



BCSP Photo

## BLACK PANTHERS FOREVER

**PANTHER SALUTE:** Virginia Union men and coach Jay Butler (seated far r.) among all Panthers that prevailed in CIAA and SIAC tourneys.

**CLARK ATLANTA (W), CLAFLIN (M), VIRGINIA UNION (M & W), ALL PANTHERS, WIN TOURNEY CROWNS**

### 2018 SIAC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT (Results and Tournament Honors)

#### MEN

**OPENING ROUND**  
5E Fort Valley State 88, 4W Miles 82, 4E Benedict 72, 5W LeMoyn-Owen 69  
2W Lane 80, 7E Paine 60  
3E Claflin 73, 6W Tuskegee 62  
6E Albany State 92, 3W Kentucky State 79

**QUARTERFINALS**  
1E Morehouse 82, 5E Fort Valley State 75  
4E Benedict 70, #1W Central State 66, OT  
3E Claflin 65, 2W Lane 60  
2E Clark Atlanta 57, 6E Albany State 55

**SEMIFINALS**  
3E Claflin 77, 1E Morehouse 69  
2E Clark Atlanta 74, 4E Benedict 72

**CHAMPIONSHIP**  
3E Claflin 69, 2E Clark Atlanta 61

**MOST VALUABLE PLAYER**  
Jaleel Charles, Claflin

**ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM**  
Jaleel Charles, Claflin; Brandon Morris, Benedict; Triston Thompson, Claflin; Akil Douglas, Clark Atlanta, Cairo Brown, Benedict

#### WOMEN

**OPENING ROUND**  
4W Miles 66, 5E Fort Valley State 45  
4E Benedict 80, 5W Tuskegee 69  
3E Claflin 68, 6W Lane 51  
3W Kentucky State 81, 6E Paine 58

**QUARTERFINALS**  
1E Clark Atlanta 60, 4W Miles 54  
1W Central State 78, 4E Benedict 56  
3E Claflin 58, 2W LeMoyn-Owen 55  
3W Kentucky State 71, 2E Albany State, 65, OT

**SEMIFINALS**  
1E Clark Atlanta 62, 3E Claflin 59  
1W Central State 84, 3W Kentucky State 75

**CHAMPIONSHIP**  
1E Clark Atlanta 71, 1W Central State 70

**MOST VALUABLE PLAYER**  
Marissa Mandelrove, Clark Atlanta

**ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM**  
Marissa Mandelrove, Clark Atlanta; Dominique Williams, Claflin; Britanni Rizzin, Kentucky State; Naomi Holloway, Clark Atlanta; Sierra Harley, Central State

### 2018 CIAA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT (Results and Tournament Honors)

#### MEN

**OPENING ROUND**  
5S Fayetteville State 62, 4N Lincoln 55  
4S St. Augustine's 75, 5N Chowan 55  
3S Livingstone 99, 6N Elizabeth City State 95  
3N Virginia Union 86, 6S W-Salem State 72

**QUARTERFINALS**  
1N Virginia State 49, 4S Saint Augustine's 45  
1S J. C. Smith 68, 5S Fayetteville State 58  
2N Bowie State 80, 3S Livingstone 77  
3N Virginia Union 70, 2S Shaw 68

**SEMIFINALS**  
3N Virginia Union 67, 1N Virginia State 52  
1S Johnson C. Smith 80, 2N Bowie State 71

**CHAMPIONSHIP**  
3N Virginia Union 82, 1S Johnson C. Smith 52

**MOST VALUABLE PLAYER**  
Kory Cooley, Virginia Union

**ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM**  
Todd Hughes and Kory Cooley, Virginia Union; Roddric Ross, Robert Davis III and Jonathan Curtis, Johnson C. Smith; Richard Granberry, Virginia State; Omari George, Bowie State; Cameron Burhanon, Livingstone; Willie Gilmore, Fayetteville State; Quincy January, St. Augustine's

**JOHN C. McLENDON SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD**  
Livingstone

#### WOMEN

**OPENING ROUND**  
4N Bowie State 56, 5S Shaw 47  
3N Lincoln 76, 6S Livingstone 58  
4N Chowan 75, 5S St. Augustine's 70  
3S Winston-Salem State 87, 6N Eliz. City State 67

