



Celebration Bowl logo

LET'S GO BOWLIN'

TOURNEY RECAPS AS ONLY HAMPTON LADIES LEFT STANDING; BOWLING TITLES CLAIMED

LET'S DO IT AGAIN: SWAC and MEAC launch third attempt to pair their football champions in postseason bowl game.

NCAA/NIT/CBI/CIT/WNIT RECAPS

NCAA MEN

Midwest Region - First Round
Hampton 74, Manhattan 64

DAYTON, Ohio -- **MEAC** champion **Hampton** won a first round NCAA game for the second time in its history as they downed MAAC champion Manhattan last Tuesday. The Pirates advanced to the second round to face Tournament overall top seed Kentucky.

Derrick Chievous had 15 points and 13 rebounds to lead the Pirates (17-17). **Reginald Johnson** also had 15 and had several key defensive plays down the stretch as Hampton pulled away. **Brian Darden** added 13 in the win.

Midwest Region - Second Round
Arizona 94, Texas Southern 73

PORTLAND, Oregon -- **SWAC** champion and 15th-seeded **Texas Southern** was outscored 54-33 in the first half but battled 2nd-seed Arizona to a 39-39 tie in second-half play in falling to the Pac-12 champion in a second round West Regional game in Portland.

SWAC Player of the Year and Tournament MVP **Madarius Gibbs** led the Tigers (22-13) with 15 points. **Chris Thomas** added 13 while **Deverell Biggs** and **Tonnie Collier** each had 10.

Midwest Region - Second Round
Kentucky 79, Hampton 56

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky -- Senior forward **Quinton Chievous** had his second double-double of the NCAA tournament, tallying 22 points and 10 rebounds against the taller Kentucky front line, as **MEAC** champion and 16th-seed **Hampton** (17-18) battled top seed Kentucky (35-0) but came up short.

Despite playing on an injured ankle, Chievous shot 7 of 14 from the field and 7 of 8 from the line in his second impressive performance. He was the only Pirate to score in double digits in the loss. Hampton trailed 41-22 at the break and was outscored 38-34 in the second half.

NCAA WOMEN

Albany Bracket - First Round
Kentucky 97, Tennessee State 53

LEXINGTON, Kentucky -- **OVC** champion **Tennessee State** got 16 points from **Brianna Lawrence** and 11 from **Briana Morrow** but was no match for No. 2 seed Kentucky in a first round NCAA Tournament game. The Lady Tigers (18-13) shot just 26.1% (18 of 69) from the field and had 26 turnovers in the loss.

Greensboro Bracket - First Round
South Carolina 81, Savannah State 48

COLUMBIA, S. C. -- **MEAC** champion **Savannah State** fell to top seed South Carolina for the second time this season but kept this one in the first round of the NCAA Tournament much closer. After losing 111-49 in the regular season, SSU (21-11) only trailed 43-30 at the break and was down just 49-39 with 15 minutes left. But the top seeded Gamecocks (31-2) pulled away behind a 21-1 second-half run.

SSU senior **Ezinne Kalu** closed her career with 21 points, five steals and four assists. **MEAC** Tournament MVP **Jasmine Norman** added 10 points.

Greensboro Bracket - First Round
Florida State 91, Alabama State 49

TALLAHASSEE, Florida -- A season-high 32 turnovers did in **SWAC** champion and 15th-seed **Alabama State** in its NCAA first round battle with second-seed Florida State. The mistakes resulted in a 38-8 bulge for FSU in points off turnovers.

Britney Wright scored 14 points and **Ashanti Spencer** added 12 for ASU (17-15) which only trailed 37-19 at the break.

NIT

Richmond Region - First Round
Miami 75, North Carolina Central 71

CORAL GABLES, Florida -- ACC member and second-seed Miami canned nine straight free throws to escape with a first round NIT win after **MEAC** regular season champion and seventh-seed **North Carolina Central** cut a 14-point second-half deficit down to two on three occasions over the final seconds.

Senior forward **Jordan Parks** was the catalyst for the Eagles (25-8) canning 23 of his game-high 25 points in the second half while making 10 of 12 second-half shots. Senior point guard **Nimrod Hilliard** tallied 19 points and handed out a game-high five assists. Senior forward **Karamo Jawara** added 10 points.

