

BLACK COLLEGE PAGE

SPORTS



Texas Southern Sports Photos

GO DOWN SHOOTING: Texas Southern senior Kaitlyn Palmer tallied 29 points as the Lady Tigers fell at home in the postseason WBI.

IN AND OUT

SIAC COMMISH RE-UPPED; CLAFLIN FROM SIAC TO CIAA; WILHELMI OUT AT WSSU; HOPKINS IN AT SHAW

POSTSEASON TOURNAMENT RECAPS

NCAA DIV. I MEN

WEST REGION - FIRST FOUR

Texas Southern 64, North Carolina Central 46

DAYTON, OH – In the NCAA Div. I Basketball Tournament version of the *Celebration Bowl*, SWAC Tournament champion **Texas Southern** rode 25 points from point guard **Demontrae Jefferson** in pulling away from MEAC Tournament champion **North Carolina Central** 64-46 in a First Four game Wednesday night.



Jefferson

The teams came in as 16th-seeds in the West Region. TSU (16-19) won the SWAC Tournament as a 3rd-seed while NCCU captured the MEAC title as a 6th-seed. Their match up was the first time two black college teams met in an NCAA Tournament play-in or First Four game.

NCCU (19-16) stayed with the Tigers in the first half behind **Raasean Davis's** 16 first-half points and trailed 36-26 at the break. But the Eagles hit just 8 of 34 second-half shots (23.5%). Davis was the only Eagle to finish in double-figures with 19 points.

Donte Clark had 18 points for TSU while **Trayvon Reed** had 10 points and tied for the team-high with Jefferson with 8 rebounds. The win was the first ever for TSU in the NCAA Tournament.

WEST REGION - SECOND ROUND

#1 Xavier 102, Texas Southern 83

NASHVILLE, TN – West Region top seed Xavier had three players top 20 points as they ran past SWAC champion **Texas Southern**, 102-83 Friday in a second round NCAA Tournament game. J. P. Macura tied his career-high with 29 points, Trevon Bluiett had 26 and Kerem Kanter tied his career-high with 24 as the Big East regular season champ Musketeers (29-5) advanced.

Demontrae Jefferson scored 20 points to lead five Tigers in double figures. **Derrick Bruce** had 18, **Robert Lewis** had 14, **Donte Clark** had 12 and **Trayvon Reed** got 10.

TSU finishes the season at 16-20

COLLEGE INSIDER TOURNAMENT - CIT

Liberty 65, North Carolina A&T 52

LYNCHBURG, VA. – Big South Tournament runner-up Liberty avenged a loss in the 2013 NCAA Tournament as they downed the **North Carolina A&T Aggies** 65-52 in a first round CIT Tournament game last Monday. **Aaren Edmead** was the only player to score in double figures for the Aggies (20-15) with 14 points. Center **Femi Olujobi** had 8 points and 10 rebounds.

NATIONAL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT - NIT

#1 Notre Dame 84, #8 Hampton 63

SOUTH BEND, IND – NIT top seed Notre Dame (20-15) was too much for MEAC regular season titlist **Hampton**, downing the Pirates 84-63 in a first round game. **Jermaine Marrow** led the Pirates (20-15) with 21 points but made just 8 of 25 shots. **Trevond Barnes** had 13 rebounds.

NCAA DIV. I WOMEN

ALBANY REGION - FIRST ROUND

#2 South Carolina 63, #15 North Carolina A&T 52

COLUMBIA, SC – MEAC regular season and tournament champion **North Carolina A&T** fought 2nd-seed and defending NCAA champ South Carolina down to the final minutes before falling to the Lady Gamecocks, 63-52 in a first round regional game Friday.