**QUARTERFINALS**  
1N Virginia Union 89, 5N Chowan 58  
4N Bowie State 72, 1S Fayetteville State 64  
2N Virginia State 83, 3S W-Salem State 65  
3N Lincoln 58, 2S J. C. Smith 52

**SEMIFINALS**  
4N Bowie State 53, 2N Virginia State 49  
1N Virginia Union 73, 3N Lincoln 50

**CHAMPIONSHIP**  
1N Virginia Union 73, 4N Bowie State 57

**MOST VALUABLE PLAYER**  
Alexis Johnson, VUU

**ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM**  
Alexis Johnson, Shareka McNeill and Rachel Pecota, Virginia Union; Kiara Colston, Sade Chatman and Kyaja Williams, Bowie State; Chrissana Green and Alexis Smith, Virginia State; Michelle Fitzgerald, and Shequana Bailey, Lincoln

**JOHN C. McLENDON SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD**  
Lincoln

# MEAC, SWAC tourneys in full swing

## TOURNEY FINALS RECAPS

### SIAC MEN'S FINAL Claflin 69, Clark Atlanta 61

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – Six-nine senior forward **Jaleel Charles** led Claflin with 18 points, 10 rebounds and 3 assists as the 3rd-seeded Panthers (25-6) from the East Division knocked off the East's 2nd-seed Clark Atlanta 69-61 Saturday to claim its first SIAC Tournament championship.



Charles

The Panthers, the only team to beat both nationally-ranked East top seed Morehouse and Clark Atlanta in the regular season, pulled off the double wins again as they knocked off the Maroon Tigers 77-69 in the semifinals before getting their second win over CAU (24-5) in the finals.

Claflin jumped on top early, led 35-22 at the half and never trailed, pushing the lead to as much as 18 points early in the second half before CAU clawed its way back. Claflin was up 58-54 with four minutes left before outscoring CAU 11-7 down the stretch.

"I thought today we really played hard from start to finish," said Claflin head coach **Ricky Jackson**. "I actually really didn't have much to say, they knew what needed to be done. They set the goal to win this championship and they met the goal -- they did what needed to be done." Claflin's 2-3 zone defense held CAU to 35.7% (20 of 56) shooting for game including making just 3 of 19 from behind the arc.

**Benjamin Williams** with 13 points and **Triston Thompson** with 11 also scored in double-digits for Claflin. CAU was led by 14 from **Akil Douglas** with 14 and 12 each from **Jalen Mitchell** and **Damien Davis**.

### SIAC WOMEN'S FINAL Clark Atlanta 71, Central State 70

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – Senior guard **Marissa Mandelrove** scored a game-high 23 points including a go-ahead basket in the final seconds as Clark Atlanta squeezed by Central State, 71-70, in the women's SIAC Championship game Saturday.



Mandelrove

The battle was between the top seed from the East (CAU) and the top seed from the West (CSU) and featured 13 lead changes, most in the second half, and four ties.

CSU (23-6) had the upper hand early, leading 25-13 after one quarter and 38-30 at the break. CAU (20-8) came out firing in the third quarter, outscoring CSU 24-18 to cut the lead to 58-56 entering the fourth quarter. But CSU surged again and led 70-69 after a **Jaecda Davis** basket with 14 seconds left before Mandelrove, a 5-5 point guard who earned the tourney's MVP award, sliced thru the lane to score the game-winner with 3 seconds left.

CAU got 14 points from **Naomi Holloway** and 12 from **Courtney Hall**. Davis led CSU with 19 points while **Brooke Spaulding** had 17. **Sierra Harley** had 9 points and a game-high 14 rebounds.

### CIAA MEN'S FINAL Virginia Union 82, Johnson C. Smith 52

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Virginia Union, a 3rd seed from the North Division, completed a run through the top seeds in the CIAA Tournament blowing past South Division top seed **Johnson C. Smith** 82-52 in the league's championship game Saturday night.



