



Virginia Union Sports Photo

RECORD SETTER: Guard Kiana Johnson of Virginia Union pours in record 49 points as Lady Panthers earn spot in NCAA Div. II Elite Eight.

LET'S DANCE

DANCE STARTS FOR SOME, CONTINUES FOR ONE; SWAC, MEAC, DIV. II TOURNEY RESULTS

2016 SWAC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS RESULTS

MEN FIRST ROUND
Alabama A&M 61, Arkansas-Pine Bluff 53
Mississippi Valley State 87, Grambling St. 73

QUARTERFINALS
Southern 83, Alabama State 63
Jackson State 69, Prairie View A&M 51
Texas Southern 77, Alabama A&M 69
Mississippi Valley State 64, Alcorn State 63

SEMIFINALS
Southern 81, Texas Southern 73
Jackson State 74, Mississippi Valley State 68

FINALS
Southern 54, Jackson State 53

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER
Trelun Banks, Southern

ALL TOURNAMENT TEAM
Marcus Romain, Mississippi Valley State
Raeford Worsham, Jackson State
Trelun Banks, Southern
Adrian Rodgers, Southern
Malcolm Riley, Texas Southern

WOMEN FIRST ROUND
Alabama A&M 82, Arkansas-Pine Bluff 74
Alcorn State 62, Mississippi Valley State 43

QUARTERFINALS
Grambling State 60, Prairie View A&M 56
Texas Southern 65, Jackson State 47
Alabama State 88, Alabama 72
Southern 61, Alcorn State 57

SEMIFINALS
Southern 62, Texas Southern 54
Alabama State 64, Grambling State 50

FINALS
Alabama State 55, Southern 51

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER
Britney Wright, Alabama State

ALL TOURNAMENT TEAM
Britney Wright, Alabama State
Briana Green, Southern
Daniele Ewert, Alabama State
Jasmine Peoples, Alabama State
Joyce Kennerson, Texas Southern

2016 MEAC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS RESULTS

MEN FIRST ROUND
Savannah State 63, Delaware State 58
Coppin State 98, NC A&T 91, 2OT
North Carolina Central 68, Howard 66
Morgan State 65, Maryland-Eastern Shore 58

QUARTERFINALS
Hampton 83, Morgan State 81
Norfolk State 66, North Carolina Central 47
South Carolina State 90, Coppin State 80
Savannah State 57, Bethune-Cookman 50

SEMIFINALS
South Carolina State 67, Norfolk State 65
Hampton 89, Savannah State 55

FINALS
Hampton 81, South Carolina State 69

MOST OUTSTANDING PLAYER
Reginald Johnson Jr., Hampton

ALL TOURNAMENT TEAM
Derrick Chievous, Hampton
Eric Eaves, South Carolina State
Tashombe Riley, South Carolina State
Jeff Short, Norfolk State

MOST OUTSTANDING COACH
Edward Joyner, Jr., Hampton

WOMEN FIRST ROUND
Coppin State 78, Norfolk State 54
Morgan State 52, North Carolina Central 42
Howard 68, Maryland-Eastern Shore 51
South Carolina State 61, Savannah State 53
Florida A&M 79, Delaware State 74

QUARTERFINALS
South Carolina State 56, Bethune-Cookman 48
North Carolina A&T 67, Florida A&M 50
Hampton 64, Howard 58
Coppin State 63, Morgan State 56

SEMIFINALS
North Carolina A&T 63, Hampton 54
Coppin State 81, South Carolina State 62

FINALS
North Carolina A&T 65, Coppin State 46

MOST OUTSTANDING PLAYER
April McRae, North Carolina A&T

ALL TOURNAMENT TEAM
Dana Brown, North Carolina A&T
Amber Griffin, Coppin State
Janelle Lane, Coppin State
Malia Tate-DeFreitas, Hampton

MOST OUTSTANDING COACH
Tarrell Robinson, North Carolina A&T

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME RECAPS

NCAA DIV. II - ATLANTIC REGION WOMEN

Virginia Union 91, West Liberty 77
RICHMOND, Va. -- CIAA Player of the Year and Tournament MVP Kiana Johnson of Virginia Union set an NCAA Div. II single-game scoring record tallying 49 points as the Lady Panthers defeated West Liberty 91-77 in the championship game of the Atlantic Regional.

