m. (**Clark Atlanta** vs. 3W **LeMoyne-Owen**) and 8 p.m. (**Miles** vs. 3E **Savannah State**).

The women's semifinals are at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Friday with the men's semis to follow at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.

The women's championship game is first Saturday at 4 p.m. with the men's title game at 7:30 p.m.

All the games in Morrow are being streamed live on **ESPN+**.

SIAC

SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

FINAL MEN - SEEDS

	CONF	ALL
EAST	W	L
1) Morehouse	19	5
2) Clark Atlanta	18	6
3) Savannah State	15	9
4) Edward Waters	12	12
5) Fort Valley State	11	13
6) Benedict	11	13
7) Albany State	11	13
8) Allen	6	18

WEST

	CONF	ALL
1) Tuskegee	19	5
2) Miles	17	7
3) LeMoyne-Owen	12	12
4) Lane	10	14
5) Central State	9	15
6) Kentucky State	6	18
7) Spring Hill	4	20

SIAC

SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

FINAL WOMEN - SEEDS

	CONF	ALL
EAST	W	L
1) Edward Waters	21	3
2) Clark Atlanta	17	7
3) Benedict	16	8
4) Allen	16	8
5) Albany State	13	11
6) Savannah State	6	18
7) Fort Valley State	6	18

WEST

	CONF	ALL
1) Miles	20	4
2) Lane	19	5
3) Tuskegee	12	13
4) Kentucky State	9	15
5) Spring Hill	6	18
6) Central State	5	19
7) LeMoyne-Owen	2	22

CIAA Tournament yields two coaching changes

Bowie State men's head basketball coach **Darrell Brooks** and **Shaw** head men's coach **Bobby Collins** both announced their departures from those programs following losses at this week's **CIAA** Basketball Tournament in Baltimore.



Brooks

Brooks, whose Bulldogs lost a tough 86-83 decision to eventual champion **Fayetteville State** in Wednesday's quarterfinal round, announced after that game that he was retiring after 16 years leading BSU. His squad won a Tuesday opening round game, 100-77 over **Livingstone**.

A Brooklyn, New York native, Brooks is a two-time Bowie State graduate, earning a bachelor's degree in communications in 1979 and a master's in organizational communications in 2019. He was also a two-year letterwinner for the Bulldogs at point guard.

"It has been the honor of a lifetime to serve as the head men's basketball coach at Bowie State University," said Brooks. "I am grateful to all the players, assistant coaches, managers, administrators, alumni and fans who have supported our program throughout my tenure. Bowie State is such a special place. My family and I will always cherish the relationships and memories we've built here."

During his tenure as head coach, Brooks led the Bulldogs to an overall record of 244-234, 140-108 in CIAA play, capturing five Northern Division titles along with CIAA Tournament championships in 2013 and 2017. The Bulldogs made three NCAA regional tournament appearances under his leadership, advancing to the 2011 regional semifinals. Brooks was named CIAA Coach of the Year in 2014 and 2015. He became the program's all-time winningest head coach in January 2022 after earning his 200th career victory.

Collins announced that he was resigning as Shaw's head coach after his team's 69-63 opening round loss to **Lincoln (Pa.)** Tuesday.

"Over the past few days, I've taken intentional time to reflect, and I want to personally share that my decision to step down as the men's head basketball coach at Shaw University was thoughtful, measured, and fully aligned with my purpose. This decision was made with clarity and I move forward with both gratitude and peace."



Collins

Collins, 50, a Southern Pines, N. C. native, played at Eastern Kentucky from 1997-2001. The coaching veteran has served stints as head coach at **Hampton, Maryland-Eastern Shore** and **Winston-Salem State** and as an assistant at Hampton and **South Carolina State**. He had been at Shaw since 2020 and compiled a 65-67 (.492) record. He led his squad to a 16-10 (7-9 CIAA) record this past season. His overall head coaching record is 229-249 (.479).

Wykevin Bazemore, who played for Collins at WSSU and had been an assistant at Shaw since the 2021-22 season, will be the acting head coach.

Howard men, women move closer to MEAC regular season basketball titles

Howard's men and women got key wins to move closer to clinching **Mid Eastern Athletic Conference** regular season titles but the races are not over headed to their final regular season games this week, showdowns on the road vs. **Norfolk State** Thursday.

The first-place Howard men (10-3) got big wins on the road over **Morgan State** (84-59) Saturday and at home Monday over **Coppin State** (90-70) to extend their league winning streak to eight games. After its loss to Howard Saturday, Morgan State beat Norfolk State 90-84 at home Monday to grab sole possession of second at 9-4. Norfolk State is now in a third-place tie with **North Carolina Central** at 8-5. NCCU beat **Maryland-Eastern Shore** Monday 77-73.

