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CIAA Tournament returns to Baltimore



Photo courtesy of Visit Baltimore



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Photo courtesy of CIAA

Al Hutchinson (top, left) serves as president and CEO of Visit Baltimore, the city’s designated tourism sales and marketing organization. Jacquie McWilliams-Parker (bottom, right) is commissioner of the Center Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA). She is the first Black woman to serve as commissioner of the sports conference for historically Black colleges and universities, which returned to Baltimore Feb. 26- March 3. After multiple days of battling it out on the basketball court, the women of Fayetteville State and the men of Lincoln University were crowned as the champion teams for 2024. The tournament is a lucrative endeavor that brings thousands of tourists to Baltimore each time the city hosts the event.

By Megan Sayles
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Student athletes, coaches and basketball fans from around the country flooded the downtown Baltimore area Feb. 26 to March 3 as the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Men’s and Women’s Basketball Tournament returned to Charm City.

The men of Pennsylvania’s Lincoln University beat out Fayetteville State 54-51, capturing the men’s 2024 CIAA title, while the ladies of Fayetteville State battled Elizabeth City State University, 64-59, ultimately taking the title.

While most of the action took place on the court at CFG Bank Arena, a spotlight was also shone on Baltimore’s Black dining

scene. The Downtown Partnership of Baltimore, in collaboration with the Baltimore Local Host Committee, held the Black-Owned Restaurant Tour for the third time to encourage fans to patronize Black businesses.

“Every night was packed, especially on the weekends,” said Chris Simon, co-owner of the Outkrowd Group, which operates Baltimore

restaurants Prim and Proper and Blk Swan. “Blk Swan was the landing spot for people after they finished bouncing around during the day. We definitely felt a surge in business because of that.”

Simon said his sales surged during the eight days of the tournament.

Both Prim and Proper and Blk Swan had several buyouts for private parties from alumni of

schools competing in the competition, like Bowie State University. The rentals substantially added to the restaurants’ revenue for the week, according to Simon.

“I think Baltimore is a great city for CIAA,” said Simon. “I really like how people were purposeful about supporting Black businesses while being here to support HBCUs.”

In 2023, CIAA brought

38,450 fans to CFG Bank Arena. The tournament, which showcases premier teams from historically, Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), generated an economic impact of \$29.6 million, up from \$19.6 million in 2022.

“We almost doubled in economic impact year over year, and the city of Baltimore really stepped

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Super Tuesday victories sets stage for presidential rematch

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire

President Joe Biden and his twice-impeached and four-times indicted predecessor, Donald Trump, emerged victorious on Super Tuesday, wrapping up their respective party nominations and setting up a rematch of the volatile 2020 election.

More than a dozen states participated in primaries and caucuses on March 5, constituting the most significant nominating race day, and shifting the focus from the one-by-one march through early-voting states.

Despite signs of potential weaknesses in their election strategies, both Biden and Trump faced challenges. Numerous progressives, reportedly disillusioned with Biden, opted for the “uncommitted” option in places like Minnesota and Michigan, while college-educated suburbanites leaned towards alternatives to Trump. While the 15 states in contention didn’t officially provide Trump with enough delegates to secure the GOP nomination for a third

consecutive time, he closed the gap, leaving little room for his main rival, Nikki Haley, who suspended her campaign the morning after. Haley and Biden earned victories in the District of Columbia’s primaries held the Sunday before Super Tuesday.

The latest delegate estimate revealed Trump’s substantial gain of 617 delegates on Tuesday, propelling his overall count to 893, or 92 percent of those awarded, putting him on the brink of the 1,215 delegates required for clinching the GOP nomination. In contrast, Haley lagged significantly with only 66 delegates.

“They call it Super Tuesday for a reason,” declared Trump, whom a civil jury twice sanctioned for sexually assaulting a writer and a New York judge found guilty of massive business fraud. “This is a big one,” continued Trump, who was ordered to pay nearly \$500 million for his New York crimes and \$90 million for the sexual assault guilty finding. “And they tell me,

the pundits and otherwise, that there’s never been one like this.”

Despite facing challenging headlines and low approval ratings, Biden maintained his dominance on Super Tuesday, securing approximately 80 percent of the vote, while Trump struggled to reach that threshold. Although Haley posed a more formidable challenge, Biden retained solid support from his party’s

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Commemorating Maryland’s ‘Year of Civil Rights’

AFRO Archives featured in ‘REVISIT /REIMAGINE’ exhibit at Banneker-Douglass Museum in Annapolis

By Ericka Alston Buck
Special to the AFRO

In the heart of Annapolis, Md., nestled at 84 Franklin Street, lies the Banneker-Douglass Museum, a beacon of African-American history and culture. Stepping through its doors, visitors embark on a journey through time, a journey that is both reflective and forward-thinking.