Cooley

The Panthers (18-14) knocked off S. Div. 2nd-seed **Shaw** in the quarterfinals (70-68), sent N. Div. top seed **Virginia State** home in the semis (67-52) before demolishing JCSU in the title game.

In the championship game, VUU shot 50% from the field (28 of 56), 38.9% (7 of 18) from 3-point range and 67.9% from the line (19 of 28). Its stifling 2-3 zone defense held JCSU to 19 of 60 shooting from the field and 5 of 20 from behind the arc. The Golden Bulls also made just 9 of 17 charity tosses.

The Panthers had four of its five starters score in double digits led by senior forward **Todd Hughes** with 22 points. **Andre Walker** had 19, **William Jenkins** 16 and **Kory Cooley**, named the tournament's most valuable player, added 13 including a perfect 3 of 3 from long range.

Jenkins and Walker led VUU off the boards with 11 rebounds while Walker added four blocks. J. C. Smith point guard **Christian Kirchman** led the Golden Bulls with 12 points. He was the only JCSU player to score in double figures.

### CIAA WOMEN'S FINAL Virginia Union 73, Bowie State 57

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – Six-foot senior forwards **Alexis Johnson** and **Rachel Pecota** powered nationally-ranked tournament favorite Virginia Union to a 73-57 win over Bowie State in the championship game of the women's CIAA Basketball Tournament in Charlotte Saturday afternoon.



Johnson

Johnson, who swept the league's player and defensive player of the year awards, added the tournament MVP hardware, finishing with 21 points, a game-high 18 rebounds and five blocks in the title game. Pecota, an all-CIAA selection, took game honors with 28 points, hitting 2 of 5 from behind the arc, and grabbed 10 boards. The powerful duo controlled play in the paint and combined to sink 19 of 21 free throws.

VUU led 32-16 at the half, and 47-22 early in the third quarter before BSU (20-9) went on a 15-2 run to cut the lead to 12, 49-37, on the last basket of the period. But behind Pecota and Johnson, VUU pulled away in the final quarter.

**Kyah Proctor** led BSU with 22 points before fouling out in the final minute. **Kiara Colston** added 13 points.

### LUT WILLIAMS BCSP Editor

The MEAC Tournament in Norfolk, Va. Monday and the SWAC Tournament on home floors of the highest seeds Tuesday got under way this week.

Both had three men's teams tie for the best record during the regular season.

After coin flips and other tie-breaking procedures, here's the way this week's tourneys break out.

#### MEAC

The three MEAC teams that tied for the top spot with 12-4 records in league play were **Hampton**, **Bethune-Cookman** and **Savannah State**.

Hampton (17-14) got the top seed and automatic NIT berth by virtue of the best record (2-1) against the tied teams. B-CU (18-13) grabbed the second seed after a 1-1 record against the other two teams. Savannah State (15-16) finished 1-2 against the other two and got the third seed.

The three will get byes into the quarterfinal rounds, which will be contested Wed., March 7 and Thursday, March 8.

Hampton is led by first team all-MEAC guard **Jermaine Marrow** (19.8 ppg., 5.4 apg.). B-CU features league Player of the Year **Brandon Tabb** (18.6 ppg., 87.0% FT), Defensive Player of the Year **Soufiyane Diakite** (9.7 rpg.)

#### MEAC

FINAL	CONF			FINAL	WOMEN		
	W	L	ALL		W	L	ALL
Hampton	12	4	17	North Carolina A&T	15	1	20
Bethune-Cookman	12	4	18	Bethune-Cookman	15	1	23
Savannah State	12	4	15	Hampton	12	4	16
North Carolina A&T	11	5	18	Norfolk State	11	5	18
Norfolk State	11	5	13	Morgan State	8	8	16
N. Carolina Central	9	7	15	Howard	8	8	12
Morgan State	7	9	11	Md. E. Shore	7	9	10
Howard	7	9	10	N. Carolina Central	7	9	20
Florida A&M	7	9	8	SC State	6	10	11
SC State	6	10	10	Delaware State	5	11	6
Coppin State	5	11	5	Coppin State	5	11	6
Md. E. Shore	3	13	7	Florida A&M	4	12	7
Delaware State	2	14	4	Savannah State	1	15	5

and two other all-MEAC players in junior guard **Isaiah Bailey** (16.5 ppg., 4.9 apg.) and junior forward **Shawntrez Davis** (14.9 ppg., 8.7 rpg.). Savannah State is the league's highest scoring team at 87 points per game and boasts two senior all-MEAC guards in **Dexter McClanahan** (15.4 ppg) and **Alante Fenner** (14.4 ppg.).



