



BCSP Photo

**McLENDON'S GHOST:** The late great pioneer and innovator has his shadow cast over both the NCAA and CIT Tournaments this week. Read on.

**PLAY ON,  
PLAY IN**

**SWAC & MEAC LADY CHAMPS PLAY TOP SEEDS, MEN PLAY TO MEET SAME; SEVEN OTHERS PLAYING ON**

**2019 SWAC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS (Results & Honors)**

<p><b>MEN QUARTERFINALS</b> #1 Pr. View A&amp;M 86, #8 Alcorn State 66 #2 Texas Southern 80, #7 Southern 70 #6 Alabama St. 57, #3 Jackson St. 49 #4 Grambling St. 59, #5 Ark.-PB 52</p> <p><b>SEMIFINALS</b> #1 Pr. View A&amp;M 81, #4 Grambling St. 71 #2 Tex. Southern 80, #6 Alabama St. 66</p> <p><b>FINALS</b> #1 <b>Prairie View A&amp;M</b> 92, #2 Texas Southern 86</p> <p><b>MOST VALUABLE PLAYER</b> Gary Blackston, Prairie View A&amp;M</p> <p><b>ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM</b> Gary Blackston, Prairie View A&amp;M Devonte Patterson, Prairie View A&amp;M Dennis Jones, Prairie View A&amp;M Jalyn Patterson, Texas Southern Jeremy Combs, Texas Southern</p>	<p><b>WOMEN QUARTERFINALS</b> #1 Southern 51, #8 Miss. Valley St. 44 #2 Pr. View A&amp;M 69, #7 Alab. A&amp;M 56 #3 Jackson St. 75, #6 Alabama St. 59 #4 Grambling St. 72, #5 Tex. S'thern 61</p> <p><b>SEMIFINALS</b> #1 Southern 71, #4 Grambling State 69 #3 Jackson St. 75, #2 Pr. View A&amp;M 63</p> <p><b>FINALS</b> #1 <b>Southern</b> 45, #3 Jackson State 41</p> <p><b>MOST VALUABLE PLAYER</b> Alyric Scott, Southern</p> <p><b>ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM</b> Shakyla Hill, Grambling State Alyric Scott, Southern Courtney Parsons, Southern Marneisha Hamer, Jackson State Christina Ellis, Jackson State</p>
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**2019 MEAC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS (Results & Honors)**

<p><b>MEN OPENING ROUND</b> #11 Delaware St. 71, #6 Sav. St. 67 #9 SC State 63, #8 Md.-E. Shore 54 #7 Coppin St. 81, #10 Morgan State 71</p> <p><b>QUARTERFINALS</b> #1 Norfolk State 78, #9 SC State 73 #2 NC A&amp;T 82, #7 Coppin State 79 #3 NC Central 75, #11 Delaware St. 57 #4 Howard 80, #5 Beth.-Cookman 71</p> <p><b>SEMIFINALS</b> #1 Norfolk State 75, #4 Howard 69 #3 NCCU 65, #2 NC A&amp;T 63</p> <p><b>FINALS</b> #3 NC Central 50, #1 Norfolk State 47</p> <p><b>MOST OUTSTANDING PLAYER</b> Raasean Davis, NC Central</p> <p><b>ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM</b> Raasean Davis &amp; Jacarry Douglas, NCCU; Mastadi Pitt, &amp; Steven Whitley, NSU, Kam Langley, NC A&amp;T</p> <p><b>OUTSTANDING COACH</b> LeVelle Moton NC Central</p>	<p><b>WOMEN OPENING ROUND</b> #5 Howard 59, #12 Florida A&amp;M 53 #11 Coppin St. 50, #6 Morgan St. 48 #9 NC Central 80, #8 Delaware St. 64 #7 SC State 62, #10 Savannah St. 53</p> <p><b>QUARTERFINALS</b> #1 NC A&amp;T 79, #9 NC Central 49 #2 Md.-E. Shore 57, #7 SC State 34 #3 B-Cookman 55, #11 Coppin State 49 #4 Norfolk State 72, #5 Howard 51</p> <p><b>SEMIFINALS</b> #4 Norfolk State 60, #1 NC A&amp;T 43 #3 B-Cookman 58, #2 UMES 47</p> <p><b>FINALS</b> #3 Beth.-Cookman 57, #4 Norfolk St. 45</p> <p><b>MOST OUTSTANDING PLAYER</b> Angel Golden, Bethune-Cookman</p> <p><b>ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM</b> Angel Golden, &amp; Chasimmie Brown, B-CU; La'Deja James &amp; Dana Echols, NSU; Ciani Byrom, UMES</p> <p><b>OUTSTANDING COACH</b> Vanessa Blair-Lewis, Bethune-Cookman</p>
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**BASKETBALL  
TOURNEY RESULTS**

