SIAC

Photo by Craig Greenlee

Arguments aside, A&M's Wagner is at least one of the best in Division II this season. He is also viewed as one of the prime contenders for the McClendon Award

"A big key to the win was the play of our bench," Pettaway added. "Tucker shot the ball very well and Johnny Perry got eight rebounds after (starting center) Bryan Haynes got in foul trouble. Perry became a stabilizing force for us in the middle."

In the first half, neither team could gain a decisive advantage, even though the Bulldogs held a 46-41 lead at intermission.

Albany State won the battle on the glass 49-45, but A & M rebounded well enough to turn the game in their favor. Sillmon collected 15 boards and Wagner 10.

A & M stayed in the rebound war due to some sideline maneuvering by Pettaway. "We kept switching defenses to keep them off stride. That helped us to get more rebounds to start our running game."

It was Tucker's offensive show that carried the Bulldogs in the first half. In the second half, Wagner took center stage.

When playing high scoring teams like A & M (90 plus points scored a game, you always have to be wary of quick bursts that can all but put a game out of reach.

That point came at the 15:42 mark in the second half.

The game was a stalemate at 55-all. The Bulldogs put on a 10 point spurt. Wagner had half of those on a baseline jumper plus a reverse lay-up and free throw. The rangy senior scored 12 of his 23 after the tie.

Defensively, A & M did the job in disrupting the Ram's offense. ASC had 18 turnovers and except for Gervin, the other Albany players were held relatively in check.

Said Pettaway: "We knew that Gervin would get his, but we were able to keep Martin and Macklin Bradford from hurting us.

Pettaway takes a lot of pride in his group, who at the end of the regular season, was the highest ranked black college team in Division II (#3). They held the same position in the Sheridan Poll behind two North Carolina teams - A &T and Central. With the conference tournaments completed, they could move up another notch with Sheridan since Central lost in the CIAA tournament.

The year coach is disturbed by what he as a lack of regard the SIAC suffers from nationally.

Pettaway explained: The game we had against Albany certainly warranted coverage by Black Entertainment Television. They're a black college sports network, but as far as I know, there hasn't been one SIAC game broadcast by them. We have the national ranking and we have a good facility to play in. I don't understand it."

Incidentally, A & M had already qualified for this year's playoffs because the conference mandated that the regular season champion would get the automatic NCAA bid. However, that changed because of the Clark basketball program being placed on probation. Instead, the Bulldogs received an at-large bid.

If they won in the first round, they were to be the host school in the second round of post-season play for their region.

-- Craig T. Greenlee

Fort Valley State's women win SIAC

Lady Wildcats demonstrate superiority in finals

After three tries, Grambling's Lady Tigers finally won the SWAC Tournament, downing defending champ Mississippi Valley State 73-64.

The victory signalled the first ever tournament championship for GSU. They lost to the Lady Devils 69-60 last year in the finals. Alcorn State made them bridesmaids in '86, winning 84-77.

In the beginning, it looked like deja vu for Grambling. With only nine players on the roster, starting guard Betty Vaughn came down with a knee injury after the game was three minutes old.

Grambling shot horribly from the field, while Valley State's Patricia Hoskins scored 14 of Valley State's first 17 points.

However, Vaughn gutted the game out and returned to the lineup. Then LeChandra LeDay, the seemingly everywhere all the time point guard, took control. LeDay, who was voted tournament MVP, finished with 29 points (11 of 25 from the field, 7 of 11 at the free throw line). In the semis against Alcorn State, she turned her offense on for 40 points. Elsie Dillard provided ample support for LeDay in the finals, adding 18.

In the first half, the teams played evenly, with Grambling holding a 28-27 lead at intermission. That was no surprise. The two teams split victories during the regular season, each winning on its home floor.

With the score knotted at 46-all in the second half, the Lady Tigers blanked Valley State 9-0 and the defending champs never made a serious run after that.

Hoskins was her usual superb self, scoring 35 points as she had done in a semifinals win over Alabama State, 84-78. The lady Tigers knew that Hoskins would get her points. They felt they needed to stop Stephanie Brown and Birdie Green in order to win.

Coach Barbara Bibbs' team answered the call, holding Brown to three points on one for eight shooting from the field. In the semis, Brown scored 25. Green, who is Valley's second leading scorer had 11 points, but she was never a factor.

In the final analysis, Grambling played its game, converting key baskets when they had to and forcing Valley State into numerous turnovers at critical portions of the second half.

Grambling got themselves back into the game in the first half after the Lady Devils took an 11-4 lead. With Vaughn and LeDay on the floor, GSU outscored Valley 15-8 to lead 23-21 with about five minutes left in the first half. During that run, LeDay scored seven points.

--Craig T. Greenlee

Sheridan Black College Basketball Poll – Final – March 7

School	Points/1st-Place Votes	W/L
1. N.C. A&T	100 (10)	26-2
2. N.C. Central	86	24-3
3. Alabama A&M	71	27-2
4. Southern University	63	24-6
5. virginia Union	59	24-5
6. Texas Southern	45	21-8
7. Florida A&M	43	22-8
8. Virginia State	37	21-10
9. Paine	25	22-5
10. Howard	10	16-13

MILLER LITE CONFERENCE UPDATE

Brought to you by Miller Lite. The proud sponsor of the CIAA, MEAC, and SWAC conferences.

Small miracles were common place in the 43rd Annual Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association Basketball Tournament.

A surprise team advanced as Lamont Walker canned a 17-footer to lift Virginia State to a 75-73 semi-final upset of Union .

In the finals, the Trojans used the inside strength of center David Blackwell and a 10 point, 10-assist effort from MVP Chris Holloway to take their first men's title in 41 years.

The final miracle took place in the women's semi-finals, where Kammy Brown-led Virginia State shocked 27-1 Hampton.

SU Does It Again --This year, Southern University was expected to win the Southwestern Athletic Conference championship -- and they didn't disappoint.

Southern continued a 24-game winning streak at the F.G. Clark Activity Center by rolling to a 78-62 title victory. Kevin Florent brought home his second straight MVP honor by striking for 29 points and 17 rebounds in the finale.

A New Victim -- No, North Carolina A&T State University did not beat Howard for the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference title.

The Aggies beat Florida A&M instead, giving Coach Don Corbett an unprecedented achievement of seven-straight conference championships.

Paced by MVP Claude Williams inside, A&T broke it open and won going away.

Lite Beer Athlete of The Month.

Kammy Brown

Black College Sports Review is proud to announce that Virginia State University sophomore forward, Kammy Brown, has been selected as Miller Lite's Black College Player of the Month.

Brown, a 5-11 native of Washington, D.C., had only three points during the first half of the Trojanettes' semi-final matchup with Hampton University in the 43rd annual Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association Basketball Tournament.

But the former prep star at H.C. Woodson High School came through with 15 points in the second half, as the Trojanettes shocked the 27-1 Lady Pirates, 80-73.

Though the women's championship seemed almost anti-climactic when compared to the shocking upset of second-ranked Hampton, Brown rose to the occasion for the title contest with Norfolk State.

She was only 6 of 19 from the field, but nailed 7 of 8 critical free throws to finish with 21 points and wrap up her selection as the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

Brown was a candidate for being the most dominant performer during the CIAA regular season, too.

Despite averaging only 29 minutes a game, Brown led the Trojanettes in scoring (15.5) and steals with 3.9 per game. The 5-11 standout split time at both the guard and forward spots where she averaged four assists and was second on the team in rebounding with 8.4 a game.

Miller Lite honors Kammy Brown as the Black College Player of the Month for March.

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