Now, with 2024 marking the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the museum proudly presents “REVISIT/REIMAGINE: The Civil Rights Era in Maryland and Parallels of Today” — a poignant exhibition that pays homage to the legacies of civil rights leaders while shedding light on contemporary issues that continue to shape our society.

Curated by creative visionary Thomas James, “REVISIT/REIMAGINE” is not merely an exhibition; it is a testament to resilience, activism and the enduring spirit of progress. At its core, the exhibit aims to bridge the gap between past and present, inviting visitors to reflect on the strides made since the Civil Rights Movement, while acknowledging the work that remains.

Upon entering the exhibition space, visitors are greeted by a curated collection of images showcasing nationally and locally recognized civil rights leaders, sourced from the archives of the AFRO-American Newspapers. These striking visuals serve as a powerful reminder of the individuals who paved the way for change and justice. Savannah Wood, executive director of Afro Charities and moderator of

the panel discussion, provided insight into the exhibition’s composition.

“When people come, they can expect to see contemporary artwork by Maryland artists,” said Wood, adding that an array of creatives were included in the exhibition, curated by James.

According to Wood, the installation also included “a selection of images from the archives that Thomas selected during extensive research in partnership with Afro Charities.”

The lineup of exhibiting artists reads like a who’s who of creative talent, with each bringing their unique perspective to the dialogue.

Murjoni Merriweather, one of the featured artists, shared her vision for the exhibition.

“For me, what I want people to take away from this experience is the self-love of Black people. I want us to be proud of where we came from, know the history, and also see the creators now making works that talk about us being proud of ourselves,” she said.

The pieces, ranging from paintings to sculptures, from mixed media to digital art, serve as a mirror reflecting the issues of Black people through the Civil Rights Movement and the equal rights initiatives that followed. From education inequities to race-based violence, from disability justice to technological surveillance— each artwork ignites conversations and challenges perceptions.

In a nod to intergenerational relationships, the exhibition space is designed to evoke the familiarity of a home, complete with books, records and other objects scattered throughout.

James explained the intention behind this



Photo courtesy of Peace Edwards

Savannah Wood, executive director of Afro Charities (left), Thomas James, guest curator, and Chanel C. Johnson, executive director of the Banneker-Douglass Museum in Annapolis, prepare for a panel discussion on the “REVISIT/REIMAGINE” exhibit.

setup.

“This show is set up to encourage or enact a feeling of home—a feeling of warmth—and really leveling with folks that have done extraordinary things...[they] are just like you. They come home every day to the life that they live, and you can do the same thing in your own way.”

The opening reception, held on Feb. 24, was a celebration of art, activism and community. Guests had the opportunity to engage with the artwork, to immerse themselves in the narratives woven throughout the exhibition. Following the reception, a panel discussion titled “Exhibition Talkback”

provided a platform for dialogue, featuring James, Banneker-Douglass Museum’s executive director Chanel C. Johnson and Wood.

As “REVISIT/REIMAGINE” continues its run until Jan. 4, 2025, it serves as a poignant reminder of the progress made since the Civil Rights Era and the work that lies ahead.

The exhibit is a testament to the power of art in sparking change, in amplifying voices, and in uniting communities. And above all, it is a call to action— urging each of us to play a role in shaping a more just and equitable future.

Another downside of book bans: They stunt reading ability

By Joseph Williams
Word In Black

For years, as test scores fell and teachers fretted, educators and analysts rang the alarm: the U.S. is facing a grade-school reading crisis. If left unaddressed, they say, Black children could fall even further behind.

Now, college professors are sounding an alarm of their own. They say college students are entering college unprepared to read anything more than a few pages, and struggle to understand and interpret what they’ve read.

“Professors are also discussing the issue in academic trade publications, from a variety of perspectives,” Adam Kotsko, a humanities and theology professor, wrote in an essay in Slate, an online magazine. “What we almost all seem to agree on is that we are facing new obstacles in structuring and delivering our courses, requiring us to ratchet down expectations in the face of a ratcheting down of preparation.”