<p><b>WOMEN</b> ATLANTIC REGION - QUARTERFINALS - Glenville St. 67, <b>Bowie State</b> 60 <b>Virginia Union</b> 83, Edinboro 71 - SEMIFINALS - Indiana (Pa) 66, <b>Va. Union</b> 58</p> <p>SOUTH REGION - QUARTERFINALS - Florida Southern 89, <b>Lane</b> 57</p>	<p><b>MEN</b> ATLANTIC REGION - QUARTERFINALS - <b>Virginia State</b> 89, Notre Dame (OH) 81 - SEMIFINALS - W. Liberty 82, <b>Virginia State</b> 80</p> <p>SOUTH REGION - QUARTERFINALS - Nova Southeastern 80, <b>Miles</b> 66</p>
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**No. 1 seeds await MEAC/SWAC hoops champs**

**LUT WILLIAMS**  
BCSP Editor

The men's and women's basketball champions of the **Mid Eastern Athletic Conference** and **Southwestern Athletic Conference** again face some tall tasks as NCAA Div. I championship play begins this week.

What they, all 16th seeds, are facing, eventually, are teams considered the cream of the crop in Div. I college basketball – the top seeds in their regions and tournaments.

Three of the head coaches – **Prairie View A&M's** men's coach **Byron Smith**, **Southern women's** coach **Carlos Funchess** and **Bethune-Cookman's** women's coach **Vanessa Blair-Lewis** – will be taking their first teams to the NCAA tournament.

Tenth-year **North Carolina Central** men's head coach **LeVelle Moton** is the veteran of the group, taking his fourth team and third straight to the Big Dance.



Smith



Funchess

**BLACK COLLEGES IN  
2019 DIV. I NCAA TOURNAMENT**

**MEN**  
FIRST FOUR / WEST REGION on truTV  
TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 6:40 P.M. (EDT) - DAYTON, OH  
#16 **Prairie View A&M** (22-12) vs. #16 Fairleigh Dickinson (20-13)  
winner vs. #1 Gonzaga (30-3) on  
THURS., MARCH 21, 7:27 P.M. (EDT) in SALT LAKE CITY, UT on truTV

FIRST FOUR / EAST REGION on truTV  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 6:40 P.M. (EDT) - DAYTON, OH  
#16 **Noth Carolina Central** (18-15) vs. #16 N. Dakota State (18-15)  
winner vs. #1 Duke (29-5) on  
FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 7:10 P.M. (EDT) in COLUMBIA, SC on truTV

**WOMEN**  
PORTLAND REGION on ESPN2  
FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 9:00 P.M. (EDT) - STARKSVILLE, MS  
#16 **Southern** (20-12) @ #1 Mississippi State (30-2)

CHICAGO REGION on ESPN2  
SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 11:00 A.M. (EDT) - SOUTH BEND, IND.  
#16 **Bethune-Cookman** (21-10) @ #1 Notre Dame (30-3)



Moton



Blair-Lewis

**TOURNEY CHAMPIONSHIP GAME RECAPS**

**SWAC MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP**

**Prairie View A&M** 92, Texas Southern 86

BIRMINGHAM – Top-seed **Prairie View A&M** and second seed **Texas Southern** battled back and fourth, down to the wire through seven second-half ties and lead changes before the Panthers emerged with a thrilling victory in the **SWAC** championship game here Saturday.

The teams were last tied at 85 with just :38 seconds left after TSU center **Trayvon Reed** scored on a layup. **Devonte Patterson** canned two free throws with :32 seconds left to give Prairie View a lead that it held on to.

After a TSU turnover, **Taishon Johnson** added another pair of free throws with :23 seconds left to stretch the margin to four. TSU would get just one more free throw from **Jalyn Patterson** while **Dennis Jones** nailed three in the waning seconds for the Panthers (22-12).

Jones and **Gary Blackston** each had 17 points to lead Prairie View who had four others (Gerard Andrus 12, Darius Williams 11, Johnson 11, Patterson 10) score in double-digits. Blackston was named tournament MVP.



