

The NAIA

The purpose of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) is to promote the education and development of students through intercollegiate athletic participation. Member institutions, although varied and diverse, share a common commitment to high standards and to the principle that participation in athletics serves as an integral part of the total educational process.

The NAIA embraces the concept of the student and recognizes the importance of the individuality of each member institu-



tion, the value of the conference and regional structure, and the benefits of membership in a national association.

The NAIA has 50,000 student-athletes participating at nearly 300 member colleges and universities throughout the United States and Canada. Divided into 14 regions, the NAIA offers 23 championships in 13 sports.

Since 1937, the NAIA has continued a long tradition of pushing the envelope and making a positive difference in the lives of students, coaches and parents. The Champions of Character program is the latest cutting-edge addition to the NAIA's proud history of innovation.

Through Champions of Character, the NAIA seeks to create an environment in which every student-athlete, coach, official and spectator are committed to the true spirit of competition through the five core values: respect, integrity, responsibility, servant leadership and sportsmanship.

NAIA Division I Men's Basketball Members (95)

| School | Location | Nickname |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Allen | Columbia, S.C. | Yellow Jackets |
| Auburn Montgomery | Montgomery, Ala. | Senators |
| Azusa Pacific | Azusa, Calif. | Cougars |
| Bacone | Muskogee, Okla. | Warriors |
| Belhaven | Jackson, Miss. | Blazers |
| Berry | Mount Berry, Ga. | Vikings |
| Bethel | McKenzie, Tenn. | Wildcats |
| Biola | La Mirada, Calif. | Eagles |
| Brescia | Owensboro, Ky. | Bearcats |
| Brewton-Parker | Mount Vernon, Ga. | Barons |
| California Baptist | Riverside, Calif. | Lancers |
| Campbellsville | Campbellsville, Ky. | Tigers |
| Carroll | Helena, Mont. | Saints |
| Columbia | Columbia, Mo. | Cougars |
| Concordia | Concordia, Calif. | Eagles |
| Crichton | Memphis, Tenn. | Comets |
| Cumberland | Lebanon, Tenn. | Bulldogs |
| Cumberlands | Williamsburg, Ky. | Patriots |
| Dillard | New Orleans, La. | Blue Devils |
| Emmanuel | Franklin Springs, Ga. | Lions |
| Faulkner | Montgomery, Ala. | Eagles |
| Freed-Hardeman | Henderson, Tenn. | Lions |
| Fresno Pacific | Fresno, Calif. | Sunbirds |
| Georgetown | Georgetown, Ky. | Tigers |
| Great Falls | Great Falls, Mont. | Argonauts |
| Hannibal-LaGrange | Hannibal, Mo. | Trojans |
| Harris-Stowe | St. Louis, Mo. | Hornets |
| Hope International | Fullerton, Calif. | Royals |
| Houston Baptist | Houston, Texas | Huskies |
| Huston-Tillotson | Austin, Texas | Rams |
| Illinois-Springfield | Springfield, Ill. | Prairie Stars |
| Illinois Tech | Chicago, Ill. | Hawks |
| Indiana-South Bend | South Bend, Ind. | Titans |
| Jarvis Christian | Hawkins, Texas | Bulldogs |
| John Brown | Siloam Springs, Ark. | Golden Eagles |
| Lambuth | Jackson, Tenn. | Eagles |
| Langston | Langston, Okla. | Lions |
| Lee | Cleveland, Tenn. | Flames |
| Lewis-Clark State | Lewiston, Idaho | Warriors |
| Lindsey Wilson | Columbia, Ky. | Blue Raiders |
| LSU-Shreveport | Shreveport, La. | Pilots |
| Loyola | New Orleans, La. | Wolfpack |
| Lubbock Christian | Lubbock, Texas | Chaparrals |
| Lyon | Batesville, Ark. | Scots |
| Martin Methodist | Pulaski, Tenn. | RedHawks |
| Master's | Newhall, Calif. | Mustangs |
| McKendree | Lebanon, Ill. | Bearcats |
| Mid-Continent | Mayfield, Ky. | Cougars |
| Missouri Baptist | Columbia, Mo. | Spartans |
| Mobile | Mobile, Ala. | Rams |
| Montana State-Northern | Havre, Mont. | Lights |
| Montana Tech | Butte, Mont. | Orediggers |
| Montana Western | Dillon, Mont. | Bulldogs |
| Morris | Sumter, S.C. | Hornets |
| Mountain State | Beckley, W.Va. | Cougars |
| Northwestern Oklahoma State | Alva, Okla. | Rangers |
| Oklahoma Baptist | Shawnee, Okla. | Bison |
| Oklahoma Christian | Oklahoma City, Okla. | Eagles |
| Oklahoma City | Oklahoma City, Okla. | Stars |
| Olivet Nazarene | Bourbonnais, Ill. | Tigers |
| Park | Parkville, Mo. | Pirates |
| Paul Quinn | Dallas, Texas | Tigers |
| Pikeville | Pikeville, Ky. | Bears |
| Point Loma Nazarene | San Diego, Calif. | Sea Lions |
| Purdue Calumet | Hammond, Ind. | Peregrines |
| Reinhardt | Waleska, Ga. | Eagles |
| Robert Morris | Chicago, Ill. | Eagles |
| Rocky Mountain | Billings, Mont. | Bears |
| St. Francis | Joliet, Ill. | Saints |
| St. Gregory's | Shawnee, Okla. | Cavaliers |
| Saint Xavier | Chicago, Ill. | Cougars |
| San Diego Christian | El Cajon, Calif. | Hawks |
| Science and Arts | Chickasha, Okla. | Drovers |
| Shorter | Rome, Ga. | Hawks |
| SUNO | New Orleans, La. | Knights |
| Southern Nazarene | Bethany, Okla. | Crimson Storm |
| Southern Polytechnic State | Marietta, Ga. | Hornets |
| Southern Wesleyan | Central, S.C. | Warriors |
| Southwestern Assemblies of God | Waxahachie, Texas | Lions |
| Spring Hill | Mobile, Ala. | Badgers |
| Texas College | Tyler, Texas | Steers |
| Texas Wesleyan | Fort Worth, Texas | Rams |
| Tougaloo | Tougaloo, Miss. | Bulldogs |
| Trevecca Nazarene | Nashville, Tenn. | Trojans |
| Union | Jackson, Tenn. | Bulldogs |
| Vanguard | Costa Mesa, Calif. | Lions |
| Voorhees | Denmark, S.C. | Tigers |
| Wayland Baptist | Plainview, Texas | Pioneers |
| West Virginia Tech | Montgomery, W.Va. | Golden Bears |
| Westminster | Salt Lake City, Utah | Griffins |
| Westmont | Santa Barbara, Calif. | Warriors |
| Wiley | Marshall, Texas | Wildcats |
| William Carey | Hattiesburg, Miss. | Crusaders |
| Williams Baptist | Walnut Ridge, Ark. | Eagles |
| Xavier | New Orleans, La. | Gold Rush |

