

Xavier University of Louisiana Men's Basketball

Today's Game: Xavier Gold Rush (0-0) vs. Texas College Steers (0-0)

Friday, November 3, 2006, 7:30 p.m. at The Barn (capacity 1,300), New Orleans

Texas College (0-0)

No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Pos.	Yr.	Hometown
1	Vonnelle Applewhite	6-4	195	G	So.	Trinidad & Tobago
2	Mike Dale	6-5	220	G	Jr.	Fairview Heights, Ill.
3	Jameus Hartsfield	6-4	170	F	Jr.	Marlin, Texas
4	Wilbur Lewis	5-9	160	G	Sr.	Texas City, Texas
5	Czyz Bennett	6-1	180	G	So.	Galveston, Texas
10	Ryan Powell	6-4	175	G	So.	Cleveland, Ohio
11	Cerronne Edwards	6-1	165	G	Sr.	Cleveland, Ohio
12	Sadiki Guerra	6-2	185	G	Fr.	Trinidad & Tobago
13	Ajuma Jaromogi	6-10	210	F	Fr.	Trinidad & Tobago
14	Romero Gentry	6-0	180	G	Fr.	Shreveport, La.
20	Cedric Bird	6-1	185	G	Jr.	Ypsilanti, Mich.
21	Romondo Banks	6-1	175	G	Fr.	Bernice, La.
32	Antoine Ruelas	6-6	235	F	Jr.	Philadelphia, Pa.
54	Lewis Covile	6-8	260	C	Fr.	Detroit, Mich.

HEAD COACH: Champ Watson, first season.

ASSISTANT COACH: Matt Cross.

Xavier (0-0)

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Exp.	Hometown	High School (Previous College)
1	Michael Ruffin	G	6-1	180	Fr.	HS	New Orleans, La.	Douglass
2	Brandon Fleming	F	6-5	180	Fr.	HS	Inglewood, Calif.	Inglewood
3	Kelechi Okoroha	G	6-4	190	So.	SQ	Missouri City, Texas	Dulles
4	Mark Stewart	G	6-1	160	Jr.	2L	Destrehan, La.	Destrehan
10	Devin Andrew	G	6-4	175	Fr.	HS	Harvey, La.	Vandebilt Catholic
11	Olumide Olafioye	G	6-4	180	Fr.	RS	River Rouge, Mich.	River Rouge
12	Shaun Dumas	G	5-11	160	So.	1L	New Orleans, La.	St. Augustine
14	Ryan DeRousselle	G	6-1	175	Fr.	HS	Marrero, La.	Shaw
20	Dannie Woods	F	6-7	170	Fr.	HS	San Antonio, Texas	Sam Houston
21	Aaron Burgess	F/C	6-8	250	Sr.	TR	Lancaster, Calif.	Murrieta Valley (San Francisco State)
23	Cornelius Kennedy	F	6-5	220	Fr.	HS	Los Angeles, Calif.	Crenshaw
24	Alfred Williams	F	6-4	190	Jr.	1L	Greenville, S.C.	Southside (North Carolina Wesleyan)
25	T.J. Prince	F	6-9	175	Fr.	HS	Alpharetta, Ga.	Patterson

HEAD COACH: Dannton Jackson (Xavier 1992 and 1996), fourth season as head coach.

ASSISTANT COACH: David Egans (Xavier 2002), first season.

Upcoming Xavier Basketball Home Games

Gold Rush (Men)

Friday, Nov. 10 — Wiley, 7 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 27 — Philander Smith, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 2 — Huston-Tillotson, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 6 — Mobile, 7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 8 — LSU-Shreveport, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 13 — Loyola, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 20 — Belhaven, 7 p.m.

Gold Nuggets (Women)

Friday, Nov. 10 — Texas College, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 11 — Concordia (Ala.), 1 p.m.
Thursday, Nov. 23 — West Virginia Tech, 7 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 24 — Langston, 5 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 6 — Mobile, 5 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 8 — LSU-Shreveport, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 13 — Loyola, 5 p.m.

Xavier's 23 seasons of 20 or more victories are the most in the history of Louisiana men's college basketball

Xavier University of Louisiana Men's Basketball Notes

Texas College game — Friday, Nov. 3, 2006

■ **Opening Statement:** The Xavier-Texas College game is the first that counts on the Gold Rush's win-loss record since March 17, 2005, when Xavier lost 81-79 to Robert Morris (Ill.) in the opening round of the NAIA National Tournament at Kansas City, Mo. It will be Xavier's first regular-season game in The Barn since a 66-64 Gulf Coast Athletic Conference victory against crosstown rival Loyola on Feb. 23, 2005. Xavier did not field teams in 2005-06 because of the effects of Hurricane Katrina.

■ **Tickets:** Ticket prices for games in The Barn are \$10 for adults, \$5 for non-Xavier college students with a valid identification card and \$3 for children younger than 12 years old. Xavier students, faculty and staff with a valid Xavier I.D. card are admitted free.

■ **Rankings:** Neither Xavier nor Texas College received votes in the NAIA Division I Men's Basketball Preseason Rating released Wednesday. Texas is 19th in the USA Today/ESPN preseason poll.

■ **Most Recently:** Mark Stewart scored a game-high 19 points Tuesday in the Gold Rush's 82-49 exhibition loss at Arkansas.