Johnson, the Div. II scoring leader at 28.6 points per game, had 30 points at the half as VUU (28-2) built a 49-34 advantage. They stretched that lead to above 20 points in the third quarter until Johnson went out with her fourth foul late in the period. West Liberty (29-3) got within 68-53 before Johnson returned. With her on the floor, VUU opened the fourth quarter with a 9-0 run and cruised to the win.

For the game, Johnson shot 18 of 33 from the field, made 4 of 6 3s, was 8 of 8 from the line, handed out eight assists and had six steals. VUU post players Lady Walker and Taylor White both shot 5 of 8 from the field and had double-doubles. Walker had 11 points and 13 rebounds while White had 11 points and 14 boards.

The Lady Panthers, the Region's top seed and host, shot 50.8% (33 of 65) from the field and 75% (21 of 28) from the line.

VUU advances to the national quarterfinals, the Elite Eight, to be played in Sioux City, South Dakota beginning on March 22. The Lady Panthers will play East Region champion Bentley (28-5) at 3:30 p.m.



Johnson

MEAC MEN

Hampton 81, South Carolina State 69

NORFOLK, VA -- Top-seed Hampton, led by a quartet of seniors, fought back from a nine-point second-half deficit to knock off third-seed South Carolina State 81-69 and take its second straight MEAC men's Tournament title Saturday.

Guards Brian Darden and Reginald Johnson Jr. tallied 22 and 21 points respectively to lead the Pirates (21-10) while fellow senior big men Derrick Chievous and Jervon Pressley tallied 13 and 14 points. Darden had all four of the Pirates' 3-pointers while Johnson had eight assists. Pressley with nine rebounds and Chievous with seven led a 39-28 Hampton rebounding edge.

The quartet combined for 40 of the 42 second-half points for Hampton that enabled the Pirates to mount the comeback after trailing 51-42 at the 15:47 mark. The teams were tied at 39 at the break.

Johnson was named the tournament's most outstanding player. Eric Eaves led South Carolina State with 25 points.



Johnson

MEAC WOMEN

North Carolina A&T 65, Coppin State 46

NORFOLK, Va. --North Carolina A&T, who tied with Bethune-Cookman for the women's MEAC regular season title, got contributions from a host of players in downing fourth-seed Coppin State 65-46 in the tournament championship game Saturday.

A&T 6-3 center April McRae, named the tournament's MVP, averaged 20.5 points in two earlier tournament games but had only nine points and six rebounds in the title game. But the Lady Aggies (19-11) bench outscored Coppin's 23-5, including a team-high 14 points from back-up guard Christina Carter. Kala Green and Dana Brown, who knocked down four 3-pointers, both had 12 points while Courtney Powell had nine points and a team-high 12 boards.

The depth and balanced attack of A&T wore down the Lady Eagles (16-16) who struggled from the field, shooting just 18 of 63 (28.6%) for the game. They canned just 6 of 31 (18.6%) second-half shots. But they still stayed within striking distance trailing only 50-41 entering the final period. A&T outscored Coppin 15-5 in the fourth quarter for the final margin.

Keena Samuels led CSU with 20 points. Amber Griffin added 10.

SWAC MEN

Southern 54, Jackson State 53

HOUSTON - An Adrian Rodgers tip-in with just over 16 seconds left lifted Southern to a 54-53 victory over Jackson State and the 2016 SWAC Men's Basketball Tournament Championship.

The tip-in came just after JSU's Raeford Worsham made a go-ahead lay-up with :33 seconds left. On the ensuing possession, Rodgers rebounded a Jared Sam shot attempt and after missing his first tip-in, he was able to get his put back to fall on the second try. A Chace Franklin three attempt and Janarius Middleton's ensuing put back were no good, giving the Jaguars their ninth SWAC Tournament championship and -- under the guidance of Coach Roman Banks -- their second conference crown in three years.

