



TSU Sports Photo

LET THE DANCIN' BEGIN

SWAC AND MEAC CROWN CHAMPS; FIVE IN NCAAs, SIX MORE PLAY ON; HILL OUT AT SHAW

IN AGAIN: Tennessee State head coach Larry Joe Inman gets Lady Tigers to women's NCAA Big Dance for first time since 1995.

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME RECAPS

OVC WOMEN

Tennessee State 64, UT-Martin 60, OT

NASHVILLE, Tenn. -- Brianna Lawrence scored five of her 22 points in overtime, and the 3rd-seeded Tennessee State Lady Tigers beat top-seeded UT Martin 64-60 Saturday (March 7) for their first Ohio Valley Conference tournament title and automatic NCAA Tournament berth since 1995.

The Lady Tigers (18-12) did it in thrilling fashion with a school-record 10th straight win as they snapped UT Martin's 18-game winning streak and attempt to win its fifth-straight title. The Lady Tigers, led by veteran third-year head coach Larry Joe Inman, outscored the Skyhawks (22-10) 11-7 in overtime.

Tournament MVP Chelsea Hudson had eight points and nine rebounds in the title game after scoring 17 in the semifinals and 20 in the quarterfinals.

Inman is in the OVC Hall of Fame and won a combined six OVC tournament titles with Eastern Kentucky and Middle Tennessee. He took over the Lady Tigers in April 2012.



Hudson

MEAC MEN

Hampton 82, Delaware State 61

NORFOLK, VA -- Sixth-seeded Hampton rode the play of junior guards Reginald Johnson, Brian Darden and Deron Powers to pull away from a 32-all halftime tie and down fifth-seeded Delaware State 82-61 in the championship game of the MEAC Tournament here Saturday afternoon.

Off-guards Johnson and Darden had 20 points to lead the Pirates (16-17) while point guard Powers, named the tournament's most outstanding player, added 16.

Johnson got most of his in the first half, tallying 14 points. Darden and Powers did most of their damage in the second half after having just six points each at the break.

Darden's three at the 15:41 mark put Hampton up 42-40 and started to swing momentum the Pirates' way. It started a 13-3 run capped by Ke'Ron Brown's three with 11:07 to play giving the Pirates a 52-43 lead. The Hornets (18-17), cut the lead to five just once from there, but Hampton closed on a 21-5 run.

DelState was led by 20 points from May, the league's top scorer, and 10 from Tyshawn Bell, all in the first half. MEAC Player of the Year, 6-10 center Kendall Gray, was held to six points and six rebounds.



Powers

MEAC WOMEN

Savannah State 74, Maryland-Eastern Shore 64

NORFOLK, Va. -- Second-seed Savannah State blistered the nets in the second half to end the Cinderella run of eighth-seeded Maryland-Eastern Shore downing the Lady Hawks 65-47 to take its first-ever MEAC Tournament title Saturday evening.

Tournament MVP Jasmine Norman, who finished with a game-high 20 points, fueled a 23-8 run to open the second half allowing the Lady Tigers to pull away from a 30-25 halftime edge. SSU made 16 of 26 second-half shots, 61.5 percent. UMES, by comparison, was 8 for 31, 25.8 percent.

Ezinne Kalu added 16 points and Tiyonda Davis had 10 points and 16 rebounds for the Lady Tigers (21-10), who won their 11th in a row. Bria Dorsey scored 12 and was among the many players to help the Lady Tigers shoot 58 percent, making 29 of 50 for the game.

Mariah McCoy scored 12 to lead the Lady Hawks (14-17), who also were playing in their first MEAC championship game. UMES stunned five-time defending champion Hampton 52-50 in the quarterfinals, but had to play one more game than the Lady Tigers. TeAmber Burke and Shawnee Sweeney each added 10 points for UMES.



Norman

SWAC MEN

Texas Southern 62, Southern 58

HOUSTON- The Texas Southern Tigers basketball team claimed back-to-back league tournament titles with a 62-58 win over Southern on Saturday night in the Southwestern Athletic Conference championship game.

Deverell Biggs stepped in after Malcolm Riley was injured on a flagrant foul and made two free throws with 27 seconds left. Madarius Gibbs added another as Texas Southern beat Southern in dramatic come-from-behind fashion.

Riley led the Tigers with 18 points and 10 rebounds. Gibbs finished with 12 points in the game en route to being named the Most Valuable Player for the tournament.

Neither team took more than a five-point lead at any time during the first 20 minutes as both were nearly identical down the stat sheet. A late second half charge was all the Tigers needed to secure the third championship in the programs' history under Mike Davis.

