

BLACK COLLEGE PAGE

SPORTS



Hampton & TSU Sports Photo

FINAL FOURS SET

HAMPTON AND TEXAS SOUTHERN IN CIT FINAL FOUR; NICKELBERRY OUT AT HOWARD

1-2 PUNCH: Texas Southern forward Jeremy Combs (top) and Hampton guard Jermain Marrow (bottom) lead their teams into CIT Final Four.



RESULTS

CIT (CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament)

FIRST ROUND

Texas Southern 85, New Orleans 79, OT
Hampton 81, St. Francis 72

SECOND ROUND

Texas Southern 94, UT Rio Grande Valley 85
Hampton 73, Charleston Southern 67

QUARTERFINALS

Texas Southern 108, Louisiana-Monroe 102, 3 OTs
Hampton 82, NJIT 70

SEMIFINALS

Tuesday, April 2

Hampton (18-16) vs. Marshall (21-14) - 7 p.m.
Texas Southern (24-13) vs. Green Bay (20-16) - 9 p.m.

FINALS

Thursday, April 4 - TBD

UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS

NICKELBERRY RESIGNS FROM HOWARD:

WASHINGTON – **Howard University** director of athletics **Kery Davis** has announced the resignation of head men's basketball coach **Kevin Nickelberry**.



Nickelberry

"I wish to thank Coach Nickelberry for all he has done to advance the Howard University men's basketball program," said Davis. "When Coach Nickelberry took over our program nine seasons ago, he inherited a program that was facing academic and NCAA issues and provided a foundation for success, both on the court and in the classroom. That foundation has resulted in the best academic performance the program has had in years and success on the court that has brought the program back to contending for MEAC championships."

This past year the Bison recorded 17 wins and participated in the College Basketball Invitational, its first post season berth since 1992. During his second stint on the Hilltop, Nickelberry recruited five players who would earn MEAC Rookie of the Year or Player of the Year honors (including **James Daniel**, **Charles Williams**, and **RJ Cole**); as well as seven all-MEAC selections; and over 45 Academic All-Conference selections.

"I am blessed to have had the opportunity to serve as head coach at Howard University," said Nickelberry. "I am truly grateful for the opportunity and am proud of what we have been able to accomplish. To see how far we took this program that had suffered so much is a credit to our student-athletes and staff who worked so hard to allow the Howard community to once again be proud of its basketball program. I feel now is a good time take on my next coaching challenge."

NCCU HURDLER FOSTER PASSES:

DURHAM, N.C. – **Charles Foster**, who won five NAIA and NCAA individual national championships and was the top-ranked hurdler in the world during his collegiate career at **North Carolina Central University**, passed away on Sunday (March 31) at the age of 65.

A 1975 graduate of NCCU, Foster was a dominant force on the track during his college career from 1971-75, specializing in the hurdles. After NCCU, he placed fourth in the 110-meter hurdles at the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal and enjoyed an accomplished career as a college coach.

During his junior and senior campaigns at NCCU, Foster repeated as the NAIA national champion in the indoor 60-yard hurdles, setting the meet record in 1975 with a time of 6.9 seconds, and the outdoor 120-yard/110-meter hurdles, breaking the meet record in 1974 in 13.4 seconds. He also captured the NCAA outdoor 120-yard hurdles national championship in 1974 with a time of 13.35 seconds. In 1974, Foster was ranked as the No. 1 hurdler in the world.

As a freshman, Foster helped lead the Eagles to the 1972 NAIA outdoor track & field team national championship, running a leg of the 440-yard relay that set a meet record with a time of 39.5 seconds.

Foster was inducted into the NCCU Athletics Hall of Fame in 1984 and has also been enshrined in the **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** Hall of Fame (1981) and the Penn Relays Wall of Fame (2016).

TSU, Hampton in CIT Final Four

LUT WILLIAMS

BCSP Editor

No HBCU team is among the Final Four teams of Texas Tech, Virginia, Michigan State and Auburn vying for the NCAA Div. I Championship this weekend.

But there are two HBCUs – **Texas Southern** of the **Southwestern Athletic Conference** and **Hampton** of the Big South – that have posted three wins to make it to the Final Four of the CollegeInsider.com (CIT) Div. I tournament.

If either Hampton or Texas Southern gets by its opponent in Tuesday's semifinal games, they will play in Thursday's CIT championship game. If both win, the game will either be played at Hampton or at Texas Southern. All CIT games are played at on-campus sites.

The three wins by both TSU and Hampton in the CIT mark the longest postseason run by historically black colleges since **North Carolina A&T's** women won two WNIT games in 2010.

Hampton

The Pirates (18-16), who left the MEAC after last season to join the Big South Conference, finished sixth in the regular season and bowed out in the Big South tournament quarterfinals to Campbell.

