



BACK IN THE MIX

VA. UNION LADIES IN D2 ELITE EIGHT AGAIN; BIG DANCE QUESTS BEGAN WEDNESDAY IN DAYTON



Virginia Union Sports Photo

ANNMARIE GILBERT: Her Virginia Union Lady Panthers returning to the NCAA Div. II Elite Eight beginning Tuesday (3/21).

2017 SWAC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS (Results & Honors)

SWAC MEN QUARTERFINALS
Texas Southern 87, Alabama State 72
Alcorn State 63, Mississippi Valley State 60
Southern 69, Jackson State 63
Grambling State 81, Prairie View A&M 77

SEMIFINALS
Texas Southern 62, Grambling State 57
Alcorn State 81, Southern 59

FINALS
Texas Southern 53, Alcorn State 50

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER
Marvin Jones, Texas Southern

ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM
Marvin Jones, Texas Southern
Kevin Scott, Texas Southern
Demontrae Jefferson, Texas Southern
Reginal Johnson, Alcorn State
Ivy Smith Jr., Grambling State

SWAC WOMEN QUARTERFINALS
Grambling State 71, Mississippi Valley State 61
Texas Southern 65, Prairie View A&M 45
Alabama State 48, Arkansas-Pine Bluff 46
Southern 73, Alcorn State 67

SEMIFINALS
Grambling State 65, Southern 56
Texas Southern 68, Alabama State 54

FINALS
Texas Southern 70, Grambling State 66

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER
Joyce Kennerson, Texas Southern

ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM
Joyce Kennerson, Texas Southern
Chynna Ewing, Texas Southern
Miaya Crowder, Southern
Shakyla Hill, Grambling State
John'ea Thompson, Grambling State

2017 MEAC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS (Results & Honors)

MEAC MEN OPENING ROUND
Maryland-Eastern Shore 74, NC A&T 67
Howard 79, Coppin State 73
Bethune-Cookman 69, Delaware State 62
South Carolina State 72, Florida A&M 68, OT

QUARTERFINALS
N. Carolina Central 95, Bethune-Cookman 60
Norfolk State 93, S. Carolina State 88, OT
Howard 68, Morgan State 65

SEMIFINALS
Maryland-Eastern Shore 68, Hampton 66

FINALS
North Carolina Central 77, Md.-E. Shore 49
Norfolk State 68, Howard 53

North Carolina Central 67, Norfolk State 59

ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM
Patrick Cole, North Carolina Central (MVP)
Dajuan Graf, North Carolina Central
Zaynah Robinson, Norfolk State
Jordan Wade, Norfolk State
Charles Williams, Howard

OUTSTANDING COACH
LeVelle Moton, N. C. Central

MEAC WOMEN OPENING ROUND
Florida A&M 65, South Carolina State 62
Norfolk State 60, Delaware State 40
Maryland-Eastern Shore 62, Coppin State 59
Savannah State 59, Morgan State 51
N. C. A&T 71, N. C. Central 58

QUARTERFINALS
Bethune-Cookman 53, Savannah State 43
NC A&T 68, Howard 58
Hampton 66, UMEC 56

SEMIFINALS
Florida A&M 80, Norfolk State 73

FINALS
Hampton 64, North Carolina A&T 62

ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM
Jephany Brown, Hampton (MVP)
Monnazjae Finney-Smith, Hampton
Aliya Kilpatrick, NC A&T
Kendra Cooper, Bethune-Cookman
Kailyn Williams, Bethune-Cookman

OUTSTANDING COACH
David Six, Hampton

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME RECAPS

MEAC MEN'S FINAL

North Carolina Central 64, Norfolk State 62
NORFOLK, Va. – An 11-minute 19-0 second-half run allowed top-seed **North Carolina Central** to blow past second-seed **Norfolk State** 67-59 and claim the MEAC Tournament title Saturday at Scope Arena.

Down 46-43 with 14:33 left in the second half after trailing 38-35 at the break, the Eagles (25-8) clamped down on the Spartans forcing them into ten straight missed shots from the field and six turnovers. The spurt, capped by a dunk by NCCU's **Kyle Benton** with 3:31 left, put the Eagles up 54-38 and all but decided the contest.