But along with COVID-19 learning loss, social media addiction, and attention-draining cell phone scrolling, researchers and educators have identified a new culprit: state and school officials who are stripping diverse books from library shelves and curbing the teaching of Black history.

“This is actually a very preventable problem,” says Allison Rose Socol, vice president for P-12 policy, research and practice at Education Trust. Studies show that “if (students) are given access to texts in which they see themselves reflected, that they will not only want to read, but they will develop a love of reading.”

But “the access and availability of culturally relevant, rich

texts are not happening in a lot of schools,” Socol says. “And that is disproportionately affecting the fundamental reading skills of many students of color.”

Data tells part of the story.

According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress, in 2022, average scores decreased for both literary and informational texts at both the fourth- and eighth grade level, compared to 2019.

Eighteen states or jurisdictions scored lower on literary



reading in 2022 than in 2019, according to NAEP, while 29 states scored lower on informational reading at grade 4. In eighth grade, 22 states scored lower in 2022 on literary reading, and 30 states scored lower for informational reading.

“And when you look at the data for certain groups of students — particularly marginalized students — the numbers are so much more concerning,” Socol says.

The data shows “just 17 percent of Black students, 21 percent of Latino students, 11 percent of students with disabilities, and 10 percent of multilingual learners in fourth grade are found to be proficient” in reading, she says. “Those numbers are just unacceptable.”

And yet, despite research that should encourage reading diverse texts, “there are states and districts that are putting in place legislation and regulation and policy that removes or penalizes teachers, for teaching honest, accurate history, for using books that represent the diversity of our country and for doing things that we know are important for opening up students,” Socol says.

Those books are key to “engaging hearts and minds and creating critical thinkers and engaged citizens,” Socol says.

Kotsco, the humanities professor, agrees the book bans are doing damage to the students he’ll eventually have to teach, depriving them of the ability to read long texts and think for themselves.

“Motivated by bigotry, it has already done demonstrable harm and promises to do more,” he wrote. “But at the same time, the appropriate response is, in principle, simple. Named individuals have advanced explicit policies with clear goals and outcomes, and we can replace those individuals with people who want to reverse those policies.”

“That is already beginning to happen in many places,” he wrote, “and I hope those successes will continue until every banned book is restored.”

This article was originally published by Word In Black.

Super Tuesday

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rank-and-file.

Looking ahead to the general election in November, Trump faces potential headwinds like those he encounters now, including four criminal trials that could potentially land him an 800-year prison sentence.

Conversely, Biden has room to win over intra-party detractors, especially those critical of his handling of Israel’s conflict in Gaza, where the administration has increased its call for a ceasefire.

Meanwhile, in California, the battle for the U.S. Senate seat left vacant after Dianne Feinstein’s death intensified. Rep. Adam Schiff will face former baseball star Steve Garvey, a Republican and Trump supporter. Garvey secured a spot in the top two alongside Democrat Schiff, outpacing Democratic Reps. Barbara Lee and Katie Porter. Sen. Laphonza Butler, appointed after Feinstein’s demise, had earlier pledged not to run for the seat in 2024.

“We have a clear path to victory,” Biden’s campaign said in a memo circulated late Tuesday. “A significant share of moderate and Haley voters across the country are saying that Trump cannot count on their votes in a general election. The November election will be a very close general election contest like all modern presidential elections are... but, we have a clear path to victory.”

This article was originally published by NNPA Newswire.

“Despite facing challenging headlines and low approval ratings, Biden maintained his dominance on Super Tuesday, securing approximately 80 percent of the vote.”

CIAA Tournament

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up and did a tremendous job with signage and other activities,” said Al Hutchinson, CEO and president of Visit Baltimore.

This year, months before the tournament, CIAA advertisements began to build excitement for the tournament via digital billboards strategically placed on buildings along high-traffic areas in the downtown area.

Before returning to Baltimore in 2021, the CIAA Tournament ran in Charlotte, N.C. for 15 years. According to CIAA Commissioner Jacqie McWilliams-Parker, its stint left behind more than \$600 million for the city and state.

Since being in Baltimore, she said the CIAA has had an intentional impact on minority- and women-owned businesses. McWilliams-Parker said Baltimore hotel bookings were full, and ticket

sales went well for the 2024 tournament. The competition created more than 1,000 jobs this year, according to McWilliams-Parker.

She also noted the plethora of incentives for Black entrepreneurs.