WNIT - First Round
Hampton 45, Drexel 42

PHILADELPHIA, Penn. -- **MEAC** regular season champ **Hampton** rode 19 points and 9 rebounds from **Ryan Jordan** and 13 points, five steals and five rebounds from **Malia Tate-DeFreitas** in a Women's NIT first round comeback win at Drexel.

Hampton (19-12) led 25-21 at the half but fell behind by seven at 34-27 with 11:34 to play. With both teams shooting poorly, the Lady Pirates did not take the lead until a layup by **Brielle Ward** put them up 42-41 with 1:27 left. Drexel did not score over the final three minutes.

Hampton played at West Virginia (19-14) in Tuesday's second round. WVU won 84-61 over Buffalo in the first round.

WNIT - First Round

S. Mississippi 79, Texas Southern 69

HATTIESBURG, Miss. -- **SWAC** regular season winner **Texas Southern** sprinted out to a 43-33 halftime lead but had the tables turned in a Women's NIT loss at Southern Mississippi Thursday night.

Southern Miss outscored the Lady Tigers (19-11) 46-26 in the second half to pull out the first round win on its home floor. **Briana Sidney** led TSU with 22 points but just had just four points after halftime. **Diamonisha Sophus** added 16.

CIT - First Round

Eastern Kentucky 81, Norfolk State 75

RICHMOND, Kentucky -- **Norfolk State** double-double machine, junior forward **Rashid Gaston**, had 22 points and 10 rebounds but it was not enough as the Spartans (19-15) fell at E. Kentucky in a first round CIT game. **Malik Thomas** had 20 points off the bench and NSU scoring leader **Jeffrey Short** had 14 in the loss.

CIT - First Round

High Point 70, Maryland-Eastern Shore 64

HIGH POINT, N.C. -- High Point fought back from a 15-point first-half deficit to trail by the one, 32-31 at the half, and pulled away in the second half get a CIT first round home win over **MEAC** member **Maryland-Eastern Shore**.

Mike Myers and **Devin Martin** both scored 13 points to lead the Hawks (18-15). **Ishaq Pitt** had 10.

CBI - First Round

Radford 78, Delaware State 57

DOVER, Delaware -- Playing without scoring leader **Amere May** and **MEAC** Player of the Year **Kendall Gray**, **Delaware State** was tied with Radford at 35 at halftime but folded in the second half of a CBI first round home game. **DeAndre Haywood** tallied 21 points to the lead the Hornets but was the only DSU player to score in double figures.

Celebration Bowl to match MEAC/SWAC football champions

LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

The **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC)** and **Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC)** announced last week that they have agreed to match their football champions in a newly created postseason bowl game beginning this coming season.

With ESPN, the 100 Black Men of Atlanta and the NFL's Atlanta Falcons as partners, the first annual *Celebration Bowl* is set for Dec. 19, 2015 in Atlanta at the Georgia Dome.

The game will be owned, operated and broadcast by ESPN thru ESPN Events, a subsidiary of ESPN that also owns and operates the *MEAC/SWAC Challenge* presented by Disney, which is played annually over Labor Day weekend. The bowl game will be broadcast on a yet unnamed ESPN network.

According to the release from ESPN, the event will celebrate the legacy, values and traditions of Historically Black Colleges and Universities in a first-class bowl atmosphere. Events surrounding the game will include a kickoff luncheon, VIP event, community outreach and family events.

The two historically black conferences compete in football on the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) level.

The MEAC will relinquish its automatic bid to the 24-team FCS playoffs that goes to the league champion and the league's seat on the 11-member selection committee as a result of the bowl game, said **North Carolina A&T Athletics Director Earl Hilton**, the most recent representative from the MEAC on the committee. Hilton said teams from the conference other than the champion could still be considered for at-large bids to the playoffs.

No SWAC team has been chosen for the FCS playoffs since 1999 when the league went to a championship game format that pits its two division winners in early December. Another reason for the SWAC not participating in the playoffs is that the historic *Bayou Classic* pitting SWAC schools **Grambling State** and **Southern** in a regular season game, is held on Thanksgiving weekend, the same weekend that the FCS playoffs begin.