But 10th-year head coach **Ed "Buck" Joyner's** troops hosted two games in the CIT, getting by St. Francis Brooklyn (81-72) and Charleston Southern (73-67) before getting a road win Thursday's quarterfinals at NJIT (82-70).

Hampton will travel to Marshall (21-14) Thursday in a 7 p.m. semifinal game. The Thundering Herd finished sixth in the Conference



Hampton Sports Photo



Texas Southern Sports Photo

LOOKING TO REACH THE FINALS: Hampton head coach Edward "Buck" Joyner Jr. (l.) and Texas Southern head coach Johnny Jones (r.) led their teams into CIT Final Four games Tuesday.

USA regular season before bowing to Southern Miss in the tournament quarterfinals. Marshall posted wins over IUPUI (78-73) and Presbyterian (83-66) to reach the CIT semifinals.

In its quarterfinal win over NJIT, Hampton ran out to a 41-26 halftime lead and had five players score in double-digits. Scoring leader **Jermaine Marrow** led the Pirates with 22 points. **Greg Heckstall** was one of three Pirates with a double-double scoring 19 points and pulling down 10 rebounds. **Kalin Fisher** had 16 points while **Trevond Barnes** (13 points, 12 rebounds) and **Akim Mitchell** (10 points, 11 rebounds) had double-doubles.

Texas Southern

It's first year under new head coach **Johnny Jones**, the Tigers of Texas Southern (24-13), the SWAC Tournament runners-up, have now posted three road wins to reach the CIT semifinal round.

After opening and second round wins on the road over New Orleans (85-79 in OT) and

UT Rio Grande Valley (94-85), TSU went into Louisiana Monroe Thursday (March 28) and came away with a thrilling 108-102 win in triple overtime.

The Tigers will travel again to face Wisconsin-Green Bay (20-16) at 9 p.m. Thursday. The Phoenix finished fourth in the Horizon League regular season before bowing out in the league's tournament semifinals to top seed Wright State. They won a road game at East Tennessee (102-94) before getting home wins over FIU (98-68) and CSU Bakersfield (80-65) to reach the CIT semis.

In TSU's quarterfinal match up, ULM led by as many as 14 points early in the second half and for most of the period until TSU's **Jeremy Combs** tied the game at 72 with a layup and free throw with 2:14 left in regulation. Combs would tie the game again and send it to overtime tied at 74 with a made jumper in the paint with 23 seconds left.

TSU led in every overtime period. The Tigers held a seven-point lead in the first overtime period only to see ULM tie the game at 88 on a desperation 3-pointer as time expired.

Both teams scored seven points in the second overtime to set up the final extra period with the teams knotted at 95.

TSU center **Eden Ewing**, who scored 23 points and pulled down 11 rebounds, scored seven points in the third extra session powering the Tigers to 13-7 edge that sealed the deal. Ewing had 13 of his points in the overtimes.

Tyrik Armstrong led TSU with 32 points and handed out eight assists. Combs had his 14th double-double with 27 points and 11 rebounds. **Devocio Butler** had 12 points and also gathered in 11 rebounds.

BCSP Notes

Three HBCU bowling teams get NCAA championship bids

INDIANAPOLIS – Three HBCU teams are among 12 teams that will vie for the 2019 National Collegiate Women's Bowling Championship. Eight conference teams have been granted automatic qualification, with the remaining teams being selected at-large.

The field includes **Bowie State**, **Maryland Eastern Shore** and **Prairie View A&M**.

The championship matches will be played April 11-13 at RollHouse Wickliffe in Wickliffe, Ohio. The Mid-American Conference and the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission are the hosts. Tickets for the championship can be purchased on www.NCAA.com prior to the championship.

The championship bracket will be a double-elimination, with each round consisting of a best-of-three match that includes the use of three team game formats- baker total pin fall, five- person team match and a best-of-seven baker match play. The champion will be determined using a best-of-seven baker match play. The championship final will air at 6:30 p.m. Eastern Time, Saturday, April 13 on ESPNU.

Vanderbilt University won the 2018 National Collegiate Women's Bowling Championship at Tropicana Lanes in St. Louis, Missouri defeating McKendree University.

HBCU conferences to compete in 3x3U National Championship tourney

The 3x3U National Championship has released its final roster of players for the 2019 competition.

The tournament is comprised of all-star teams of seniors, who have exhausted their collegiate eligibility, representing all 32 Division I conferences. The teams will compete for a \$150,000 prize pool, with the champions taking home \$100,000, double the prize money from a year ago. Additionally, the winners will earn the right to compete in the 2019 USA Basketball 3x3 Open National Championship later this spring.

The **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** (MEAC), whose team finished third last year, and the **Southwestern Athletic Conference** will each have four players competing.