Trelun Banks, who was named tournament MVP, led all scorers with 19 points. Shawn Prudhomme added 10 points and Rodgers scored seven points to go with 11 boards. Jackson State was led by Worsham, who notched a double-double with 17 points and 12 rebounds. Paris Collins added 11 points and seven rebounds.

SWAC WOMEN

Alabama State 55, Southern 51

HOUSTON, Texas -- Alabama State built up a double-digit first-half lead and held on to knock off Southern 55-51 and claim its second consecutive SWAC women's tournament title Saturday.

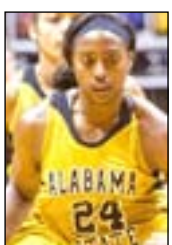
Danielle Ewert's four 3-pointers in the first half, including the final one just before the halftime buzzer, staked the Lady Hornets (19-11) to a 35-22 at the break. They held on despite making just five second-half field goals.

Southern (19-11) got as close as 53-51 on a Briana Green layup with 1:06 to play but could not connect on four shots over the final minute.

After posting game-highs of 17 points and 11 rebounds, Southern's Britney Wright was named tournament MVP for the second straight year. Ewert, who tallied all of her 12 points in the first two periods, added five rebounds. Center Jasmine Peoples put up nine points while grabbing five boards. Green led the Jaguars with 16 points while Cortnei Purnell had 11 points with seven rebounds.



Banks



Wright

Tough tasks await MEAC, SWAC champs

LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

One first-timer and three others with a little more experience will take their teams into NCAA Div. I men's and women's tournaments this week after earning conference tournament titles and automatic bids last week.

And as usual, all are facing monumental tasks as 15th or 16th seeds.

Fourth-year North Carolina A&T head coach Tarrell Robinson, fresh off his Lady Aggies capturing their first MEAC title under his leadership, will be taking his first team to the NCAA Big Dance.

Fifth-year Southern head coach Roman Banks, who led his team from a fourth seed to capture the SWAC men's tournament title Saturday, is taking his second men's team to the Dance.

It will be the third trip for both Alabama State's women under 17-year head coach Freda Freeman-Jackson and for Hampton's men under seventh-year head man Ed "Buck" Joyner Jr. Both ASU and Hampton won titles after entering their conference tournaments as the top seeds (see Championship Game Recaps).

All except Alabama State are seeded 16th and last in their regions.

This will be the A&T women's third appearance and first since back-to-back dates in 2008 and 2009. Robinson was an assistant on those teams.

The Lady Aggies (19-11) are seeded 16th in the women's Lexington Region and will take on region top seed and three-time ACC champion Notre Dame (31-1) on its home floor in South Bend, Indiana Saturday (6:30 p.m.). Notre Dame is ranked No. 2 in the nation (AP and USA Today) behind Connecticut (32-0), the tournament's overall top seed.

Six-three senior center April McRae, the MEAC Tournament's most outstanding player, tops Lady Aggie scorers and rebounders at 13.3 points and 6.3 rebounds per game. Five-seven junior guard Dana Brown is the chief outside threat, scoring 11.5 points per game and averaging over two 3s per game. Five-seven sophomore guard Kala Green averages just under double-digits at 9.7 ppg.



Banks



Freeman-Jackson

BLACK COLLEGES IN 2016 DIV. I NCAA TOURNAMENT

MEN

FIRST FOUR / WEST REGION

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 5:40 P.M. (CDT) - DAYTON, OH
#16 Southern (22-12) vs. #16 Holy Cross (14-19)
FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 4:15 P.M. - SPOKANE, WA
Southern/Holy Cross winner vs. #1 Oregon (28-6)

EAST REGIONAL

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 3:30 P.M. - RALEIGH, NC
#16 Hampton (21-10) vs. #1 Virginia (26-7)

WOMEN

LEXINGTON REGION

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 6:30 P.M. - SOUTH BEND, IND.
#16 North Carolina A&T (19-11) @ #1 Notre Dame (31-1)

BRIDGEPORT REGION

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 8 P.M. - AUSTIN, TX
#15 Alabama State (19-11) @ #2 Texas (28-4)



Joyner Jr.



