



Lawrence Johnson Photo

ON TO BIRMINGHAM AND THE SIAC

CIAA TOURNEY WRAPS, SIAC TOURNEY TIPS; BENEDICT'S MORRIS, BETTS TAKE TOP HONORS

DARRELL BROOKS: Bowie State head coach cuts down the nets after his Bulldogs win the men's CIAA Tournament title in Charlotte Saturday.

WOMEN'S & MEN'S 2016-17 BLACK COLLEGE BASKETBALL (Standings and Weekly Honors)

MEAC	MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE			
	CONF	ALL	CONF	ALL
WOMEN	W	L	W	L
Bethune-Cookman	14	1	18	9
Howard	11	4	15	12
Hampton	10	5	16	12
Florida A&M	9	6	11	17
Norfolk State	9	7	14	14
NC A&T State	8	7	12	16
Coppin State	8	7	8	19
Savannah State	7	8	10	18
Md. Eastern Shore	6	9	12	14
Morgan State	6	9	8	20
North Carolina Central	6	9	7	20
South Carolina State	2	13	5	21
Delaware State	2	13	3	25

MEAC	MID EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE			
	CONF	ALL	CONF	ALL
MEN	W	L	W	L
North Carolina Central	13	2	22	7
Norfolk State	12	4	15	15
Morgan State	11	4	14	14
Hampton	10	5	13	15
Savannah State	9	6	12	16
Maryland-Eastern Shore	8	7	11	19
South Carolina State	7	8	10	18
Coppin State	7	8	8	22
Delaware State	6	9	9	21
Bethune-Cookman	5	10	8	21
Howard	5	10	8	22
Florida A&M	5	10	7	21
NC A&T State	0	16	2	28

SWAC	SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE			
	DIV	ALL	DIV	ALL
WOMEN	W	L	W	L
Grambling State	13	3	15	12
Texas Southern	12	4	18	12
Southern	11	5	13	11
Alabama State	11	5	12	14
Alcorn State	9	7	9	18
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	9	8	12	16
Prairie View A&M	6	10	11	17
Miss. Valley State	6	11	9	19
Jackson State	4	12	10	16
Alabama A&M	0	16	2	23

SWAC	SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE			
	DIV	ALL	DIV	ALL
MEN	W	L	W	L
Texas Southern	14	2	18	11
Alcorn State	13	3	16	11
Southern	10	6	14	15
Grambling State	8	8	13	16
Jackson State	8	8	12	17
Prairie View A&M	8	8	11	19
Alabama State	6	10	8	20
Arkansas-Pine Bluff	6	11	7	23
Miss. Valley State	6	11	6	24
Alabama A&M	2	14	2	25

INDEPENDENTS				
WOMEN	W	L	W	L
W. Va. State	14	14		
Tennessee State	10	16		
Cheyney	6	17		
Lincoln (Mo.)	5	21		
UDC	3	25		

MEAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

PLAYERS
 Te'Shya Heslip, 5-7, R-Sr., G. **HOWARD** - Averaged 22.0 points, 5.5 rebounds, 6.0 assists and 2.5 steals in two wins. Was 18 of 28 (.643) from the field. Had season-high 30 pts., 6 rebounds, 6 assists and 3 steals vs. NSU.

ROOKIE
 Chance Graham, 6-3, Fr., C. **CSU** - Had fourth double-double with 12 points, 14 boards in win over Savannah State.

DEFENDER
 Kaitlyn Williams, 6-3, Sr., C. **B-CU** - Averaged 13.0 rebounds and 4.0 blocks in two wins. Had career-high 17 boards and 6 blocks vs. NSU. Added 9 boards and 2 blocks vs. NSU.

MEAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

PLAYER
 Chas Brown, 6-8, Jr., F. **COPPIN STATE** - Had 19 points, 12 rebounds and 4 blocks, his third double-double of season.

ROOKIE
 Katelyn Palmer, 5-8, Jr., G. **TEXAS SOUTHERN** - Averaged 16.0 points on 13 of 16 shooting in two wins. Scored team-high 19 points on 8 of 10 shooting (.800) in win over Alabama A&M, 13 points on 5 of 6 shooting in win over Alabama State.

DEFENDER
 Kyle Benton, 6-7, R-Sr., F. **NC CENTRAL** - Averaged 11 rebounds in two games with 4 blocks. Had 9 rebounds and 1 steal vs. Howard, 13 rebounds, 4 blocks vs. B-CU.

BCSP SWAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

PLAYER
 Shakyla Hill, 5-7, So., G. **GRAMBLING STATE** - Averaged 11.0 pts., 12.0 rebounds, 4.5 assists and 4.5 steals in two wins. Had 11 points, 11 rebounds, 4 assists and 4 steals in win over MVSU, 11 points, 13 rebounds, 5 assists and 5 steals in win over UAPB.