Senior guard and Tournament MVP **Patrick Cole** had 18 points and backcourt mate **Dajuan Graf** had 17 to lead the Eagles. **Rashaun Madison** had 12 points including three 3-pointers. Benton had 8 points and tied Cole for the team rebounding lead with 8. **Zaynah Robinson** had 15 and **Kerwin Okoro** 11 to lead NSU (17-16).



Cole

MEAC WOMEN'S FINAL

Hampton 52, Bethune-Cookman 49
NORFOLK, Va. – **Hampton** jumped out to a big lead and then held on to knock off top-seed **Bethune-Cookman** 52-49 in the MEAC women's championship game at Scope Arena.

The 3rd-seeded Lady Pirates (20-12) had a 19-4 first-quarter spurt and led 27-8 in the second quarter before B-CU got back in the game and went into halftime trailing 35-23.

B-CU pulled within 35-34 in the third quarter and trailed 40-37 entering the fourth. B-CU forged a 44-all tie with 6:45 left on a basket by **Taylor Houston** but Hampton went back up on a basket by MVP **Jephany Brown** and never again surrendered the lead.

Brown and **Mikayla Wells** each had 10 points for Hampton. B-CU was led by 10 from Houston.



Brown

SWAC MEN'S FINAL

Texas Southern 53, Alcorn State 50
HOUSTON, Tx. – Top-seed **Texas Southern** withstood a late charge from second-seed **Alcorn State** to secure a 53-50 win for its third SWAC Tournament title in four years Saturday at the Toyota Center.

The defensive struggle saw Alcorn State (18-14) take a 43-41 second half lead on a basket by **Denzel Dulin** after trailing 26-21 at the break. TSU (24-11) responded with a 5-0 run and never again surrendered the lead.

Six-ten center **Marvin Jones** was named tournament MVP after scoring 14 points, pulling down 9 rebounds and blocking 4 shots. **Kevin Scott** had 15 points and 12 rebounds while **Demontrae Jefferson** added 13 points and 4 assists.

Reginal Johnson had 16 and **Dulin** 13 to lead the Braves.



Jones

SWAC WOMEN'S FINAL

Texas Southern 70, Grambling State 66
HOUSTON, Tx. – Second-seed **Texas Southern** and top-seed **Grambling State** battled back and fourth forging five fourth-quarter lead changes and two ties before TSU emerged with 70-66 win in the SWAC Tournament title game. It is the first Tournament title for the Lady Tigers in SWAC history.

TSU (23-9) led for most of the first half before Grambling came back to send the teams into the half tied at 35. The lead never got above four in the third quarter before the see-saw final period. **John'ea Thompson** gave GSU its final lead at 65-63 on a jumper with 2:59 to play and GSU stretched the lead to 66-63. **Chyna Ewing** put TSU in the lead for good 67-66 on a layup with 1:09 left beginning a 7-0 run to end the game.

Joyce Kennerson led TSU with 29 points and was named tournament MVP. **Breasia McElrath** had 10 points while **Shamiya Brooks** had 6 points and a team-high 12 rebounds. Thompson had 23 points to lead Grambling while **Shakyla Hill** had 21 points, 10 rebounds and 3 assists.



Kennerson

DIV. II ATLANTIC REGION - WOMEN'S FINAL

Virginia Union 85, California (Pa.) 69
CALIFORNIA, Pa. – CIAA Player of the Year, **Virginia Union** center **Lady Walker**, scored a game-high 32 points and pulled down 10 rebounds to lead the Lady Panthers over top-seed California (Pa.) 85-69 to claim their second straight NCAA Div. II Atlantic Region title.

VUU led the entire game, building a 37-26 lead at the half and blowing the game open with a 26-16 third quarter to go up 63-42 after three.

The Lady Panthers were dominant in the paint, outscoring the Vulcans (30-4) 68-38. **Alexis Johnson** had 9 points and team-highs of 12 rebounds and 4 blocks. **Ashley Smith** added 15 points.

VUU overcame 32 turnovers but also forced Cal into 27 turnovers. The Panthers shot 54.7 percent from the field and held the Vulcans to 35.3 percent.