Timeline

1937

The Xavier Gymnasium is completed. The facility eventually will be known as The Barn because of its wood exterior and cavernous interior.

1938

Coach G.O. Wright's first Xavier team completes the 1937-38 season with 35 victories — that's still a school record — and wins its first Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship.

1941

The Gold Rush completes the 1940-41 season with a 29-0 record — the only unbeaten team in the program's history — and improves its four-year record to 104-10 (.912). The 104 victories still are Xavier's most during four consecutive seasons.

1943

In his only season at Xavier, Nat "Sweetwater" Clifton leads the 1942-43 team to a 15-3 record and sets a Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference single-game record of 42 points. Clifton leaves Xavier after one year to serve in World War II.

1948

Xavier reaches triple digits on the scoreboard for the first time in a 104-38 victory against city rival Dillard in the 1947-48 season finale. The 66-point winning margin remains a Xavier record until the 2004-05 season.

1950

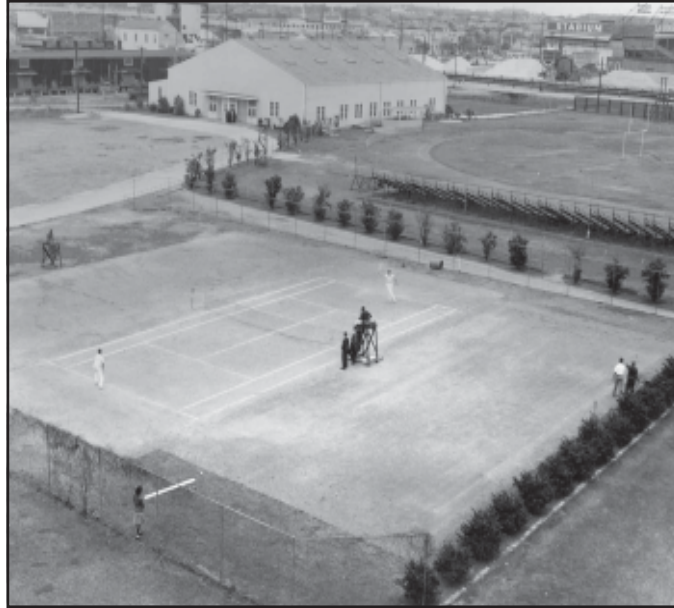
Nat "Sweetwater" Clifton, seven years after leaving Xavier, becomes one of the first African-Americans to sign with an NBA team. He plays eight NBA seasons, the first seven with the New York Knicks.

1960

Xavier discontinues intercollegiate athletics, effective at the end of the 1959-60 school year.

1967

During the spring the university announces the return of intercollegiate athletics to Xavier, effective with the



Can you find The Barn? Look in the upper center of the photo. To the right is Xavier's football stadium, and next to the stadium is a tennis court. Off campus — behind The Barn and the football stadium — is Pelican Stadium, home of New Orleans' minor-league baseball teams from 1915-57. Of the four facilities in this photo, only The Barn still exists.

1967-68 school year. Men's basketball returns after a seven-season absence.

1968

The Gold Rush basketball team finishes 1-15 in its return to intercollegiate competition. Kenneth Broussard, a 6-foot-1 freshman guard from Cincinnati, Ohio, sets the Xavier record for points per game in a season, 39.4.