NEWCOMER
 Kaitlyn Palmer, 5-8, Jr., G. **TEXAS SOUTHERN** - Averaged 16.0 points on 13 of 16 shooting in two wins. Scored team-high 19 points on 8 of 10 shooting (.800) in win over Alabama A&M, 13 points on 5 of 6 shooting in win over Alabama State.

DEFENDER
 Kyle Benton, 6-7, R-Sr., F. **NC CENTRAL** - Averaged 11 rebounds in two games with 4 blocks. Had 9 rebounds and 1 steal vs. Howard, 13 rebounds, 4 blocks vs. B-CU.

BCSP SWAC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

PLAYER
 Isaac Williams, 6-4, Sr., G. **MISS. VALLEY STATE** - Averaged 22.0 points on 50% shooting (16 of 32) from the field in two big wins. Scored 24 points on 7 of 19 shooting in win over Jackson State and 9 of 13 from the field in getting 20 points in win over Grambling State.

NEWCOMER
 Zach Lofton, 6-3, Jr., G. **TEXAS SOUTHERN** - Had 15 points on 6 of 12 shooting in win over Alabama A&M after getting 21 points on 7 of 16 shooting vs. Alabama State. Also had 4 rebounds and 4 assists vs. ASU.

DEFENDER
 Kyle Benton, 6-7, R-Sr., F. **NC CENTRAL** - Averaged 11 rebounds in two games with 4 blocks. Had 9 rebounds and 1 steal vs. Howard, 13 rebounds, 4 blocks vs. B-CU.

INDEPENDENT PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

PLAYER
 Aurreshae Hines, 5-6, Jr., G. **W. VA. STATE** - Had 24 points including making all 11 FTs in win over Charleston. Had 27 points, 4 rebounds and 6 assists in win over UVA-Wise. Named 1st team all-MEC.

INDEPENDENT PLAYERS OF THE WEEK		
MEN	W	L
Lincoln (Mo.)	17	12
Tennessee State	17	12
UDC	14	12
W. Va. State	7	21
Cheyney	2	25

INDEPENDENT PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

PLAYER
 Jaylon Smith, 6-4, Sr., G. **LINCOLN** - Had 33 points in win over Mo. Western Thurs. 27 points in 62-52 loss to NW Missouri Saturday. Came back to get 21 points Monday in win over Lindenwood. Shot 28 for 60 in three games. Faces NW Mo. in first round of MIAA Tourney Thursday.

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS



MORRIS, BETTS DOUBLE SIAC HONOREES:

ATLANTA (February 24, 2017) - Benedict forward **Brandon Morris** and Lady Tigers' forward **Destiny Betts** each were awarded a pair of the league's highest honors as the 2017 **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference** (SIAC) men's and women's basketball awards were announced Friday. All-conference honors are voted on by the league's head coaches and sports information directors. Morris, a 6-8 junior guard from Lithonia, Ga. averaged 19.2 points and 7.7 rebounds per game in his first season with Benedict (15-11, 12-5) to earn the men's newcomer and player of the year honors.

Betts, a 6-2 junior from Halifax, Va. led the Lady Tigers to a 14-1 conference record to claim its third consecutive SIAC East Division title won the women's player and defensive player of the year awards. Betts averaged 14.8 points and a league-best 13.5 rebounds while recorded 14 double-doubles. She had career-highs of 30 points and 32 rebounds vs. St. Leo. The rebounding total is tied for the fifth-most in NCAA Division II women's basketball history. Lane's 6-7 sophomore forward **Kendarius Ash** from Decatur, Ga. was named the SIAC Defensive Player of the Year. He averaged a double-double of 12.1 points and 12.8 rebounds per game. The rebounding average is first in the conference and second in NCAA Division II.

Myles Thomas averaged 7.9 points and 4.4 rebounds per game for **Tuskegee** and was voted Freshman of the Year. **Clafin's Ricky Jackson** was selected as the Coach of the Year. The Panthers (17-9, 12-5) finished in a three-way tie for first and were named the East Division champions. **Marissa Mandelove** of Atlanta averaged 16.3 points and 4.5 assists for **Clark Atlanta** and was voted Women's Newcomer of the Year. The 5-4 junior guard from Atlanta also leads the league in steals (3.7) which is ranked fourth in NCAA Division II. Mandelove has scored in double-figures in 22 of 24 games.

Spring Hill guard **Elise Reilly** was named Freshman of the Year. Reilly scored 15.0 points per game and set a women's basketball single-game record with nine 3-point buckets versus Kentucky State on Feb. 13.

Sheba Harris of **Central State** was selected as the Women's Coach of the Year after leading the Marauders (18-7, 12-4) to their first SIAC West Division title since becoming an exclusive member of NCAA Div. II.