MEAC  
March 5-10

**MEN**  
OPENING ROUND - 3/5  
NC A&T 62, Delaware State 61  
#5 Norfolk St. vs. #12 UMES - 9p  
OPENING ROUND - 3/6  
#8 Howard vs. #9 Florida A&M - 4p  
#6 NC Central vs. #11 Coppin St. - 6:30p  
#7 Morgan St. vs. #10 SC State - 9p  
QUARTERFINALS - 3/7  
#1 Hampton vs. HU/FAMU - 6p  
#4 NC A&T vs. #5 Norfolk St. - 8p  
QUARTERFINALS - 3/8  
#3 Sav. St. vs. NCCU/CSU - 6p  
#2 B-Cookman vs. MSU/SCSU - 6p  
SEMIFINALS - 3/9  
6 p.m. & 8 p.m.  
CHAMPIONSHIP - 3/10  
1 p.m.

**WOMEN**  
OPENING ROUND - 3/5  
Savannah St. 51, Norfolk State 48  
Florida A&M 69, Howard 64  
Morgan State 58, Coppin State 51  
OPENING ROUND - 3/6  
#6 NC Central vs. #9 SC St. - 11a  
#7 UMES vs. #10 DelState - 1:30p  
QUARTERFINALS - 3/7  
#1 NC A&T vs. NCCU/SCSU - 12n  
#2 B-Cookman vs. UMES/DSU - 2p  
QUARTERFINALS - 3/8  
#3 Hampton vs. #6 Morgan State - 12n  
#12 Florida A&M vs. #13 Sav. St. - 2p  
SEMIFINALS - 3/9  
12 noon & 2 p.m.  
CHAMPIONSHIP - 3/10  
3:30 p.m.

### Norfolk State downed 12th-seed Maryland Eastern Shore, 78-68.

On the women's side, **North Carolina A&T** and **Bethune-Cookman** tied for the top spot with 15-1 MEAC records. A&T (20-8) is the top seed based on its head-to-head win over B-CU (23-5). **Hampton** (16-13, 12-4), is the third seed and joins the top seeds with byes into Wednesday and Thursday's quarterfinals.

Upsets Monday saw **Savannah State** the 13th and last seed, upset 4th-seed **Norfolk State** 51-48, while 12th seed **Florida A&M** knocked off 5th-seed **Howard**, 69-64. 6th-seed **Morgan State** defeated No. 11 **Coppin State**, 56-51.

#### SWAC



SWAC  
March 6, 9-10

**MEN**  
QUARTERFINALS - 3/6  
#8 Miss. Valley St. @ #1 Ark-Pine Bluff  
#7 Alcorn St. @ #2 Prairie View A&M  
#6 Alabama St. @ #3 Texas Southern  
#5 Jackson St. @ #4 Southern  
SEMIFINALS - 3/9  
2:30 p.m. & 8:30 p.m.  
FINALS - 3/10  
4 p.m.

**WOMEN**  
QUARTERFINALS - 3/6  
#8 Arkansas-Pine Bluff @ #1 Southern  
#7 Alabama State @ #2 Texas Southern  
#6 Alcorn State @ #3 Grambling State  
#5 Jackson State @ #4 Prairie View  
SEMIFINALS - 3/9  
GSU/ALC vs. TSU/ALAB - 12n  
SUU/APB vs. PV/JSU - 6p  
FINALS - 3/10  
12:30 p.m.