Behind a valiant effort led by MEAC Tournament MVP **Kala Green**, the Lady Aggies (23-9) cut what had been a comfortable 20-point second-half lead down to 7 in the final minutes before USC (27-6) finished the game. Green, who finished with a game-high 21 points, hit back-to-back threes and scored on a layup to cut the lead to 53-45 with 6:50 remaining. Her final three at the 3:22 mark cut the lead to 58-51 but that was as close as the Lady Aggies would get. **Shantell Bostick** added 15 points for the Aggies. Aja Wilson led South Carolina with 19 points and a game-high 16 rebounds. Bianca Jackson had 16 points.



Green

LEXINGTON REGION - FIRST ROUND

#2 Baylor 96, # 15 Grambling State 46

WACO, TX – Top-seed Baylor got 30 points and 17 rebounds from Lauren Cox, 22 points and 15 rebounds from Kalani Brown and two others scored in double digits in running past SWAC Tournament champion **Grambling State**, 96-46 Friday. The much taller Baylor squad (32-1) shot 52.1% for the game and out-rebounded the Lady Tigers (19-14), 60-26.

Grambling shot just 25.4% from the field. SWAC Tourney MVP **Shakyla Hill** shot 3 of 18 and finished with 10 points. The Lady Tigers were led by **Jazmin Boyd's** 20 points.

WOMEN'S NIT - FIRST ROUND

Alabama 69, Southern 56

TUSCALOOSA, ALA. – Alabama got 19 points and 12 rebounds from Ashley Williams to down **Southern** 69-56 in a first round WNIT game. Southern (17-14), who stayed close and trailed just 33-30 at the half, got 16 points from **Jaden Tower** and 15 from **Alyric Scott**.

WOMEN'S NIT - FIRST ROUND

#1 Georgia Tech 89, Bethune-Cookman 36

ATLANTA, GA – **Bethune-Cookman** (24-7) scored just nine field goals shooting 19.6% (9 of 46) from the field in being overwhelmed by Georgia Tech, 89-36. No Lady Wildcat reached double figures in scoring.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL INVITATIONAL (WBI) - FIRST ROUND

Weber State 66, Texas Southern 56

ATLANTA, GA – Playing at home, **Texas Southern** (19-13) led 48-46 after three periods but was outscored 20-8 in the final period to fall 66-56 to Weber State (21-10). TSU senior guard **Kaitlyn Palmer** had 29 points to lead the Lady Tigers.

Claflin leaving SIAC, joining CIAA

ORANGEBURG, S.C. ---- After notifying the **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC)** of its decision to exit, **Claflin University** has announced that it is joining the **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA)**, commencing July 1, 2018.

President **Henry N. Tisdale** said the decision to move to the conference headquartered in Charlotte, N. C. was made after careful consideration of potential benefits.

"We believe this is a win-win situation for the University and our student-athletes," Tisdale said. "The CIAA aligns with our institutional profile and the proximity of its members to Orangeburg is very attractive for our alumni and supporters."

Claflin raised its athletic program profile when it became a NCAA Division II member in 2008 and concurrently joined the SIAC. Claflin sponsors men's basketball, women's basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball, men's and women's indoor track and field, men's and women's outdoor track and field, and men's and women's cross country.

Since joining the SIAC, Claflin has won championships in volleyball, baseball, softball and men's basketball. The Panthers' men's basketball team recently won the 2018 championship. An impressive number of student-athletes have won top individual honors, including qualifying for the Rio Olympics.

"It is my pleasure to welcome Claflin University's administration, student-athletes, staff, alumni, and fans to the CIAA," said **Jacqie McWilliams**, CIAA Commissioner. "The institution is a fit for our conference



based on their location within our demographic region and commitment to sponsoring sports programs that bring competitive and championship growth in the CIAA. They will expand our footprint into the South Carolina market and reinforce our commitment to the student-athlete experience and employ strategies that engage alumni and fans within the region to support our mission and vision.