TSU won the conference tournament and earned an NCAA berth last season. This marks the second time in TSU history the team will go to the tournament in back-to-back years, earning bids in 1994 and 1995



Gibbs

SWAC WOMEN

Alabama State 73, Southern 55

HOUSTON - Led by the triple threat of Britney Wright, Daniele Ewert and Jasmine Peoples, the Alabama State women's basketball team won the SWAC Tournament Championship with a 73-55 win over Southern Saturday at the Toyota Center.

The trio of Lady Hornets was named to the All-Tournament team, with Wright earning Most Valuable Player honors.

Peoples led the team with 18 points, while Wright had 17 and Ewert had 12. Kayla Tucker and Britney Smith both had 10 points apiece to add to the win. This is the first time this season Alabama State had five players scored in double figures. The Lady Hornets made seven of 15 three pointers in the game.

The Lady Hornets out-rebounded SU 43-30 and shot 50 percent from the field (27-54). The ASU defense limited Southern to under 30 percent shooting from the field (16-52).

Peoples and Smith each had nine rebounds, while Smith added six assists, and Ewert had five assists as Alabama State had 20 assists on 27 baskets.



Wright

2015 SWAC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS RESULTS

MEN
FIRST ROUND
Alcorn State 66, Grambling State 52
QUARTERFINALS
Alabama State 93, Miss. Valley State 81
Texas Southern 95, Alcorn State 74
Southern 64, Alabama A&M 60
Prairie View 62, Jackson State 56
SEMIFINALS
Southern 68, Alabama State 66
Texas Southern 90, Prairie View 77
FINALS
Texas Southern 62, Southern 58

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER
Madarius Gibbs, Texas Southern

ALL TOURNAMENT TEAM
Jamel Waters, Alabama State
Tre Lynch, Southern
Montreal Scott, Prairie View
Tre Hagood, Prairie View
Chris Thomas, Texas Southern

OUTSTANDING COACH
Mike Davis, Texas Southern

WOMEN
QUARTERFINALS
Jackson State 89, Alabama A&M 82, OT
Southern 62, Miss. Valley State 57
Alabama State 65, Grambling State 62
Prairie View 66, Alcorn State 59
SEMIFINALS
Southern 64, Prairie View 40
Alabama State 62, Jackson State 60
FINALS
Alabama State 73, Southern 55

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER
Britney Wright, Alabama State

ALL TOURNAMENT TEAM
Alisa Ross, Jackson State
Kendra Coleman, Southern
Daniele Ewert, Alabama State
Britney Washington, Southern
Jasmine Peoples, Alabama State

OUTSTANDING COACH
Freda Freeman-Jackson

2015 MEAC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS RESULTS

MEN
FIRST ROUND
Delaware State 64, Savannah State 58
Hampton 91, Morgan State 71
Coppin State 64, Bethune-Cookman 60
S. C. State 63, NC A&T 54
QUARTERFINALS
N. C. Central 91, Coppin State 43
Norfolk State 68, S. C. State 54
Hampton 76, Md.-Eastern Shore 71
Delaware State 65, Howard 60
SEMIFINALS
Delaware State 63, N. C. Central 57
Hampton 75, Norfolk State 64
FINALS
Hampton 82, Delaware State 61

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER
Deron Powers, Hampton
ALL TOURNAMENT TEAM
Reginald Johnson, Hampton
Edward Stephens, S. C. State
Tyshawn Bell, Delaware State
Jordan Parks, N. C. Central
MOST OUTSTANDING COACH
Edward Joyner, Jr., Hampton

WOMEN
FIRST ROUND
Howard 70, S. C. State 57
Bethune-Cookman 53, Florida A&M 41
Norfolk State 70, Delaware State 45
Coppin State 71, Morgan State 56
Md.-E. Shore 67, N. C. Central 47
QUARTERFINALS
Md.-E. Shore 52, Hampton 50
Savannah State 66, Coppin State 52
N. C. A&T 75, Bethune-Cookman 54
Norfolk State 67, Howard 55
SEMIFINALS
Md.-E. Shore 69, Norfolk State 64
Savannah State 62, NC A&T 59
FINALS
Savannah State 65, Md.-E. Shore 47

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER
Jasmine Norman, Savannah State
ALL TOURNAMENT TEAM
Ezinne Kalu, Savannah State
Rae Carbo, Norfolk State
Moengoraa Subritzky, Md.-E. Shore
Jordan Swails, Coppin State
MOST OUTSTANDING COACH
Cedric Baker, Savannah State

Five headed to the Big Dance

LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

A mixture of veterans and relative newcomers will take five black college basketball teams into Men's and Women's 2015 NCAA Div. I Tournaments this week in familiar spots -- as 15th or 16th seeds.

Third-year Tennessee State women's head coach Larry Joe Inman is the veteran of the group making his seventh NCAA appearance. His third-seeded Lady Tigers pulled off an upset in the Ohio Valley Conference final knocking off four-time defending champion and top seed UT-Martin (see related story) to earn that league's automatic berth.