### Grambling State (17-15, 13-5 SWAC) won the regular season title but is ineligible for the SWAC Tournament. That has left three teams – **Prairie View A&M**, **Arkansas-Pine Bluff** and **Texas Southern** – tied for the top spot with 12-6 records. UAPB's 3-1 record against TSU (12-19) and PV (15-17) earned the Golden Lions (12-19) the first seed and automatic NIT bid.

The three along with fourth-place **Southern** (14-17, 10-8) hosted opening round quarterfinal games on their home floors Tuesday. The winners will move to Houston on Friday for semifinal action and Saturday for the title games.

Ditto for the women whose top seed is **Southern** (15-12, 14-4). **Texas Southern** and **Grambling State** finished tied for second at 13-5.

**SWAC**  
SOUTHWESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

FINAL	MEN			FINAL	WOMEN		
	DIV	W	L		DIV	W	L
Grambling State	13	5	17	Southern	14	4	15
Prairie View A&M	12	6	15	Texas Southern	13	5	18
Texas Southern	12	6	12	Grambling State	13	5	16
Ark.-Pine Bluff	12	6	12	Prairie View A&M	12	6	14
Southern	10	8	14	Jackson State	10	8	15
Jackson State	9	9	12	Alcorn State	8	10	12
Alabama State	8	10	22	Alabama A&M	6	12	11
Alcorn State	7	11	20	Ark.-Pine Bluff	6	12	8
Miss. Valley State	4	14	27	Alabama State	6	12	8
xAlabama A&M	3	15	3	Miss.Valley State	2	16	28

x Ineligible for SWAC Tourney

## Nine teams in D2 playoff fields

Nine black college teams, five men's teams and four women's teams, were selected to the 64-team fields for the NCAA Div. II national basketball playoffs and three will serve as hosts when regional play begins this week.

The **Virginia State** men and **Virginia Union** women out of the CIAA will be the top seeds and will be hosting their respective Atlantic Regionals while **Morehouse** of the SIAC will be the top seed and host of the men's South Regional.

Of the three hosting institutions, only the 28-2 Virginia Union women emerged from conference tournament play last week as champions. The Lady Panthers took the CIAA championship over **Bowie State** (73-57) Saturday in Charlotte.

The Virginia State and Morehouse men earned their top seeds by virtue of their excellent records and play in the regular season.

The 24-4 Virginia State men, who went into the CIAA tournament ranked first in the Atlantic Region, were felled in the CIAA semifinals by eventual champion **Virginia Union** (18-14). The men of **Morehouse** (25-2), who entered the SIAC tournament ranked first in the South Region, were knocked off in the SIAC semifinals by eventual champion **Claflin** (25-6).

CIAA men's champion Virginia Union received an 8th seed and will join Virginia State in the Atlantic Regional in Richmond, Va. The two will have a rematch of VUU's 67-52 win in the CIAA semis in a 5 p.m. first round game on Saturday. VSU swept two regular season games vs. VUU.

Top seed Morehouse will face 8th-seed Florida Southern (21-11) in a first round men's South Region game Saturday at 5 p.m. in Atlanta. SIAC Tournament champion and 3rd-seed **Claflin** will face SIAC tournament runner-up and 5th-seed **Clark Atlanta** again Saturday in a first round game at 12 noon. Claflin defeated Clark Atlanta 69-61 Saturday in the SIAC championship game.

The ladies of Virginia Union will have a rematch with CIAA tournament runner-up, 8th-seed Bowie State Friday at 5 p.m. in an Atlantic Region quarterfinal game.

The 22-5 women of Virginia State, who lost to Bowie State in the CIAA semifinals, are seeded fifth and will take on 4th-seed Edinboro (26-3) in Friday's 7 p.m. quarterfinal contest.

In the women's South Regional, SIAC Tournament champ **Clark Atlanta** (20-8) is seeded 8th and will take on top seed and host Union (28-3) Friday at 6 p.m.