Robinson

Banks took his 2013 Southern team to the tournament as a 16th seed and put up a great battle before losing to top seed Gonzaga 63-58. Southern enters this year's tournament again as a 16th seed but played Wednesday, March 16 in the First Four play-in game vs. Holy Cross (14-19), winners of the Patriot League tournament title. The winner of that game will play West Region top seed Oregon (28-6) in Spokane, Washington on Friday (March 18) in the second round.

Southern features top scorer (16.6 ppg.) Adrian Rodgers, a 6-4 senior forward, and SWAC tournament MVP, 6-1 junior Trelun Banks, who averages 12.6 ppg.

This is the second straight trip for Freeman-Jackson and the Lady Hornets (19-11). They are seeded 15th and will play at 2nd-seed Texas (28-4) Saturday (8 p.m.) in the women's Bridgeport Regional.

ASU is led by two-time SWAC tournament MVP, 5-10 junior forward Britney Wright

(14.9 ppg., 8.2 rpg.). Six-two senior center Jasmine Peoples chips in 8.0 points and a team-best 8.5 rebounds per game.

Hampton is making its fifth NCAA appearance and it will be Joyner's third time taking the Pirates in as a 16th seed. A year ago Hampton defeated Manhattan (74-64) in the First Four game before battling overall top seed Kentucky in the second round before succumbing 79-56.

This time around Hampton (21-10) faces East Region top seed Virginia (26-7) in Raleigh, N. C. Thursday (3:30 p.m.).

MEAC Tournament MVP, 6-2 senior guard Reginald Johnson Jr., is the Pirates' top scorer at 18.7 points per game. Six-seven grad student Derrick Chievous (17.0 ppg.) and off-guard Brian Darden (13.2 ppg.) give Hampton three double-figure scorers. Chievous averaged a double-double as he led the MEAC at 11.0 rebounds per game.

BCSP Notes

One in NIT, two in WNIT Five in College Insider (CIT)

Eight black college Div. I basketball teams received invitations to postseason tournaments outside the NCAA Big Dances.

SWAC men's regular season champion Texas Southern (18-14), who fell to eventual tournament champion Southern in the league's tournament semifinals last week, received the automatic bid to the NIT that goes to the regular season champ (that does not win its conference tournament or receive an NCAA tourney invite).

TSU played Tuesday at Valparaiso (26-6), regular season champs out of the Horizon League.

Titto for SWAC and MEAC women's regular season co-champions Southern (19-11) and Bethune-Cookman (18-12) respectively who landed berths in the WNIT.

Southern, who tied Alabama State for the

NCAA DIV. II - SOUTH REGION FINAL (WOMEN)

Florida Southern 64, Benedict 56
UNION, Tn. -- After being tied at 23 the half and leading early in the third quarter, 2nd-seeded Benedict fell behind fourth-seed Florida Southern in falling 54-46 in the championship game of the Div. II South Regional. The Lady Tigers (29-3) led 42-38 late in the third quarter before the Mocs (27-5) closed out the quarter on an 11-0 run to lead 49-42 entering the final period. Benedict got no closer than five the rest of the way. Dorothy Brown led Benedict with 10 points.

2016 NCAA DIV. II BASKETBALL REGIONALS (Results and Honors)



ATLANTIC REGION

FIRST ROUND

Virginia Union 91, Indiana (Pa.) 72
California (Pa) 80, Chowan 70
West Liberty 85, Shaw 70

SEMIFINAL

Virginia Union 75, Wheeling Jesuit 66

FINAL

Virginia Union 91, West Liberty 77

MVP
Kiana Jonson, Virginia Union

ALL TOURNAMENT
Lady Walker, Virginia Union

WOMEN

SOUTH REGION

FIRST ROUND
Benedict 51, Florida Tech 30
Florida Southern 61, Kentucky State 50

SEMIFINALS

Benedict 69, Nova Southeastern 57

FINAL

Florida Southern 64, Benedict 56

ALL TOURNAMENT
Terri Jacobs, Benedict

MEN

ATLANTIC REGION

FIRST ROUND
Virginia State 76, Fairmont State 66
Semifinals
West Liberty 84, Virginia State 74

SOUTH REGION

FIRST ROUND
Stillman 85, West Georgia 79
Semifinals
Alabama-Huntsville 81, Stillman 71