The win propels VUU (26-4) into the Elite Eight, the national quarterfinals being held March 21-24 in Columbus, Ohio on the campus of Ohio Dominican University. VUU will play its first game on Tuesday, March 21 vs. Columbus State (30-1).



Walker

HBCU icon Ben Jobe succumbs



Ben Jobe

On the eve of the 2017 NCAA Basketball Tournament, an HBCU legend who made one of his marks in the tournament has passed.

Ben Jobe, who amassed 524 wins over 31 seasons in brilliant stints as head basketball coach at **Southern, Tuskegee, Talladega, Alabama State, South Carolina State, Denver and Alabama A&M**, died Friday at his home.

Jobe, 84, from Nashville, Tennessee attended Pearl High School in the city and **Fisk University** where he was an all-**Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference** player

before embarking on his coaching career. He learned up tempo basketball at the knee of legendary HBCU basketball pioneer and trailblazer **John McLendon** and parlayed those lessons to the teams he coached.

His most noteworthy victory at Southern was a 93-78 win in the 1993 NCAA Tournament over ACC champion Georgia Tech that shook up the basketball world.

The always nattily dressed Jobe won three regular season and four **Southwestern Athletic Conference** tournament titles and made four NCAA and one NIT appearance

while at Southern.

Among his prized pupils at Southern were NBA champion and current Alabama head coach **Avery Johnson** and late NBA standout **Bobby Phils**.

Jobe was prominently featured in the 2008 highly acclaimed two-part ESPN documentary "Black Magic" that links the rise of the United States civil rights movement to the history of African-American basketball players and coaches at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

MEAC, SWAC champs meet top seeds, again

LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

Men's and women's Div. I HBCU Basketball Tournament champs again have the unenviable tasks of taking on much bigger and more ballyhooed programs as the NCAA Tournament tips off this week.

All but one of the teams' coaches – fourth-year women's head coach **Johnetta Hayes-Perry** of SWAC champion **Texas Southern** – has been down this road before.

Her counterpart at Texas Southern, men's coach **Mike Davis**, is taking his SWAC champion Tigers to the Big Dance for the third time in five years.

This will be Davis's eighth appearance in the tournament overall. He made four others as head coach at Indiana and one trip while leading Alabama Birmingham.

Davis's troops (23-11) are a 16th seed in the South Regional and will face top seed North Carolina (27-7) Friday (4 p.m.) in Greenville, S. C.

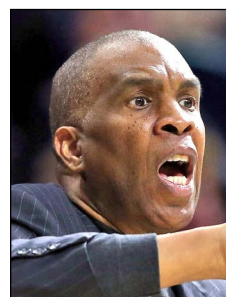
For **MEAC** women's champion **Hampton**, it's six for Six.

Head coach **David Six**, after winning five straight MEAC titles and making five straight NCAA appearances from 2010-2014, will be taking his sixth team to the tournament.

His Lady Pirates (20-12) are seeded 15th in the Bridgeport Regional and take on 2nd-seed Duke (27-5) on its home court in Durham, N. C. Saturday (9 p.m.).

Eight-year head coach **LeVelle Moton** will be taking his MEAC men's champion **North Carolina Central** Eagles to the Dance for the second time in four years. His team has the best overall record of the four at 25-8 but perhaps got the worst deal.

NCCU played in the First Four game Wednesday (6:40 p.m.) in Dayton, Ohio vs. UC Davis (22-12). The winner gets a 16th-seed in the Midwest Regional and gets to take on top



Davis



Six

BLACK COLLEGES IN 2017 DIV. I NCAA TOURNAMENT

MEN

FIRST FOUR / MIDWEST REGION on truTV
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 6:40 P.M. (EDT) - DAYTON, OH
#16 **North Carolina Central** (25-8) vs. #16 UC Davis (22-12)
FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 6:50 P.M. - TULSA, OK on TNT
N. C. Central/UC Davis winner vs. #1 Kansas (28-4)

SOUTH REGION on TNT

FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 4:00 P.M. - GREENVILLE, S. C.
#16 **Texas Southern** (23-11) vs. #1 North Carolina (27-7)