No financial arrangements for the bowl game were released but in January the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* reported that the deal would reportedly deliver \$1 million to each league. Neither the SWAC or MEAC commissioners could be reached Tuesday to confirm those numbers.

The game harkens back to the *Heritage Bowl* played between 1991 and 1999 that matched the SWAC champion with an MEAC representative, not necessarily the MEAC champion, and its predecessor, the *Pelican Bowl* which pitted the two leagues' champions from 1972 to 1975.

Despite drawing crowds of over 20,000 in six of nine Heritage Bowl games and topping 30,000 in three, the game was suspended in 1999 for a



"It gives me great pleasure to announce that this bowl game is a reality. It's a testament to the collaborative spirit of both the MEAC and SWAC and their respective commissioners that the Celebration Bowl will take place."

Pete Derzis, Senior Vice President, ESPN Events

"As part of the conference's continued efforts in branding and increasing its exposure on a national platform, I am elated that champions from the MEAC and the SWAC will compete in a bowl game, during the most exciting time of the year for collegiate football."

MEAC Commissioner Dennis Thomas

"This is a great opportunity for our schools and student-athletes to compete on a national stage and showcase the talent that exists within HBCUs. And to have it during bowl season, the most exciting time in college football, is a bonus."

SWAC Commissioner Duer Sharp

"We are excited to work with ESPN to begin a new tradition of celebrating the best in Historically Black College and Universities football while continuing our commitment to the countless students, parents and community members who we serve daily. Our relationship with ESPN will help us continue our longstanding tradition of uplifting the African American community."

John Grant, CEO, 100 Black Men of Atlanta, Inc.

"The Falcons have long been strong advocates for historically black college football with our close partnership with the Black College Football Hall of Fame enshrinement dinner each year. We are pleased to partner with ESPN and the Georgia Dome to provide game day services and promotional support in order to help make Atlanta the long term home for this game."

Rich McKay, Atlanta Falcons President and CEO

variety of reasons including reportedly lack of fan support, the unwillingness of the MEAC to forego the then I-AA automatic playoff berth and the end of a television contract with NBC. The last seven Heritage Bowls were held at the Georgia Dome

BCSP Notes

And then there was one

The Lady Pirates of **Hampton** are the only black college basketball team still alive as postseason play continues this week.

Head coach **David Six** and his 19-12 squad won the **MEAC** regular season title with a 14-2 league mark but were felled by **Maryland-Eastern Shore** in the MEAC Tournament quarterfinals. They got a win at Drexel (see related story) Thursday in first round Women's NIT action and advanced to a second-round meeting at West Virginia (19-14) Tuesday (7 p.m.) in the WVU Coliseum. WVU plays in the Big XII.

In five-plus seasons with the Lady Pirates, Six has won 146 games, making him the program's all-time winningest coach at the Div. I level – surpassing **Patricia Cage-Bibbs**. The record-breaking win came at Penn on Dec. 5. Prior to this season, Six had led the Lady Pirates to five straight **MEAC** Tournament titles.

In Six's five-plus seasons at the helm, the Lady Pirates have enjoyed success against the six so-called "power conferences: the ACC, Big East, Big Ten, Big XII, Pac-12, and SEC. After a 44-42 win over Auburn on Dec. 30, the Lady Pirates are 9-17 against teams in these six conferences — including a 2-3 mark last season.

Hampton is led by the **MEAC** Player of the Year, 5-8 sophomore guard **Malia Tate-DeFreitas** who led the league in scoring at 21.3 points per game, 14th-best in the nation. Five-seven senior guard **Kyani White** averages 10.5 ppg. while 6-foot junior guard **Ryan Jordan** gets 8.7 points and 5.9 rebounds per game. Six-two redshirt junior **Brielle Ward** is the top rebounder at 6.9 per game.

West Virginia (19-14), in its 14th season under head coach Mike Carey, opened the WNIT with an 84-61 win over Buffalo on Thursday. Bria Holmes leads the Mountaineers in scoring, averaging 19.2 points per game, while Avere Fields is averaging 13.0 points and 6.6 rebounds a contest. Lanay Montgomery is the team's top rebounder with 7.4 boards a game.

This will be the first-ever meeting between the two teams.

Delaware State releases women's basketball coach

DOVER, Del. -- **Delaware State University** announced today that the contract of Lady Hornets Head Basketball Coach **Tamika L. Louis** will not be renewed for the 2015-2016 season.