“We have opportunities for our minority- and women-owned businesses to get engaged and make some revenue themselves,” said McWilliams-Parker. “Over the last couple of years, Visit Baltimore has been able to capture over a \$1 million for [these businesses], which we haven’t been able to do in the past. That’s one area I’m really proud about.”

According to Hutchinson, Visit Baltimore partnered with 180 small, Black-owned businesses during the 2023 CIAA Tournament. Over the course of the competition, nearly \$1.2 million was spent with the establishments.

Hutchinson was happy to

once again engage the Black business community through the Black-Owned Restaurant Tour.

“Last year, we had eight Black-owned restaurants. This year, 14 Black-owned restaurants [were] a part of the tour,” said Hutchinson. “This is one way we can celebrate Black-owned businesses and push the fan base and our residents to celebrate these Black-owned restaurants.”

Simon’s two restaurants participated in the tour. He said he looks forward to the visitors that come from near and far each year.

“CIAA has had a tremendous impact on our business as it brings a bunch of out-of-towners to the area for an HBCU sporting event with many of them looking to patronize Black-owned restaurants,” said Simon. “We consistently see a spike in sales throughout the week

of CIAA.”

Aside from CIAA’s financial impact on Baltimore, Hutchinson said the tournament elevates the city’s brand. Visit Baltimore invites potential conference organizers to the event to demonstrate Baltimore’s ability to host large events.

He added that the competition contributes to the city’s broader tourism industry, which he identified as Baltimore’s third largest economic sector. Many depend on the industry for employment, according to Hutchinson.

“If not for travel and tourism, a lot of folks would not be employed in this community,” said Hutchinson. “I think it’s very important and it should be celebrated. The CIAA helps all of us keep our jobs.”

Megan Sayles is a Report For America corps member.

CIAA Tournament returns to Baltimore

The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association's (CIAA) basketball tournament returned to the Baltimore area Feb. 26 - March 3. Bringing athletes and fans from around the country, the conference also included programming for the community and student athletes looking to succeed on and off the basketball court. From the championship games to the CIAA step show and concerts, the AFRO was there to capture it all.

Wells Fargo hosts financial literacy breakfast for student athletes

By Megan Sayles
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Wells Fargo, the official banking partner of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA), hosted a financial literacy breakfast on Feb. 27 for teams competing in the historically, Black conference's men's and women's basketball tournament. The workshop, which took place at the Baltimore Convention Center, stressed the importance of money management in order to avoid financial strain after graduation.

With demands on and off the court and additional sources of income, financial education is crucial to student athletes making responsible fiscal decisions.

"When it comes to things like financial empowerment, what we're talking about is ultimately giving you the tips and resources you need to manage your income," said Cecil Burrowes, senior vice president of diverse customer segment growth and acquisition consultant for Wells Fargo. "You all are a brand, each one of you—whether you know it or not. You are now in the process of managing your brand."

Money management becomes even more important in the wake of name, image and likeness (NIL) deals being authorized across the country. The contracts enable student

"You all are a brand, each one of you—whether you know it or not."

athletes to profit off of themselves by entering endorsement, sponsorship, social media and licensing partnerships with brands.

According to Burrowes, NIL deals generated \$917 million for college athletes in 2021, the first year they were permitted. In the ensuing years, Burrowes said he expects the contracts to produce nearly \$5 billion. Access to these deals necessitates a long-term plan for student athletes' earnings.

"As you're experiencing these new streams of income, we're installing resources and tips for you all. That way you're provided the resources

to be empowered and when you graduate you have a plan and, hopefully, some type of nest egg," Burrowes said. "We all deserve a launching pad for the income we're going to be generating off of our brand."

During the breakfast, Wells Fargo announced an expanded sponsorship of Game Plan, an athlete development software company that works with college and professional sports organizations. Thanks to expert advice from the bank, Game Plan will offer free financial education to 1,200 college sports departments, including those at 107 historically, Black colleges and universities (HBCUs).

The various courses cover topics like budgeting, saving, credit management and planning for a secure financial future. Student athletes will also be able to schedule one-on-one strategy sessions with bankers to discuss how to leverage NIL compensation.