Blackston

TSU (21-13) was led by 24 points from Patterson, 18 from **Devocio Butler**, 16 from **Tyrek Armstrong** and 13 points and 10 rebounds from **Jeremy Combs**.

**SWAC WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP**

**Southern** 45, Jackson State 41

BIRMINGHAM, AL – **Jackson State** and **Southern** also battled down to the wire, but unlike the men's championship, the women's title game was a low-scoring affair with Southern pulling away late to grab its first women's title and NCAA berth since 2010 and first under new head coach **Carlos Funchess**.

The deciding stretch for the top-seeded Lady Jags (20-12) came after the teams were tied at 36 with 3:40 to play. Tournament MVP **Alyric Scott** sandwiched two inside baskets around **Courtney Parsons** 3-pointer that put SU up 43-39 with 1:36 to play. JSU (18-14) could manage just two **Christina Ellis** free throws over the final minute, missing four 3-point attempts over the last 30 seconds.



Scott

Scott scored 12 of her team-high 14 points after halftime and had 15 rebounds to lead the Lady Jaguars.

**Marneisha Hamer** had 17 points and Ellis had 12 to lead JSU.

**MEAC MEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP**

**North Carolina Central** 50, Norfolk State 47

NORFOLK, VA – Down ten points at the half, third-seed **North Carolina Central** held top seed **Norfolk State** to just 15 second-half points to come back and knock off the Spartans and claim their third straight **MEAC** Tournament title and NCAA playoff berth.

Leading 32-22 at the break, NSU (21-13) made just 4 of 17 second half shots (23.5%) as NCCU (17-15) walked down the Spartans, tying the score at 34 on a 3-point basket by **Zacarry Douglas** with over 15 minutes left before taking a 36-35 lead it did not surrender on a **Jordan Perkins** jumper at the 14:33 mark.



Davis

The Eagles grabbed their biggest lead at 47-40 on a thunderous follow-dunk by tourney Most Outstanding Player **Raasean Davis** with 8:17 left on the clock. NSU closed to 50-47 in the final two minutes but did not score again.

Douglas led the Eagles with 10 points and pulled down 12 rebounds, while Davis had 8 points and a game-high 14 rebounds. **Mastadi Pitt** led NSU with 14 points.

**MEAC WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP**

**Bethune-Cookman** 57, Norfolk State 45

NORFOLK, VA – Third-seeded **Bethune-Cookman** outscored fourth-seed **Norfolk State** 40-22 in the second half to wipe out a six-point halftime deficit and go on to give the school its first **MEAC** hoops championship of any time.

Trailing 23-17 at the half after scoring only 6 and 11 points in the first two quarters and shooting 6 of 29 from the field, the Lady Wildcats (21-10) made 7 of 13 third-quarter shots to outscore the Lady Spartans (17-15) 19-10 and take the lead midway thru the period. B-CU's 21-12 fourth-quarter margin put the game away.



Golden

Most Outstanding Player **Angel Golden** scored 11 of her team-high 18 points in the second half. Two others, **Amaya Scott** with 12 and **Camary Harris**, also reached double-digits. All-tournament selection **Chasimmie Brown** had 8 points and a game-high 16 rebounds.

**La'Deja James** led NSU with 18 points while **Dana Echols** added 11.

**MEN**  
For Smith and Moton, their teams have a hurdle before they can meet the powerful No. 1 seeds. They will play in First Four opening round games Tuesday and Wednesday respectively to earn their shots.

Prairie View (22-12) added the SWAC Tournament title to its regular season crown with a 92-86 win over **Texas Southern** (see TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIP GAME RECAPS). It's the first title for Smith in his second year at the helm and only the second SWAC Tournament title in program history. PV last won the title and played in the NCAA Tournament in 1998.

Smith and the Panthers have their hurdle Tuesday (6:40 p.m., truTV) vs. Northeast Conference tournament champion Fairleigh Dickinson (20-13), who as a second seed knocked off regular-season co-champ St. Francis (Pa.) in the NEC tournament championship game.

A Prairie View win would earn it a date with West Region top seed Gonzaga (30-3) in Salt Lake City on Thursday (7:27 p.m., truTV). Gonzaga, who has a win this season vs. overall No. 1 seed Duke, won the regular season West Coast Conference title but was upset by St. Mary's in

the WCC tournament championship game.

