

Bluefield State (33-15) downed NAIA-tourney-bound Talladega (39-16) and captured the fourth annual Black College Baseball World Series championship presented by Tyson Foods at Riverwalk Park – home of the of the Class AA Montgomery Biscuits – Saturday.

The 2024 BSU team joined Bluefield State in 2021, Edward Waters in 2022 and Florida Memorial in 2023 as the first four champions of the prestigious HBCU event.

Both squads' pitching staffs weathered bases-loaded situations in the early and middle innings to keep the tightly-contested game within one run. That included a bases-jammed scoring possibility for Talladega in the bottom of the eighth.

The in the top of the ninth, BSU broke through with a four-run rally and decisive, two-run single by Tahir Meulens to break the 1-1 deadlock. Peyton Lewis lashed three hits to pace the 11-hit attack for the Big Blue.

Zach Powell (10-3) was credited with the itching victory while relief man Juan De Dios (2-2) absorbed the loss. Powell worked 8 1/3 innings, struck out seven and scattered nine hits. TC's Armando Jackson drove in the lone run for the NAIA-headed Tornadoes while three other starters managed a pair of hits.

BSU's Lewis was named Most Valuable Player for the tourney while Powell of the Big Blue was awarded the Most Valuable Pitcher kudos with a pair of victories here.

Talladega continues its season Thursday in the NAIA Shreveport Regional against upstart Blue Mountain (Miss.) Christian, which is making its first postseason baseball appearance in school annals, to begin a quest for the NAIA World Series in Lewiston, Idaho.