Ted White, vice president of collegiate partnership for Game Plan, contended that the platform will be beneficial to student athletes regardless of whether they land NIL deals, as financial literacy is



AFRO Photo / Megan Sayles

Cecil Burrowes (left), senior vice president of diverse customer segment growth and acquisition consultant for Wells Fargo; Ted White, vice president of collegiate partnership for Game Plan, and Ryan Drummond, vice president of employer partnership for Game Plan, provide athletes competing in the 2024 CIAA men's and women's basketball tournament with tips and strategies for money management.

universally important. "Financial education applies to all of us. We can all benefit from better decision-making and more information," White said. "It doesn't matter if you're a first year student who's trying to figure out how to stretch your budget from the first week of class through finals or a student athlete who has a part time job where you bring in some money and you want to know how to invest it, we'll help prepare you for that through our platform." In August, the NCAA

implemented new rules for Division I schools to provide college athletes with increased support, which included life skills development in financial literacy. Wells Fargo's expanded sponsorship of Game Plan makes these resources available to students across all divisions. Ryan Drummond, vice president of employer partnerships for Game Plan, said comprehensive financial education can make a significant difference in a

student athlete's quality of life. Poor financial habits lead to stress, anxiety and strained social relationships. "When we graduate from college, we have hard decisions, financially, that we have to make," said Drummond. "You cannot avoid it. You have to make decisions, and you need a plan on how you're going to make those decisions. If you make the wrong decisions, it affects your entire life." Megan Sayles is a Report For America Corps member.

CIAA Tournament brings the party to Charm City

By Stephanie Harper
Special to the AFRO

Events surrounding the CIAA Tournament provided the fun Charm City needed the week of Feb. 26 - March 3. The return of the competition marked the fourth year Baltimore hosted the event. The men's and women's basketball tournament for historically black colleges and universities in the NCAA Division II was held at the CFG Bank Arena in downtown Baltimore.

While fans attended the tournament to support their favorite schools, others participated in events, expos, cultural activities and enjoyed countless other free resources inside of the Baltimore Convention Center.

The CIAA Tournament expanded its presence this year throughout Baltimore.

This event has become a celebration of success, family and culture. The nuances of Baltimore and the subcultures are only strengthened during CIAA weekend, as it marks the end of Black History Month with music, entertainment, art and of course, fashion.

Coats, jackets, and the latest editions of shoes were on display as the athletes, coaches and staff came to the tournament dressed to match the fans' energy. The fans and spectators showed up in their best HBCU gear and represented their teams in style.

Fans, and residents enjoyed the multiple events centered around music, culture and arts. The city buzzed with festivities, which included events at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum and at the Hilton, which hosted the Women's Empowerment Brunch.

As the weekend approached, the anticipation for the annual CIAA Alumni party and the Legends of Hip Hop party spread through the city.

Visitors and fans reveled in the work of celebrity DJs and guest artists: DJ Skillz; DJ Shakim; Chubb Rock; DJ Kool; Sugar Bear; Rare Essence; BDaht; DJ Kid Capri; Fatman Scoop; Keith Murray, Mr. Cheeks; SAINTED Trap Choir; LeVelle; Gabby Simone; The Hamiltones; Rudy Currence; Kevin Ross; Eric Bellinger; Shelby J. and Mike Phillips.

Baltimore's local artists also put their creativity in the spotlight, to include DJ Duke; DJ Dre; DJ Flow; DJ Twisted; Sauce God; Jess Hilarious and others.

The CIAA Fan Fest, a free two-day event at the Baltimore Convention Center, highlighted free activities from sponsor organizations and concerts. Tournament officials provided an array of free giveaways and merchandise for all who attended.

Fan Fest allowed fans and visitors to engage more with local artists, entertainers and community members.

The Vendor's Village was a bonus this year, featuring a marketplace full of local retailers, businesses and organizations.

Local Baltimore comedian and influencer Smirf described what CIAA means to the area.

"This type of event speaks on the value of engagement and what it means to the community," he said. "To be able to bring this type of positivity to my city is a blessing."

The CIAA Alumni party was a glamorous blend of history and modern nightlife. The annual party proved to be another success as everyone enjoyed the first event of many hosted by Rams Head Live located in the Power Plant

throughout the weekend. The culture of the HBCU history flooded the arena Friday night at the Wendy's Step Show Throw Down featuring sororities and fraternities from the competing and surrounding area HBCUs.

Hosted by 92Q radio personality Dominique Da Diva and sponsored by Wells Fargo, it featured dance-offs, laughs and a proper swag surf to unite the crowd.

The CIAA weekend wouldn't be complete without a step show. The teams included: Alpha Kappa Alpha from Morgan State University; Alpha Phi Alpha from Elizabeth City State University; Delta Sigma Theta from Central Jersey Alumnae; Zeta Phi Beta from Coppin State University (CSU); Phi Beta Sigma from Long Island University; The HU Step Team from Howard University; Omega Psi Phi from North Carolina Central University and Kappa Alpha Psi from North Carolina Central University.