Moton's Eagles (18-15) were a third-seed in the **Mid Eastern Athletic Conference** tournament but knocked off top-seed **Norfolk State** in the title game to win their third straight title and fourth automatic NCAA berth.

NCCU will play Wednesday (6:40 p.m. on truTV) in Dayton, Ohio against North Dakota State (18-15), a third-seed in the Summit League Tournament who knocked off second-seed Omaha to claim that conference's tournament title and automatic bid.

An NCCU win sets up an intriguing match up Friday (7:10 p.m., truTV) in Columbia, S. C. with the tournament's overall No 1 seed and East Region top seed, ACC tournament champion Duke (29-5) who happens to share the city of Durham, N. C. with the Eagles.

Additionally, Duke and NCCU played a historic 'Secret Game' in 1944 during the days of segregation orchestrated by the late, great former NCCU head coach **John McClendon** (see more on him below). It is believed to be the first racially integrated game in the South.

But it is called 'the secret game' because no spectators were allowed. NCCU won that game 88-44.

**BCSP Notes**

**Seven more HBCU teams play on; Hampton to host John McClendon Classic**

Seven NCAA Div. I HBCU teams, five on the men's side and two women's teams, will play on in postseason tournaments after their conferences wrapped up tournaments last week.

Hampton will host the 4th Annual Coach **John McClendon Classic** Thursday in the first round of the 2019 CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament. The game pays tribute to Coach McClendon and the legacy of some of the great pioneers of the game, including Clarence "Big House" Gaines and Ben Jobe.



McClendon

p.m., ESPNU). The Crimson Tide is coached by HBCU product **Avery Johnson**, who played at **Southern**. Johnson's troops finished ninth in the SEC with an 8-10 mark

and lost in the conference tournament quarterfinals to Kentucky.

**Howard**, the fourth-seed in the MEAC Tournament, lost in the semifinals to Norfolk State, but received a berth to the CBI Postseason Tournament. The Bison (17-16) played at Coastal Carolina (15-16) on Wednesday, March 20 (7 p.m.) in a game to be streamed on ESPN+. Coastal Carolina (15-16) finished tied for sixth (9-9) in the Sun Belt Conference and lost in the second round of its tournament to Louisiana-Monroe.

**WOMEN**

**North Carolina A&T**, the women's regular season champion of the **Mid Eastern Athletic Conference**, and **Prairie View A&M**, who finished second in the **Southwestern Athletic Conference**, earned Postseason WNIT berths. Game times were to be announced late Tuesday after our press time. Prairie View (17-13) finished a game behind **Southern** in the SWAC regular season race with a 13-5 conference record but

**MEN  
NIT**  
WED., MARCH 20 - Tuscaloosa, AL - 7:00 pm (ESPNU)  
#8 **Norfolk State** (21-13) @ #1 Alabama (18-15)

**CBI**  
WED., MARCH 20 - Conway, SC - 7:00 pm (ESPN+)  
**Howard** (17-16) @ Coastal Carolina (15-16)

**CIT - College Insider.com  
Postseason Tournament**  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20 - New Orleans, LA - 7 pm  
**Texas Southern** (21-13) @ New Orleans (19-13)  
Edinburg, TX - 8 pm  
**Grambling State** (17-16) @ UT Rio Grande Valley (19-16)

THURSDAY, MARCH 21 - Hampton, VA - 7 pm  
(*John McClendon Classic*)  
Saint Francis Brooklyn (17-15) @ Hampton (15-16)

**WOMEN  
WNIT**  
THURSDAY, MARCH 22 - Fort Worth, TX - TBA  
**Prairie View A&M** (17-13) @ TCU (20-10)  
FRIDAY, MARCH 22 - Harrisonburg, VA - TBA  
**North Carolina A&T** (20-11) @ James Madison (25-5)

was beaten in the tournament semifinals by third-seed **Jackson State**. The Lady Panthers will play at TCU (20-10) in Fort Worth, Texas on Thursday. TCU finished sixth in the Big 12 with a 10-8 conference mark and bowed out in the league's tournament quarterfinals to Texas.

NC A&T (20-11) lost in the semifinals of last week's MEAC Tournament to **Norfolk State** after posting a 16-0 regular season conference record. The Lady Aggies will travel to James Madison (25-5), who won the regular season CAA title with a 17-1 record before being upset in the quarterfinals of that league's tournament by Hofstra. Their game is scheduled for Friday, March 22 in Harrisonburg, Va.