■ **2004-05 Recap:** The Gold Rush was 24-10 overall, 13-5 in the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference (third place) and earned a second consecutive bid to the NAIA National Tournament for the first time since the early 1970s. Senior forward Tim Green was an honorable-mention NAIA All-American after leading Xavier with averages of 13.7 points and 6.8 rebounds. Shaun Dumas led NAIA Division I with 106 steals, ranked second in the NAIA with 3.1 steals per game and was chosen GCAC Freshman of the Year. Xavier was 14-3 at home (13-3 in The Barn, 1-0 in New Orleans Arena).

■ **After the Opener:** Three games next week for the Rush — 7 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 6 at Texas (the second and final exhibition of the season), 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 7 at Huston-Tillotson (Austin, Texas) and 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 10 against Wiley in The Barn.

■ **Picked Sixth:** Xavier was picked sixth out of 10 teams in the GCAC preseason coaches poll announced Oct. 3. A sixth-place finish would be Xavier's lowest in the GCAC since 1998-99 and the Rush's second lowest in 16 seasons.

■ **Who's Back:** Three of 12 lettermen return from Xavier's 2004-05 team: juniors Mark Stewart and Alfred Williams and sophomore Shaun Dumas. All three are guards. Stewart scored 7.7 points per game hit a team-leading 58 three-point field goals. Dumas led NAIA Division I with 106 steals, ranked second in the NAIA with 3.1 steals per game and was chosen GCAC Freshman of the Year. Williams averaged 4.2 points. Also back are guards Kelechi Okoroha and Olumide Olafioye, but neither played a minute in 2004-05. There are eight newcomers, including seven freshmen, so this is one of the most inexperienced teams in Xavier history.

■ **Shaun Is On:** Sophomore guard Shaun Dumas is Xavier's lone representative on the 10-member preseason all-GCAC team.

■ **But Shaun Is Gone:** Dumas is expected to miss the Texas College game because of an injury.

■ **The Opponents:**

Texas College — The Steers, like Xavier, are an NAIA Division I member . . . The Xavier game will be Texas College's opener and the head-coaching debut of Champ Watson, an assistant at Arkansas-Monticello the past two seasons . . . Xavier beat the Steers 63-59 in the most recent meeting on Nov. 26, 2004, in the opening round of the Loyola Classic in New Orleans . . . Last time the Steers visited The Barn, Xavier won 70-60 on Nov. 8, 2003 . . . It's a two-game trip to the Crescent City for the Steers, who will visit Loyola at 7 p.m. Saturday . . . Texas College was 14-15 overall and 10-8 (fifth place) in the Red River Athletic Conference in 2005-06.

Texas — The Longhorns, like Xavier, played an exhibition on Halloween night. They won 98-64 at home against Lenoir-Rhyne . . . UT will open the regular season at home on Thursday, Nov. 9 against Alcorn State in the 2K Sports College Hoops Classic benefiting Coaches vs. Cancer . . . Rick Barnes (Lenoir-Rhyne 1977) is 393-210 (.652) in 19 seasons as a head coach and 191-76 (.715) in eight seasons at Texas . . . The Longhorns were 30-7 overall in 2005-06 and tied for first place in the Big 12 Conference at 13-3. They lost 70-60 in overtime to LSU in the Atlanta Regional final of the NCAA Tournament . . . No starters return from this past season. The top returning scorer is 5-foot-10 sophomore guard A.J. Abrams (6.4 points per game, 3.0 assists per game) . . . Texas has four players taller than Xavier's tallest, 6-8 Aaron Burgess . . . There are seven freshmen on the roster, including 5-11 guard D.J. Augustin, a McDonald's All-American who played for New Orleans' Brother Martin High School through his junior season, then relocated to the Houston area after Hurricane Katrina. Augustin led the Crusaders to Class 5A state championships in 2003-04 and 2004-05 . . . This will be the Gold Rush's first meeting against Texas or a Big 12 school.

■ **The Coach:** Dannton Jackson (Xavier 1992 and 1996) is in his fourth season as Xavier's head coach. His three-year record is 69-30 — 22-12 in 2002-03, 23-8 in 2003-04 and 24-10 in 2004-05. Highlights include:

- Becoming the second Xavier men's coach to win 20 or more games in each of his first three seasons. (His predecessor, Dale Valdery, opened his Xavier career with five consecutive 20-game winners from 1990-95.)

- Producing three of the 10 winningest seasons in school history — no small feat for a program which boasts of twenty-three 20-win seasons, the most in Louisiana men's college basketball history.

- Posting three consecutive 20-win seasons from 2002-05 — no other coach in the GCAC did it during that time.

Jackson is assisted by former Xavier standout David Egans, who is in his first season as a coach.

■ **Helping Hands:** Hurricane Katrina shut down Xavier for the fall 2005 semester and forced thousands to evacuate the New Orleans region, but Coach Dannton Jackson said he was fortunate to be mentored during that time by two of America's top college coaches, John Calipari of Memphis and Rick Barnes of Texas, the Gold Rush's exhibition opponent Tuesday. Jackson evacuated to Memphis and spent considerable time at Memphis team practices — "Coach Calipari kept the basketball thing alive. He opened up his entire program to me," Jackson said — and Barnes and his assistant, Russell Springmann, sent Jackson packages of practice tapes and manuals to replace storm-damaged Xavier materials. "Coach Calipari, Coach Barnes and Coach Springmann kept me close to the game," Jackson said. "I'll always be appreciative of what those guys did."

■ **Get Online:** Follow Xavier men's basketball on the Web at www.xula.edu/athletics/mb.