### 2018 ALL-SWAC BASKETBALL SELECTIONS

#### MEN

**FIRST TEAM G** – Martaveous McKnight, UAPB; Ivy Smith Jr., GSU; F – Zachary Hamilton, PV A&M; Dante Scott, MVSU; C – Jared Sam, SU

**SECOND TEAM G** – Gary Blackston, PV A&M; A.J. Mosby, ALC; F – Trent Steen, UAPB; Shirmane Thomas, GSU; C – J.D. Wallace, PV A&M

**PLAYER OF THE YEAR**  
Martaveous McKnight, Arkansas-Pine Bluff

**DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR**  
Trent Steen, Arkansas-Pine Bluff

**NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR**  
Martaveous McKnight, Arkansas-Pine Bluff

**FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR**  
Jacoby Ross, Alabama State

**COACH OF THE YEAR**  
Donte' Jackson, Grambling State

#### WOMEN

**FIRST TEAM G** – Joyce Kennerson, TSU; Shakyla Hill, GSU; F – Briana Green, SU; Monisha Neal, GSU; C – Tatyana Calhoun, ALABST

**SECOND TEAM G** – Shala Dobbins, PV A&M; Alexis Freeman, ALC; F – Faith Ohanta, UAPB; Miracle Rushing, ALC; C – Shawntayia Harris, UAPB

**PLAYER OF THE YEAR**  
Joyce Kennerson, Texas Southern

**DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR**  
Briana Green, Southern

**NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR**  
Shala Dobbins, Prairie View A&M

**FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR**  
Jhyrah Cobb, Prairie View A&M

**COACH OF THE YEAR**  
Sandy Pugh, Southern

### 2018 ALL-MEAC BASKETBALL SELECTIONS

#### MEN

**FIRST TEAM** RJ Cole, Fr., G, HU; Brandon Tabb, Sr., G, B-CU; Jermaine Marrow, So., G, HAMP; Phillip Carr, Sr., F, MSU; Charles Williams, So., F, HU

**SECOND TEAM** Desmond Williams, Sr., F, FAMU, Femi Olujobi, Jr., C, NCA&T; Dexter McClanahan, Jr., G, SSU; Shawntrez Davis, Jr., F/C, B-CU; Rasean Davis, Jr., C, NCCU.

**THIRD TEAM** Isaiah Bailey, Jr., G, B-CU; Alante Fenner, Sr., G, SSU; Devaris McGowens, Sr., F, NCA&T; Denzel Keyes, Sr., F, NCA&T; Lamar Morgan, Jr., G/F, CSU

**PLAYER OF THE YEAR:** Brandon Tabb, B-CU  
**ROOKIE OF THE YEAR:** RJ Cole, Howard  
**DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:** Soufiyane Diakite, B-CU  
**COACH OF THE YEAR:** Jay Joyner, NC A&T State

**ALL-ROOKIE TEAM** RJ Cole, HOW; Miryone Thomas, UMES; Kameron Langley, NCA&T; Jordan Perkins, NCCU; Reggie Gardner, Jr. NCCU

#### WOMEN

**FIRST TEAM** NaJai Pollard, Jr., F, DSU; Kayla Roberts, Sr., G/F NSU; Angel Golden, Jr., F, B-CU; Genesis Lucas, r-Sr., G, CSU; Ashanti Hunt, Jr., G, B-CU

**SECOND TEAM** Monnazjea Finney-Smith, Sr., G/F, HAMP; Chance Graham, So., F, CSU; Kaylee Aalen, Jr., G, SSU; C'Coriea Foy, So., G, NCA&T; Bryeasha Blair, Gr., G, SCSU

**THIRD TEAM** Florence Quattara, Sr., G/F, FAMU; Lexus Spears, Sr., F, MSU; Alexis Lesssears, So., C, NCA&T; Rodneysha Martin, Sr., G, NCCU; Jephany Brown, Sr., F/G, HAMP

**PLAYER OF THE YEAR:** Angel Golden, B-CU  
**ROOKIE OF THE YEAR:** Bairesha Gill-Miles, UMES  
**DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR:** Ashanti Hunt, B-CU  
**COACH OF THE YEAR:** Vanessa Blair-Lewis, B-CU

**ALL-ROOKIE TEAM** Kieche White, G, NCCU; Bairesha Gill-Miles, F, UMES; Brianna Battle, G, B-CU; Armani