Inman, who is already in the OVC Hall of Fame having won six conference titles at Eastern Kentucky and Middle Tennessee, brought his magic to Nashville and led the Lady Tigers to their first OVC crown and NCAA Tournament berth since 1995.

The Lady Tigers (18-12) are seeded 15th in the Women's Albany Bracket and will play at #2 seed Kentucky (23-9) Friday at 2:30 p.m.

TSU features five starters that average between 8 and 14 points per game. Six-foot senior forward Chelsea Hudson leads the Lady Tigers at 14.4 points and 7.7 rebounds per game. Six-foot sophomore forward Imani Davis scores 10.1 points per game.

Kentucky, who fell to Tennessee in the SEC semifinals, sports four double-figure scorers led by backcourt mates Makayla Epps and Jennifer O'Neill who average 14.5 and 14.4 points per game respectively. UK is coached by eight-year veteran Matthew Mitchell.

Texas Southern (22-12) added the SWAC Tournament men's title to its regular season crown for the second straight year (see related story) but third-year head coach Mike Davis's squad avoided a 16th seed and First Four game. TSU fell to Cal Poly 81-69 in the first round a year ago.

This year, primarily on the strength of regular season victories on the road at Michigan State and Kansas State, TSU got a 15th seed and will face Pac 12 champion and No. 2 seed Arizona (31-3) Thursday in a West Region second round game in Portland, Oregon (11:10 a.m., MST).

This is the fourth trip for Davis to the Big Dance. In addition to last year's trip with TSU, he also led Indiana and Alabama-Birmingham to the tourney.

SWAC regular season and tournament MVP Madarius Gibbs, a 6-1 senior guard, leads TSU at 14.1 points and 4.3 assists per game. Six-five junior forwards Chris Thomas (12.6 ppg.) and Malcolm Riley (10.2 ppg.) are the other double-figure scorers. Riley averages team-bests of 6.5 rebounds and shoots .507 from the field.

Six-seven freshman forward Stanley Johnson (14.1 ppg.), 6-9 junior forward Brandon Ashley (12.3 ppg.) and 6-7 sophomore forward Rondae Hollis-Jefferson (10.9 ppg.) pace the Wildcats, under sixth-year head coach Sean Miller, who are seeded behind top seed Wisconsin in the West.



Joyner Jr.



Baker

Hampton (16-17) came from a sixth-seed to win the MEAC men's tournament in Norfolk Saturday (see related story) and enters the NCAA Tournament as the only team with a losing record.

The Pirates get a chance to even up that record as they take on fellow 16th seed, MAAC champion Manhattan (19-13), in a first round (First Four) game Tuesday in Dayton, Ohio (6:40 p.m.). The winner has the unenviable task of taking on overall top seed, undefeated Kentucky (34-0), in Thursday's Midwest Region second round.

Hampton head coach Ed Joyner Jr. is taking the Pirates to the tournament for the second time as a 16th seed. After winning the 2011 MEAC tournament title, the Pirates had to face West Region top seed Duke and fell 87-45. Last year's MEAC tournament champ, North Carolina Central, was seeded 14th, the highest seed ever for the MEAC.

This is Hampton's fourth appearance in the NCAAs. It made two straight appearances under former head coach Steve Merfeld, upsetting second-seed Iowa State as a 15th seed in 2001 and falling to top seed Connecticut the following year as a 16th seed.

Hampton features a three-guard lineup of juniors including point guard Deron Powers (10.5 ppg.) and off-guards Brian Darden (9.7 ppg.) and Reginald Johnson (11.9). Manhattan is in its fourth season under head coach Steve Masiello The Jaspers boast senior Emmy Andujar (16.5 ppg.) and Ashton Pankey (13.5 ppg.).

Freda Freeman-Jackson has led Alabama State (17-14) for 16 years and is

BLACK COLLEGES IN DIV. I NCAA TOURNAMENT

MEN

MIDWEST REGION

TUESDAY, MARCH 17 - DAYTON, OH - 6:40 P.M.
#16 Hampton 74, #16 Manhattan 64
THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 9:40 P.M. - LOUISVILLE
Hampton (17-17) vs. #1 Kentucky (34-0)

WEST REGION

THURSDAY, MARCH 19 - PORTLAND, ORE - 11:10 A.M.
#15 Texas Southern (22-12) vs. #2 Arizona (31-3)

WOMEN

ALBANY BRACKET

FRIDAY, MARCH 20 - LEXINGTON, KY - 2:30 P.M.
#15 Tennessee State (18-12) vs. #2 Kentucky (23-9)

GREENSBORO BRACKET

FRIDAY, MARCH 20 - COLUMBIA, SC - 5 P.M.
#16 Savannah State (21-10) vs. #1 South Carolina (30-2)
SATURDAY, MARCH 21 - TALLAHASSEE, FL - 1:30 P.M.
#15 Alabama State (17-14) vs. #2 Florida State (28-4)



Davis



Freeman-Jackson

returning the Lady Hornets to the Tournament for the second time. She previously guided ASU to the SWAC title and NCAA berth in 2003.