"The CIAA is committed to sponsoring a range of male and female sports programs that bring competitive and championship growth within the conference and to the regions that all our participating schools represent," said CIAA Board of Directors Chair and **Fayetteville State University** Chancellor **Dr. James A. Anderson**. "The CIAA will seek to sponsor additional men's sports like baseball and tennis to maintain a healthy number of automatic qualifications. The addition of Claflin University allows the conference to facilitate this goal while expanding our geographical footprint."

The addition of Claflin increases the number of institutions in the CIAA to 13. The move reduces the SIAC to 13 member institutions.

Because Claflin does not field a football team, the number of CIAA gridiron teams will stay at 12. Paving the way for Claflin's admission, he CIAA passed a provision last year that allows for an institution to join the conference without fielding a football team.

"This is a new day for Claflin University," President Tisdale said. "We look forward to continuing our success in athletics with all the administrative support we can provide. Our student-athletes deserve nothing less."

BCSP Notes

Wilhelmi let go at WSSU

Winston-Salem State has reportedly decided not to renew the contract of four-year head men's basketball coach **James Wilhelmi**.

According to Monday's *Winston-Salem Journal*, Wilhelmi met with athletics director **Tonia Walker** on Monday and was told that WSSU would not renew his contract. Wilhelmi's four-year contract that paid him \$95,000 a year expires May 31.

"I want to express my appreciation to Coach Wilhelmi for seven years of commitment to the program," Walker said in a statement. "This was a difficult decision, and we wish James nothing but the best for his future. We have tremendous expectations for our Rams men's basketball program at Winston-Salem State University, and I believe we can achieve great things within the **Central Intercollegiate Athletics Association**."

The Rams struggled to a 5-22 record this past season under Wilhelmi, losing 14 of their last 15 games. They finished 1-9 against CIAA South Division teams and 3-13 in conference play. It was Wilhelmi's fourth season as head coach after spending three seasons as the associate head coach for former head coach **Bobby Collins**.

Wilhelmi reportedly met with the team Monday to share the news of his termination.

Wilhelmi was 47-63 in his four years which began with a 18-11 2014-15 season including a promising run to the CIAA Tournament championship game vs. **Livingstone**. The Rams lost in the title game to Livingstone, 106-91.

Since that time however, Wilhelmi and the Rams have not put together a winning season going 11-17 in 2015-16 and 13-14 in 2016-17. The 5-22 record this year was the worst for the Rams since the beginning of their brief dalliance with moving to NCAA Div. I status and the **Mid Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC)** in the 2006-07 season. WSSU played a Div. I MEAC schedule from 2007 through the 2009-10 season before returning to the CIAA and Div. II in 2010-11.

Andrew Brown was named the interim head coach by Walker. Assistant **Paul Davis**, a former WSSU player, also remains on staff until a new head coach is hired.

Hopkins extended at Shaw

RALEIGH, N.C. – **Shaw University** announced Tuesday that men's basketball head coach **Joel Hopkins** has signed a three-year contract extension.

Hopkins led the Bears to a tie for the CIAA Southern Division title with an 8-2 record, the second year he won the division title, while finishing 12-4 in CIAA play. The Bears were 20-9 overall and had two players selected to the All-CIAA team.

"The University is so pleased to extend the contract of Coach Joel Hopkins," said Interim President **Paulette Dillard**. "Coach Hopkins is an incredibly talented basketball coach, and he excels as a life coach for the young men on his team. He is constantly reminding me about the importance of the whole individual not just as a student athlete."

Since his return to the helm of the men's basketball program, Hopkins has compiled a record of 46-39 overall. In addition, Hopkins has garnered two CIAA Southern Division titles and five players named to the All-CIAA Team.

Hopkins a native of Bunn, N.C., previously served as Shaw's men's basketball coach from 2000-2002. In his first stint, he led the program to a two year record of 43-15 overall including a run in the 2001-02 season to the NCAA Div. II Final Four.

For his career, Hopkins has a record of 88-54 overall.

Earnest Wilson out at ECSU

Earnest Wilson was fired as the head football coach at **Elizabeth City State** last week af-



Wilhelmi



Hopkins



Wilson

ter two seasons leading the program.