WOMEN

BRIDGEPORT REGION on ESPN2
SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 9:00 P.M. - DURHAM, N. C.
#15 **Hampton** (20-12) @ #2 Duke (27-5)

OKLAHOMA CITY REGION on ESPN2

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 6:30 P.M. - WACO, TX
#16 **Texas Southern** (23-9) @ #1 Baylor (30-3)



Moton



Hayes-Perry

seed Kansas (28-4) on Friday (6:50 p.m.) in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The TSU's women's date Saturday (6:30 p.m.) in the Oklahoma City Regional on the home court of top seed Baylor (30-3) in Waco, Texas will be the initial baptism as a head coach for Hayes-Perry and the TSU program. The Lady Tigers (23-9) are seeded 16th.

Ironically, neither Kansas in the men's Big

12, North Carolina in the men's ACC, Baylor in the women's Big 12 or Duke in the women's ACC won their conference tournament title.

UC-Davis is the only opponent of the four HBCU conference champs that won its conference tournament. The Aggies won the men's Big West Tournament championship over UC Irvine to earn that conference's automatic bid.

Virginia Union back in women's D2 Elite Eight

Virginia Union defeated top-seed and host California (Pa.) 85-69 Monday (see CHAMPIONSHIP GAME RECAPS) in the championship game of the NCAA Div. II Atlantic Regional to earn its second consecutive trip to the Elite Eight, the national quarterfinals.

VUU (26-4) is seeded sixth in the Elite Eight field and will meet South Region champ and 3rd-seed Columbus State (30-1) next Tuesday (March 21) at 12 noon in the first of four quarterfinal games in Columbus, Ohio on the campus of Ohio Dominican University. Columbus State won its regional crown over Lincoln Memorial, 86-75.

Midwest Region champ Ashland (32-0) is the top seed. West Region champ Cal Baptist (34-2) is seeded second.

A year ago, the 28-2 Lady Panthers under first-year coach **AnnMarie Gilbert** and with Div. II Player of the Year **Kiana Johnson** leading the way, won the Atlantic Region title before a heart-breaking 53-52 loss to Bentley in the national quarterfinals.

The Lady Panthers (26-4) return this year

with senior center and CIAA Player of the Year **Lady Walker** (13.8 points, 11.3 rebounds per game) as their team leader. A strong supporting cast includes talented 6-foot forward **Alexis Johnson** (11.8 ppg., 7.6 rpg.) and 5-9 shooting guard **Jayda Luckie** (12.3 ppg.). VUU is making the run without scoring leader **Brittany Jackson** (18.4 ppg.) who did not make the trip.

Regular season SWAC women's champion **Grambling State** and regular season MEAC women's champ **Bethune-Cookman** earned automatic WNIT berths. Grambling State (18-14) travels to Ole Miss (17-13) Thursday while B-CU plays at Wake Forest (15-15).

The **Hampton** Pirates (14-16) travelled to Conway, S. C. Wednesday to take on Coastal Carolina in the College Basketball Invitational (CBI) postseason Tournament.

MEAC men's tournament runner-up **Norfolk State** fell at Liberty 73-64 Tuesday in the CollegeInsider.com Tournament (CIT). The game was labelled the *John McLendon Classic* and was the only postseason game on Monday.

2017 NCAA DIV. II BASKETBALL REGIONALS (Results and Honors)



WOMEN

ATLANTIC REGION FIRST ROUND
Virginia Union 66, Wheeling Jesuit 58
Indiana (Pa.) 59, **Johnson C. Smith** 55

SEMIFINAL
Virginia Union 62, Indiana (Pa.) 58

FINAL
Virginia Union 85, California (Pa.) 59

MVP
Lady Walker, Virginia Union

ALL TOURNAMENT
Lady Walker, Virginia Union
Alexis Johnson, Virginia Union

SOUTH REGION FIRST ROUND
Benedict 71, Valdosta State 60

SEMIFINALS
West Florida 74, **Benedict** 51

MEN

ATLANTIC REGION FIRST ROUND
Fairmont State 93, **Bowie State** 67
Shippensburg 73, **Virginia Union** 59

SOUTH REGION FIRST ROUND
Alabama-Huntsville 96, **Clark Atlanta** 81