ASU entered the SWAC Tournament as a third-seed but defeated Southern for the title (see related story). The Lady Hornets are seeded 15th in the Greensboro Bracket and will play at #2 seeded Florida State (28-4) Saturday at 1:30 p.m.

Alabama State is led by SWAC scoring leader and tournament MVP, 5-10 sophomore forward Jasmine Peoples chips in 11.4 points and led the SWAC at 10.2 rebounds per game.

Florida State, who finished as ACC runner-up to Notre Dame, is coached by Sue Semrau and has four double-figure scorers led by Adut Bulgak's 12.5 points per game.

Savannah State head coach Cedric Baker has led the Lady Tigers for 12 years but earned his first NCAA appearance after his second-seeded squad downed Maryland-Eastern Shore for their first MEAC tourney title (see related story) since joining the conference in the 2002-03 season.

Baker's troops will play Friday at SEC champion and Greensboro Bracket #1 seed South Carolina (30-2) at 5 p.m. USC spent 12 weeks as the No. 1 team in the country before a loss to Connecticut.

The Lady Tigers are led by all-MEAC seniors Jasmine Norman (11.4 ppg.) and Ezinne Kalu (16.4 ppg.). SSU played South Carolina on Dec. 14 and was throttled 111-49 after trailing 60-22 at the half.

Junior guard Tiffany Mitchell leads USC, coached by Hall of Famer Dawn Staley, at 14.4 points per game.

BCSP Notes



Six more in postseason basketball play

Six black college basketball teams, including three regular season conference champs who did not win tournament titles, will begin postseason play this week.

MEAC regular season men's champ North Carolina Central (25-7) will play at Miami (21-12) Tuesday in a first round NIT contest while women's MEAC regular season champ Hampton (18-12) plays at Drexel (20-10) in the WNIT first round on Thursday. SWAC regular season women's champion Texas Southern also plays Thursday at Southern Mississippi (22-10) in the WNIT.

Three other MEAC men's team also received postseason berths. Norfolk State (20-13), who finished second in the MEAC regular season, travels to Eastern Kentucky (19-11) Tuesday and third-place Maryland-Eastern Shore (18-14) is at High Point (22-9) Wednesday in the CollegeInsiders.com Tournament. Delaware State (18-17), who finished fifth in the MEAC regular season and lost to Hampton in the tournament finals, hosts Radford (21-11) Wednesday in the College Basketball Invitational (CBI).

Shaw does not renew Hill

Shaw University will not renew the contract of Men's Basketball Head Coach Cleo Hill, Jr., school athletic officials announced Monday. Hill's contract expires on June 30, 2015.

Hill guided the Bears to a 13-16 record this season, including a 6-10 mark in the CIAA. He has a 116-67 career record in seven seasons as the head coach. Prior to being named head coach at Shaw, Hill served for five years as the men's head basketball coach at Cheyney (Pa.) University.

SIAC admits Central State as full member

ATLANTA - The Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) and its Presidents Council voted unanimously to admit Central State University as a full member of the SIAC effective July 1, 2015, with competition to begin in all sports for the 2015-16 academic year.

CSU became an associate member of the SIAC for football only in 2013 when it became a charter member of the Great Midwest Athletic Conference in 2012, which did not sponsor football. In 2015, CSU will be eligible for SIAC postseason tournaments, awards, as well as the conference's automatic bid to compete in the NCAA postseason competition.

NIT
RICHMOND REGION
TUESDAY, MARCH 17 - Miami, FL - 7 p.m.
#2 Miami 75, #7 N. C. Central 71

CIT
TUESDAY, MARCH 17 - Richmond, KY - 7 p.m.
Eastern Kentucky 81, Norfolk State 75
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18 - High Point, NC - 7 p.m.
Md.-E. Shore (18-14) @ High Point (22-9)

CBI
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18 - Dover, DE - 8 p.m.
Radford (21-11) @ Delaware State (18-17)

WNIT
THURSDAY, MARCH 19
Hampton (18-12) @ Drexel (20-10).
Texas Southern (19-10) @ S. Mississippi (22-10)

NCAA DIV. II REGIONAL RESULTS

MEN
ATLANTIC REGION - First Round
West Liberty 127, Livingstone 89
SOUTH REGION - First Round
Florida Southern 89, Benedict 68

WOMEN
EAST REGION - First Round
Franklin Pierce 78, UDC 66
ATLANTIC REGION - First Round
California (PA) 86, Virginia State 75
SOUTH REGION - First Round
Nova Southeastern 66, Kentucky State 56
Union (TN) 92, Albany State 83
West Florida 78, Benedict 58