MEN

Player & Newcomer of the Year: **Brandon Morris**, Benedict
 Defensive Player of the Year: **Kendarius Ash**, Lane
 Freshman of the Year: **Myles Thomas**, Tuskegee
 Coach of the Year: **Ricky Jackson**, Clafin

2017 SIAC MEN'S BASKETBALL ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

Dwight Richards, Jr., F, **CSU**; **Brandon Morris**, Jr., F, **BEN**; Tyrius Walker, Jr., F, **MHC**; **Justin Street**, Sr., F, **LOC**; **Kendarius Ash**, So., F, **LANE**; **Malcolm Smith**, Sr., G, **KSU**; **Terrance Bridgeman**, Sr., G, **LANE**; **Quayshun Hawkins**, Sr., G, **BEN**; **Ryan McNeil-Moses**, Sr., F, **CLAF**; **Dorian Jordan**, Jr., G, **KSU**; **Maurice Alexander**, Jr., G, **LANE**; **Ayinde Russell**, So., G, **MHC**

WOMEN

Player & Defensive of the Year: **Destiny Betts**, Benedict
 Newcomer of the Year: **Marissa Mandelove**, Clark Atlanta
 Freshman of the Year: **Elise Reilly**, Spring Hill
 Coach of the Year: **Sheba Harris**, Central State

2017 SIAC WOMEN'S BASKETBALL ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

Destiny Betts, Sr., F, **BEN**; **Janisha Wilkerson**, Sr., F, **PAINE**; **Tashara Jones**, Sr., G/F, **LANE**; **Teresa Mays**, Sr., G, **LOC**; **Chanelle Brownlee**, Sr., G, **TUS**; **Marissa Mandelove**, Jr., G, **CAU**; **Ghameerah McCullers**, Sr., G, **CSU**; **Elise Reilly**, Fr., G, **SHC**; **MiKeisha Moore**, Jr., F, **BEN**; **Lauren Turner**, Jr., G, **CAU**; **Shekiya Tarpins**, Sr., G/F, **FVSU**; **Brittani Rizzi**, Jr., G, **KSU**



Ash, Thomas, Mandelove, Reilly

SIAC Tourney tips in B'ham

LUT WILLIAMS
 BCSP Editor

After a week of action at the CIAA Basketball Tournament in Charlotte (see results below), the **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference** (SIAC) in Birmingham, Ala. takes center stage this week.

Women's and men's opening round play began Monday at the Bill Harris Arena and continued on Tuesday (see schedule at right).

The top two seeded teams for both women and men began play in quarterfinal action on Wednesday with the second-seeded teams getting into action on Thursday.

Semifinals for both women and men are on Friday with championship games set for Saturday at 4 p.m. (women) and 7 p.m. (men).

Unlike the CIAA where men and women play in separate sessions, the SIAC format has women and men's teams alternating games.

Benedict is the women's top seed from the East Division with **Central State** top seed from the West. **Clafin** emerged from a three-way tie at the top of the men's East standings to grab the top seed. **Lane** is the men's top seed from the West.

The teams are playing for an automatic berth into the NCAA Div. II South Regional that goes to the tournament winner.

Entering the SIAC Tournament, the Benedict women are the only conference team in the top ten, ranked sixth in the region. For the men, **Morehouse**, the East Division's fourth seed, is the only team ranked in the top ten at ninth. Eight teams will make the Regional field.

SIAC SOUTHERN INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

MEN'S FINAL	CONF	ALL	WOMEN'S FINAL	CONF	ALL
EAST DIVISION	W	L	EAST DIVISION	W	L
Clafin	12	5	Benedict	15	1
Clark Atlanta	12	5	Clafin	9	5
Benedict	12	5	Fort Valley State	7	8
Fort Valley State	11	5	Paine	5	10
Morehouse	10	7	Albany State	4	10
Albany State	4	13	Clark Atlanta	4	10
Paine	2	16	WEST DIVISION	CONF	ALL
WEST DIVISION	W	L	Central State	12	4
Lane	13	4	Lane	9	6
Spring Hill	8	9	Miles	8	6
LeMoynes-Owen	8	9	Spring Hill	8	7
Miles	8	8	Kentucky State	7	9
Kentucky State	7	10	Tuskegee	5	10
Central State	7	11	LeMoynes-Owen	5	11
Tuskegee	6	10			
Paine	1	17			

C-I double A Tourney

Bowie State, a 4th-seed from the North knocked off **Fayetteville State**, a 4th-seed from the South, 62-54 in Saturday's CIAA Men's championship game in Charlotte.

Six-foot junior guard **Ahmaad Wilson's** 20 points led the Bulldogs (16-14) in the title game as he did in their previous three tourney wins en route to earning MVP honors. Wilson had 85 points (21.2 ppg.) in four games with a tourney-high 30 points on eight 3s in an opening round overtime victory vs. **Johnson C. Smith**.