Louis B. "Skip" Perkins, Jr., interim associate vice president /athletics director, said a national search for the next women's head basketball coach will begin immediately. "While we appreciate the three years of service Coach Louis put in working with the Lady Hornets, the University has reached the conclusion that a new direction is needed for the DSU



Six



Tate-DeFreitas

women's basketball program," Perkins said.

Louis had been the subject of an investigation regarding harrasment allegations from current and former players. She was suspended during the investigation but reinstated in October, 2014.

Assistant Coach **Jaresha Obey**, who has been on the women's basketball coaching staff one year, will serve as the Lady Hornets' interim head coach, Perkins said.

Coach Louis became the Lady Hornets head basketball coach in 2012, succeeding former Head Coach **Ed Davis**, who stepped down after 12 years in that post. Over the three years under Coach Louis, the Hornets were 23-67 overall and 11-37 against **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** teams.

During the recently completed 2014-2015 season, the Lady Hornets were 5-25 overall and 2-14 in conference play, ending with the team's first round 70-45 loss to Norfolk State University in the MEAC Tournament.

Talladega falls in NAIA semifinals

KANSAS CITY, Mo. -- No. 2-seeded **Talladega** (Ala.) fell to No. 6-seeded Dalton State (Ga.) 64-54 Monday evening in the semifinal round of the 2015 Buffalo Funds-NAIA Division I Men's Basketball National Championship in Municipal Auditorium.

The score was tied at 29 at the half, one of nine ties in the contest. Talladega broke a late second-half tie on a **Brandon Peters** score before Dalton State swung the momentum its way for good in a 7-0 run. Dalton State made 11 of 12 free throws in the final 1:35 to prevent a comeback attempt.

Shondel Stewart was the only Talladega player to score in double figures, recording 17 points to go along with 10 rebounds. Peters and **Charles Winborne** finished with nine points apiece, while **Orlando Johnson** tallied eight rebounds.

"You got to give credit to Dalton State tonight," said Talladega head coach **Matt Cross**. "They stepped up and made the plays down the stretch like we did versus Pikeville on Saturday (in the semifinal round). I couldn't be more proud of these young men I coached this year."

Talladega finished its season with a record of 32-5, winning 27 of its last 29 games.

CIAA, MEAC and SWAC crown bowling champs

CIAA

Bowie State capped a dominant three-day run in the **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA)** Bowling Championship with a 4-1 win over **Virginia State** at the AMF Western Branch Lanes in Chesapeake, Va. Sunday.

Bowie State, unbeaten in four bracket play matches, was led by Co-MVBs **Ambrianna Bankston** and **Shayla Lightfoot**. BSU won the last three games in the match to win its fifth title, including its third in six seasons.

The All-CIAA Tournament team consists of **Brittany Rowe** of **Johnson C. Smith**, Davis of BSU, **Nicole Sciortino** of **Saint Augustine's**, **Brooke Roberts** of **Elizabeth City State** and **Rebecca Clements** of **Virginia State**.

MEAC

The **Maryland Eastern Shore** Lady Hawks rallied from a 3-0 deficit to edge **Norfolk State**, 4-3, on Sunday to win the 2015 **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC)** Bowling Championship title at the AMF Lanes in Chesapeake, Virginia.

The Lady Hawks captured their third straight MEAC tournament title and eighth overall.

UMES junior **Thashiana Seraus** earned Outstanding Tournament Performer honors. Seraus registered a 200.0 average pinfall during team games on Friday. Head Coach **Kayla Bandy** of UMES was named Outstanding Coach for the second time in her career.

SWAC

ARLINGTON, Texas -- **Prairie View A&M** defeated **Texas Southern** 4-3 to claim the 2015 SWAC Bowling Championship Sunday afternoon at the International Training and Research Center.

TSU bowled six strikes in the sixth game to force a seventh and deciding game.

This marks PVAMU's third time in history winning the title.

Alexis Borman, a sophomore from Allen, Texas, claimed the SWAC MVB honor as she bowled 14 frames, tossing six strikes and seven spares. Borman only allowed one open frame.

The championship match will air on ESPN Tuesday, March 31st, at 7 p.m.