1971

For the first time, Xavier's schedule (1971-72) includes four-year institutions which are not HBCUs (historically black colleges and universities). The Gold Rush opens against predominantly white Louisiana College in the first of three games against the Wildcats that season.

1972

Xavier makes its first appearance ever in the NAIA National Tournament and defeats Maryland-Eastern Shore 102-80 in the opening round.

1973

Xavier returns to the NAIA National Tournament and makes its best showing ever by reaching the quarterfinals. The Gold Rush upsets top-seeded Sam Houston State 67-60 in the second round. Sophomore Bruce Seals of New Orleans becomes the

only Gold Rush player to be named NAIA first-team All-America. A regular-season highlight was a 79-77 victory against Tulane — the Gold Rush's first against an NCAA Division I opponent.

1975

Jackson State defeats Xavier 69-64 on Jan. 24 to snap the Gold Rush's 50-game win streak in The Barn.

1976

Former Xavier standout guard Donald "Slick" Watts becomes the first of four players to lead the NBA in assists per game and steals per game in the same season (1975-76). That season he also receives the NBA's J. Walter Kennedy Citizenship Award for exemplary community service.

1978

Bruce Seals helps the Seattle SuperSonics reach the NBA Finals for the first time.

1981

Eugene Johnson goes 13 of 13 from the floor against West Alabama on Jan. 6. Xavier defeats Belhaven 73-70 to earn its third trip to the NAIA National Tournament and its first in eight seasons. The Gulf Coast Athletic Conference begins competition in the

Timeline

1981-82 school year with seven members: Belhaven, Dillard, Louisiana College, Spring Hill, Tougaloo, William Carey and Xavier.

1982

Xavier drops its opener, then wins 29 straight to earn a trip to the NAIA National Tournament for the second consecutive season.

1987

Renovations to The Barn — inspired by Pope John Paul II's visit to New Orleans and his celebration of Mass in the nearby quadrangle — replace the gym's wooden exterior with brick.

1990

Former Xavier player Dale Valdery is hired as head coach. He leaves Xavier in 2002 after a school-record 234 victories.

1991

Xavier defeats Louisiana College 75-71 to win the championship game of the NAIA District 30 playoffs and earn a berth in the national tournament for the first time in nine seasons. Donald "Slick" Watts is the first Xavier player to be inducted into the Louisiana Basketball Hall of Fame.

1993

Merlin Peters, a 6-6 forward from New Orleans, completes four years as Xavier's career leader in points (1,960), field goals (783), free throws (394) and games played (129).

1996

Xavier defeats SUNO 81-66 to win the GCAC Tournament championship and earn a spot in the NAIA National Tournament.

1998

Alvin Dukes, a third-team NAIA All-America point guard in 1981-82, is inducted into the Louisiana Basketball Hall of Fame.

1999

Bruce Seals is inducted into the Louisiana Basketball Hall of Fame. Donald "Slick" Watts is the 18th-leading vote-getter on the Louisiana Association of Basketball Coaches All-Louisiana Team of the Century. That made Watts an honorable-mention selection.

2000

G.O. Wright is inducted into the Louisiana Basketball Hall of Fame, 54 years after he coached his last game at Xavier.

2001

The Gold Rush goes 24-7 and becomes the first Louisiana university with 20 seasons of 20 or more victories. Xavier earns a berth in the NAIA National Tournament for the seventh time. Derrick Collins, who had a Xavier-record 789 career assists from 1983-87, begins his first season as an NBA referee.



photo by Andrew Cohoon
Derrick Collins, who had a Xavier-record 789 career assists from 1983-87, is in his sixth season as an NBA referee. He worked the New Orleans Hornets' 2006-07 home opener against the Houston Rockets.

2002

After four seasons on Dale Valdery's staff, Dannton Jackson succeeds Valdery as head coach of the Gold Rush.

2003

Longtime city and GCAC rivals Xavier and Dillard attract 7,189 fans to New Orleans Arena for their Feb. 1 men's and women's basketball doubleheader. Xavier wins both matchups — 79-55 in the women's game and 84-83 in the men's.

2004

A 16-1 start helps Xavier earn a No. 10 ranking and eventually propels the Gold Rush into the NAIA National Tournament. Xavier ranks seventh in the nation in three-point field-goal percentage defense (.310), 10th in field-goal percentage (.491), 13th in steals per game (9.4) and 20th in assists per game (16.9).

2005

Xavier earns a second consecutive bid to the NAIA National Tournament for the first time since the early 1980s. The Gold Rush leads NAIA Division I in turnover margin (+6.5), and freshman guard Shaun Dumas of New Orleans leads NAIA Division I with 106 steals. Hurricane Katrina slams metro New Orleans and the Mississippi gulf coast on Aug. 29, causes millions of dollars in damages at Xavier and forces the university to suspend intercollegiate athletics for the 2005-06 school year. The Barn receives about two feet of flooding.

2006

During the spring the university announces during the return of intercollegiate athletics, including men's basketball, for the 2006-07 school year.