ECSU announced the change in a news release late last Wednesday morning. Wilson confirmed the dismissal to *The Daily Advance* on Wednesday afternoon.

Tim Orr, who served as an assistant coach on Wilson's staff for the 2017 season, will oversee the football program in the interim.

"We thank coach Wilson for his service to our team, and to the ECSU family and we wish him the best. ECSU is heading in a new direction and we are excited about what's ahead," said outgoing ECSU chancellor **Thomas Conway** in the news release.

Wilson compiled a 9-11 overall record with a 6-8 mark in **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association** games in two seasons. His contract with ECSU was set to expire on June 30.

At his previous head coaching job at **Savannah State**, Wilson compiled a 2-32 record in three seasons leading the Tigers.

During the 2016 campaign, Wilson helped end ECSU's three-year losing streak at the *Down East Viking Football Classic* in Rocky Mount by defeating **Morehouse** 35-30.

The 2017 campaign appeared to have promise as ECSU began the season with a 3-1 record, which included a 45-42 victory against **Fayetteville State** at the Down East Viking Classic. The Vikings lost five of their final six games to end the season with a 4-6 record and 2-5 mark in the CIAA.

St. Aug's men's track team honored at NCAA game

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The **Saint Augustine's University** men's track and field team was honored at halftime of the University of North Carolina-Texas A&M University men's basketball tournament game at the Spectrum Center on Sunday, March 18.

The Falcons were highlighted for winning the 2017 NCAA Division II Men's Outdoor Track and Field Championship in Bradenton, Fla., in May.

On Sunday, a crowd of nearly 18,500 applauded the track and field team, which stood at midcourt as its accomplishments were blared over the public address system.

The outdoor title was the fifth in a row for the Falcons' men. Overall, the SAU track and field program has captured 39 NCAA men's and women's crowns under legendary Head Coach **George Williams**.

"It is always great when our team is being recognized," said Williams, who has won the most NCAA track and field championships of any coach. "We really appreciate the NCAA for recognizing us. The kids really enjoyed the moment."

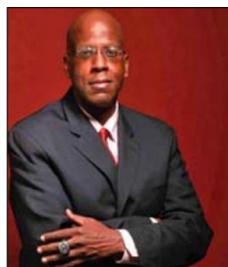
The SAU men's track and field team was represented by **Shaquille Dill**, **Taylor Eubanks**, **Jumonne Exeter**, **Shawn Rowe**, Williams and Assistant Coach **Sandy Chapman**.



TRACKSTERS: Head coach George Williams (l.) and Asst. Coach Sandy Chapman (far. r.) with St. Aug's Indoor Track team.

SIAC extends Commissioner Greg Moore

ATLANTA, Ga – **SIAC** Commissioner, **Gregory Moore**, and the **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC)** Council of Presidents have agreed to a five-year contract extension, announced recently by the league office.



Since his appointment by the Council of Presidents in 2009 as the league's fourth full-time Commissioner, the SIAC has continued its 15-year streak of ranking first in average football attendance, created a football championship game, added the sport of golf, and added three member institutions – **Central State University**, **Spring Hill College**, and soon to be joining **Savannah State University**.

"The Presidents Council of the SIAC has been very pleased with the work of Commissioner Gregory Moore across all sectors.

In fact, this leadership in financial matters and in marketing the conference has been transformational. The Council extended his contract with a unanimous vote," President **George T. French, Jr.** said. "As the incoming Chair, we look forward to the continuation of his outstanding leadership and the advancement of the SIAC over the next five years."

"I am extremely grateful for the trust accorded me by the SIAC Council of Presidents," Moore said. "My staff and I look forward to continuing our daily effort to identify creative and innovative opportunities to leverage intercollegiate athletics to advance the overarching objectives of our member institutions and enhance the experiences of our student-athletes."