The Golden Bulls of **Johnson C. Smith** (22-7), the top seeded team from the South Division, defeated **Virginia State** 68-59 to take the women's title.

Five-ten junior forward **Blaire Thomas**, who averaged 12.0 points and 8.3 rebounds off the bench in three tournament victories, earned the Most Valuable Player award. Three teammates

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27
 WOMEN'S OPENING ROUND
 #5E Albany State 61, #4W Kentucky State 59
 #5W LeMoynes-Owen 67, #4W Paine 53
 MEN'S OPENING ROUND
 #5E Fort Valley State 79, #4W Kentucky State 73
 #4E Morehouse 72, #5W Tuskegee 55
 #5W LeMoynes-Owen 94, #7W Paine 82

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28
 WOMEN'S OPENING ROUND
 #3E Fort Valley State vs. #6W Tuskegee - 1 p.m.
 #3W Lane vs. #6E Clark Atlanta - 5:30 p.m.
 MEN'S SECOND ROUND
 #3E Benedict vs. #6W Central State - 3:15 p.m.
 #3W Miles vs. #6E Albany State - 7:45 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1
 WOMEN'S QUARTERFINALS
 #1E Benedict vs. #5E Albany State - 1 p.m.
 #1W Central State vs. #5W LeMoynes-Owen - 5:30 p.m.
 MEN'S QUARTERFINALS
 #1E Clafin vs. #5E Fort Valley State - 3:15 p.m.
 #1E Lane vs. #4E Morehouse - 7:45 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 2
 WOMEN'S SEMIFINALS
 #2W Miles vs. FVSU/Tuskegee winner - 1 p.m.
 #2E Clafin vs. Lane/CAU winner - 5:30 p.m.
 MEN'S QUARTERFINALS
 #2W LOC vs. Benedict/Central State winner - 3:15 p.m.
 #2E Clark Atlanta vs. Miles/Albany St. winner - 7:45 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3
 WOMEN'S SEMIFINALS - 1:00 and 5:30 p.m.
 MEN'S SEMIFINALS - 3:15 and 7:45 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 4
 WOMEN'S FINAL - 4 p.m.
 MEN'S FINAL - 7 p.m.

joined her on the all-tournament team. The Lady Bulls knocked off nationally-ranked **Virginia Union** (23-4) in the semifinals.

Bowie State will get the automatic berth into the NCAA Div. II men's Atlantic Regional which



Wilson, Thomas

begins next week. **Virginia Union** (22-6) and **Virginia State** (20-6) have outside shots at getting in. VUU was 7th and VSU 9th in the region before the tourney.

JCSU gets the automatic bid into next week's women's Atlantic Regional with 23-4 Virginia Union, who entered the week second in the re-

gion, also likely to earn a spot.

MEAC

North Carolina Central (22-7, 13-2 MEAC) has clinched the men's top seed for next week's tournament in Norfolk, Va. but did suffer its second conference loss Saturday to **Savannah State**, 74-73. Savannah State (12-16, 9-6), currently fifth in the MEAC standings, is not eligible for the tournament because of low APR scores.

Regular season play ends Thursday (March 2) with the top four men's teams receiving byes into next Wednesday and Thursday MEAC Tournament quarterfinals. Currently, N. C. Central is followed by No. 2 **Norfolk State** (12-4), No. 3 **Morgan State** (11-4) and No. 4 **Hampton** (10-5). Morgan State can tie NSU and grab second with a win in its finale at **Md.-Eastern Shore** Thursday. MSU beat NSU (58-56) in their only head-to-head meeting this year. NCCU closes at **NC A&T** and Hampton closes at **Coppin State**.

Bethune-Cookman (18-9, 14-1 MEAC) has clinched the women's top seed for the tournament. The top three women's teams will receive byes into Wednesday and Thursday quarterfinals. Going into this Thursday's finales **Howard** (11-4) is second and Hampton (10-5) is third. Howard finishes at **Delaware State** and Hampton is at **Coppin State**.

SWAC

Texas Southern (18-11, 14-2 SWAC) stayed in first place in the men's SWAC race with wins Saturday and Monday. The Tigers close out the regular season with home games vs. 13-3 **Alcorn State** (Thurs., Mar. 2) and 10-6 **Southern** (Sat., March 4), the teams second and third respectively in the standings.

On the women's side, **Grambling State** (15-12, 13-3 SWAC) enters its final games at home Thursday vs. **Alabama A&M** and Saturday vs. **Alabama State**. GSU is one game up on 12-4 Texas Southern. TSU is at home to play 9-7 **Alcorn State** Thursday and 11-5 **Southern** Saturday. Southern is at **Prairie View** Thursday.

Only the top eight men's and women's team will get into next week's basketball tournaments. Opening round quarterfinal games will be played Tues., Mar. 7 at the home