The space was packed and the energy was electric as the room filled with students from various colleges including Baltimore's local gems, Morgan State University and Coppin State University. Appearances from Big Tigger from BET Rap City in the basement and the rapper Fabolous surprised the fans and left others wanting more.

Frank James, from Virginia, a member of Alpha Phi Alpha valued the purpose of the event.

"This type of event is beneficial to the city and the youth in particular," he said. "It shows them that they have more resources and activities to engage in [other] than what they're used to."

Danielle Rose, a member of Delta Sigma Theta, from Baltimore, described her experience.

"The amount of energy and people this event brought



AFRO photos / Stephanie Harper

Baltimore resident Danielle Rose, a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Baltimore County Alumnae Chapter, attends the 2024 CIAA Step Show.

out was great and needed for the city. We packed this area with college students, alumni, and the community without incident. I'm happy I came and got a chance to support the event."

Ultimately, the women of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority took the champion's trophy home to CSU's West Baltimore campus.

Baltimore's downtown venues welcomed the party atmosphere throughout the weekend. Rams Head Live hosted CIAA The Legends of Hip Hop party featuring Fatman Scoop, Mr. Cheeks, and Keith Murray.

Fatman Scoop started the lineup with 90s and 2000s hits that kept the crowd moving and engaged. Mr. Cheeks followed with a set that turned the Baltimore scene into a nostalgic moment.

Keith Murray ended the show with a blast to the past with hits such as "The Most Beautiful Thing in the World."

Crystal Quarles attended the CIAA Legends of Hip Hop Party and described the fun.

"This was a great experience and the CIAA did a fantastic job bringing the city out for the '30 and over' crowd," she said. "I had a ball, the atmosphere was great and I can't wait to see what things they have planned for next year. It also makes Black History Month that much more special for me."

The atmosphere on March 3 mellowed as the crowd turned out for the final day of activities and pop-ups.

The Trap Choir, CIAA edition, was the perfect ending to the weekend.



AFRO photos / Stephanie Harper

Baltimore comedian and influencer, Smirf, prepares to host a DTLR event at the 2024 CIAA Tournament.

Top HBCU basketball teams battle at championship games

By AFRO Staff

Top Black athletes from around the country descended upon Charm City from Feb. 26 to March 3 for the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association’s 2024 championship games. The tournament is a competition between students at historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), both private and public.

According to information released by conference officials, the tournament “was founded and incorporated in the District of Columbia in 1912,” and was originally known as the Colored Intercollegiate Athletic Association.” The organization changed their name at the end of 1950 and currently, CIAA represents Black athletes from Pennsylvania to South Carolina. The tournament took place in North Carolina for 15 years before moving to Baltimore in 2021.

Teams in the 2024 edition of the conference included: Bluefield State University; Bowie State University; Claflin University; Elizabeth City State University; Fayetteville State University; Johnson C. Smith University; Lincoln University from Pennsylvania; Livingstone College; Shaw University; St. Augustine’s University; Virginia State University; Virginia Union University and Winston-Salem State University.

Champions were crowned on March 2 after more than 20 games on the CIAA court inside of the CFG Bank Arena. The ladies of Fayetteville State upset defending champion Elizabeth City State, 64-59, to claim the women’s 2024 CIAA title, while the men of Lincoln University beat out Fayetteville State, 54-51, taking home the champion’s trophy in their tournament.

AFRO Photos / James Fields



Leah Twine and Olivia Bush show their pride for Elizabeth State University.



The ladies of Fayetteville State University take the women’s 2024 CIAA title.



Fayetteville State’s cheerleading squad entertains the crowd.



Musician Mike Phillips serenades the audience.



Maryland Gov. Wes Moore enjoys the 2024 CIAA Tournament.



Award-winning artist Rudy Currence, a native of South Carolina, beams with pride after singing the national anthem.



Baltimore City Mayor Brandon Scott makes an appearance inside of CFG Bank Arena, clad in his CIAA gear.



Anthony Holloman, commissioner of the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC), with his wife Maisah Holloman.



Miss CIAA Bria Faison, of Winston Salem State University, enjoys the festivities with Mr. CIAA Louis McLean-Lowndes, of Saint Augustine University.



The men of Lincoln University are the 2024 CIAA champions for men.