



News Release

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MEAC TO HOST 2009 SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

FAMU and Howard earn Top Seeds in Tournament Championship

Virginia Beach, Virginia, April 5, 2009 - The Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) will host the 2009 MEAC Softball Championship beginning Thursday, May 7 through Saturday, May 9 at the Ormond Beach (Florida) Sports Complex. Howard University and Florida A&M University finished as the divisional leaders and will enter tournament play as the number one seeds.

Despite missing two conference games due to inclement weather, Howard earned the conference's top spot in the north with a 9-4 mark, 20-26 overall record. The Lady Bison won the conference title in 2007 but fell short of a title repeat in 2008 after falling to Delaware State and Norfolk State in back-to-back games.

Although they were predicted to finish third in the southern division in the conference's preseason poll, the Florida A&M Lady Rattlers cruised through divisional play posting a 12-0 MEAC record. FAMU earned the most total wins of the season with 25 and was the only team to post an unblemished record in conference play. In addition, head coach Veronica Wiggins, who has guided the Lady Rattlers for 18 years, recorded her 500th career victory this season.

The Delaware State Lady Hornets will look to defend the 2008 tournament title, finishing the 2009 season with a 8-6 MEAC mark, 22-20 overall. Last year the Lady Hornets completed a four-game tournament sweep to capture the title and the conference's automatic berth to the NCAA tournament.

The softball championship gets underway Thursday, May 7 beginning at 10 a.m. Florida A&M (S1) will face Maryland E. Shore (N4) while Howard (N1) will matchup against North Carolina A&T (S4) in the first games of the day. Games three and four, pitting Bethune-Cookman (S2) against Hampton (N3) and Delaware State (N2) against Norfolk State (S3), will begin at 1:30 p.m. The championship finale is set for Saturday, May 9 beginning at 1 p.m.

Only the top four teams in each division can compete in the two-game elimination tournament and vie for the championship title. Morgan State (7-7), Coppin State (2-11) and South Carolina State (0-12) have been eliminated from post season play based on their conference finish and/or tiebreaking procedures.

Admission for the 2009 MEAC Softball Championship is \$5 for children, students and seniors. Ticket prices for the entire tournament are \$12. Tickets are available at the Ormond Beach Sports Complex beginning on May 7.

Media interested in covering the 2009 MEAC Softball Championship can fill out a credential application located on www.MEACsports.com.



2009 MEAC Softball Tournament Seedings

Northern Division

1. Howard (9-4 MEAC, 20-26)
2. Delaware State (8-6 MEAC, 22-20)
3. Hampton (8-6 MEAC, 23-21)
4. Maryland E. Shore (7-7 MEAC, 20-16)*

Southern Division

1. Florida A&M (12-0 MEAC, 25-27)
2. Bethune-Cookman (7-5 MEAC, 17-32)
3. Norfolk State (6-6 MEAC, 21-23)
4. North Carolina A&T (5-7 MEAC, 23-19)

**earned tournament berth following conference tie-breaking procedures*

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