The Howard men need a win over Norfolk State Thursday to claim the regular season title. A Howard loss to Norfolk State Thursday and a win by Morgan State over Coppin State Thursday would tie HU and MSU for the regular season title at 10-4. Morgan State and Howard split in their head-to-head match up with MSU winning at Howard 78-77 on Jan. 24.

The Howard women won at Morgan State Saturday to extend its MEAC record to 12-1. Second-place **Norfolk State** got by **Coppin State** to move to 11-2 and set up Thursday's showdown. Howard won clinch the regular season title with a win while NSU would tie for the title with a win. HU beat NSU in their first match up on Jan. 31 in Washington, 68-59.

Bethune-Cookman men, Alabama A&M women clinch SWAC regular-season titles, tourney top seeds

The **Bethune-Cookman** men and **Alabama A&M** women both got wins over the past week to clinch regular-season titles and top seeds for next week's (Monday, March 9 - Saturday, March 14) **SWAC** Basketball Tournaments in College Park, Ga. at the Gateway Center Arena.

B-CU (17-13, 14-3 SWAC), under six-year Head Coach and school



Theus

Athletics Director **Reggie Theus**, went on the road and got close wins at **Grambling State** (76-71) Thursday and at **Southern** (82-79) Saturday. Those victories opened up an insurmountable four-game lead over **Texas Southern** and **Florida A&M**, both 10-7 with just one game left on B-CU's regular season schedule (Thurs., March 5 at Florida A&M).

Alabama A&M (19-9, 15-1 SWAC), under second-year head coach **Dawn Thornton**, earned its first-ever regular season title and top tournament seed with a 51-43 win over rival **Alabama State** Saturday. The Lady Bulldogs sport a two-game lead over second-place **Alcorn State** (16-11, 13-3) with home games against Grambling (Tuesday) and Southern (Thursday) left on the schedule. Alabama A&M beat Alcorn handily, 76-34, in their only meeting this season.

Tennessee State men win OVC regular season title, clinch top seed for tournament

MARTIN, Tenn. — The **Tennessee State** men's basketball team never trailed and delivered a dominant defensive performance to secure a share of the Ohio Valley Conference regular-season title with a 67-42 road victory over UT Martin on Saturday.

With the win, TSU snaps a 31-year drought as the conference's top team at the conclusion of the regular season. The Tigers, under the direction of first-year head coach **Nolan Smith**, earned the No. 1 overall seed in the March 4-7 OVC Tournament and gets byes into Friday's (March 6) 7 p.m. semifinal at the Ford Center in Evansville, Indiana.

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

MEAC				MEAC				SWAC				SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE				SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE				INDEPENDENTS			
MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE		MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE		MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE		MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE		SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE		SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE		SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE		SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE		SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE		SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE		SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE			
CONF	ALL	CONF	ALL	CONF	ALL	CONF	ALL	CONF	ALL	CONF	ALL	CONF	ALL	CONF	ALL	CONF	ALL	CONF	ALL	CONF	ALL		
MEN	W	L	W	L	WOMEN	W	L	W	L	MEN	W	L	W	L	WOMEN	W	L	W	L	CONF	ALL		
Howard	10	3	20	10	Howard	12	1	22	7	Bethune-Cookman	14	3	17	13	Alabama A&M	15	1	19	9	SAC	W	L	
Morgan State	9	4	13	15	Norfolk State	11	2	16	12	Florida A&M	10	7	13	15	Alcorn State	13	3	16	11	Langston M (lost in SAC	17	5	
Norfolk State	8	5	15	15	Md. E-Shore	10	3	17	13	Texas Southern	10	7	12	16	Southern	12	4	16	11	final, hosting 2/13 NAIA regional)			
N. C. Central	8	5	12	16	Coppin State	6	7	9	21	Alabama A&M	9	7	16	13	Alabama State	11	5	14	13	Langston W (lost in SAC	18	4	
S. C. State	6	7	8	21	N. C. Central	4	9	8	19	Southern	9	7	13	16	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	9	7	12	14	opening round, NAIA regional upcoming			
Md. E-Shore	5	8	9	21	Delaware State	4	9	7	21	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	9	7	12	17	Grambling State	9	7	12	17	GLVC	W	L	
Coppin State	5	8	7	23	Morgan State	3	10	4	25	Jackson State	8	8	9	20	Jackson State	9	7	11	17	Linc. M (Mo.) (Not in tourney)	5	15	
Delaware State	1	12	6	22	S. C. State	2	11	5	23	Florida A&M	1												