Teams will compete in a three-day competition April 5-7 at Mall of America.

All games of the Dos Equis 3X3U National Championship will be carried live on Twitter or ESPN2. Pool play will begin at 3 p.m. ET on



April 5, with 24 games streamed live exclusively on Twitter. Pool play will continue on April 6 at 9:30 a.m. ET with 24 more games streamed live exclusively on Twitter. Round of 16 and quarterfinal games will be streamed live exclusively on Twitter at 10:30 a.m. ET on April 7, with semifinal, consolation and championship games televised live on ESPN2 later that day at 3 p.m. ET.

Returning to call all the action throughout the tournament will be the voice of FIBA 3x3 basketball, Kyle Montgomery, with Robbie Hummel of ESPN and Tate Frazier and Mark Titus of The Ringer's One Shining Podcast providing color commentary and sideline coverage.

HBCU PLAYERS LIST

MEAC

Derrick Jamerson Jr., G, Norfolk State
Kevin Larkin, G, Delaware State
Lamar Morgan, G, Coppin State
Justin Ravenel, G, Florida A&M

SWAC

Gary Blackston, G, Prairie View A&M
Jeremy Combs, F, Texas Southern
Martaveous McKnight, G, Arkansas Pine-Bluff
Sidney Umude, F, Southern

Former St. Aug's hurdler runs fastest 400 hurdles time of the year

RALEIGH, N.C. – Former **Saint Augustine's University** standout **Tia-Adana Belle** ran the world's fastest time this year in the women's 400 hurdles at the Florida Relays in Gainesville, Fla., this weekend.

Belle, running for G.W. Express/Nike, posted a blazing time of 54.18 seconds to win the 400 hurdles on Thursday, March 28. She set a new facility record at the Percy Beard Track in the event.

The winning time is a personal best for Belle, a native of St. George, Barbados who competed for the Lady Falcons from 2014 to 2017. Belle graduated from SAU with a criminal justice degree in 2018.

The world time is a continuation of a marvelous career for Belle, who captured three consecutive NCAA Division II titles in the 400 hurdles as a collegiate hurdler for Saint Augustine's.

Belle owns the NCAA Division II national record (55.42 seconds) in the 400 hurdles. In fact, Belle has the top four fastest times and six of the top seven all time collegiate times in the event.



Belle

Morgan State Prez appointed to NCAA Board of Governors

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – **Morgan State University** President **Dr. David Wilson** has been appointed to the NCAA Board of Governors and Division I Board of Directors, as announced by the NCAA. Dr. Wilson's term of service on the committees will begin in August 2019, at the close of the Board of Governors and Board of Directors meetings, and continue through the close of the August 2023 board meetings.

Dr. Wilson calls his appointment to the committees "a unique opportunity." "It is a great honor to be appointed to the NCAA's highest governing body and presented the unique opportunity to enhance the quality of the student-athlete experience while working to expand the understanding of the challenges faced by those in higher education with limited resources." Dr. Wilson said. "I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Board

of Governors to ensure that our student-athletes are students first. I humbly accept this worthy opportunity to represent the best interests of our amateur athletes with integrity and fairness."

Wilson has served as president at Morgan State since July 1, 2010 and is the 10th president in the university's history. He has more than 30 years of experience in higher education administration and holds four academic degrees: a B.S. in political science and an M.S. in education from **Tuskegee University**; an Ed.M. in educational planning and administration from Harvard University; and an Ed.D. in administration, planning and social policy, also from Harvard.

Dr. Wilson has also been honored and recognized as a leader in higher education. Most recently, he received the national Boy Scouts of America's 2018 Whitney M. Young, Jr. Service Award presented by Baltimore Area Council, BSA,

and he was named to the Maryland Daily Record newspaper's Circle of Influence for being selected as an "Influential Marylander" on three separate occasions (2018, 2016 and 2011). He was also named to the Baltimore Business Journal's 2019 Power 10.

Wilson has served as the Chair of the **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** (MEAC) Council of Chief Executive Officers (CCEOs) for the past two years, and he currently serves on the NCAA Division I Presidential Forum in a term that lasts until August 2021. Additionally, he was elected to the Lumina Foundation's Board of Directors in January 2018. Prior to that election, the U.S. Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology had appointed him to serve a



Wilson

three-year term as a member of the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST's) Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology.

Dr. Wilson is a former chairman of the HBCU/China Network, a mem-

ber of the Maryland Cybersecurity Council and the Maryland Longitudinal Data System Governing Board and he serves on the Boards of Directors of the Greater Baltimore Committee, the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities and the Association of American Colleges and Universities. In 2010, President Barack Obama appointed him to his 11-member Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). He also served on the Board of the United Way of Central Maryland.