

Nov. 6, 2006



Xavier University of Louisiana, New Orleans
2006-07 Men's Basketball Notes

Monday, Nov. 6 — at Texas (exhibition), 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 7 — at Huston-Tillotson, 7 p.m.

■ **BRIEFLY:** Xavier will play two games in Austin, Texas, on consecutive nights. The Texas game is an exhibition . . . Sophomore guard Shaun Dumas leads NAIA Division I with 9.0 assists per game and 9.0 steals per game . . . Xavier's 23 seasons of 20 or more victories are the most in the history of Louisiana men's college basketball . . . Xavier qualified for the NAIA National Tournament in 2004 and 2005 — its first back-to-back appearances since the early 1970s.

■ **RECORDS:** Xavier's Gold Rush is 1-0, the Texas Longhorns are 0-0 and the Huston-Tillotson Rams are 0-0.

■ **SERIES:** First meeting against Texas or a Big 12 Conference school . . . First meeting against Huston-Tillotson since the 1973-74 season, when the Gold Rush defeated the Rams 107-91 and 93-77.

■ **LAST WEEK:** Xavier lost 82-49 at Arkansas in a Tuesday exhibition, then opened the season Friday with a 75-67 win against Texas College in The Barn. Xavier scored the final seven points after the Steers cut a 21-point deficit to one.

■ **XAVIER'S PROBABLE STARTERS:**

Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Exp.	Hometown	PPG	RPG	APG
F	20	Dannie Woods	6-7	170	Fr.	HS	San Antonio, Texas	4.0	4.0	1.0
F	24	Alfred Williams	6-4	190	Jr.	1L	Greenville, S.C.	10.0	5.0	3.0
C	21	Aaron Burgess	6-8	250	Sr.	TR	Lancaster, Calif.	5.0	8.0	0.0
G	4	Mark Stewart	6-1	160	Jr.	2L	Destrehan, La.	13.0	1.0	3.0
G	12	Shaun Dumas	5-11	160	So.	1L	New Orleans, La.	6.0	3.0	9.0

■ **THE COACH:** Dannton Jackson (Xavier 1992 and 1996) is in his fourth season as Xavier's head coach and has a record of 70-30 — 22-12 in 2002-03, 23-8 in 2003-04, 24-10 in 2004-05 and 1-0 in 2006-07. Xavier did not compete in 2005-06 because of the effects of Hurricane Katrina. Jackson is 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. Jackson is assisted by former Xavier standout David Egans, who is in his first season as a coach.

■ **MAKE IT A COMBO:** When you combine the Arkansas and Texas College statistics, the Gold Rush's leading scorers are Mark Stewart (16.0 ppg), Olumide Olafioye (10.5), Alfred Williams (10.0), Kelechi Okoroha (9.0).

■ **UT ASSISTS:** 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."

■ **BACK FOR A VISIT:** Xavier's roster has two from Texas: freshman forward Dannie Woods (San Antonio / Sam Houston High School) and sophomore guard Kelechi Okoroha (Missouri City / Dulles High School in Sugar Land). Woods started against Texas College and had four points and four rebounds. Okoroha scored a team-high 16 points off the bench.

■ **ABOUT 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 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 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 . . . The press row phone number at the Frank Erwin Center (capacity 16,755) is (512) 471-4246.

■ **ABOUT HUSTON-TILLOTSON:** The Rams, like Xavier, are an NAIA Division I member . . . They were 9-21 last season, 8-11 in the Red River Athletic Conference . . . Anthony Walker (Radford 1997) is in his third season on the staff and his first as head coach . . . The Rams' top three scorers from last season return: 6-2 senior guard KC Asomugha (12.5 points, 4.9 rebounds, 2.9 assists per game in 2005-06), 6-2 sophomore guard Doug Krause (11.7 ppg, team-leading 72 three-point field goals) and 6-7 sophomore forward/center Andy Laitinen (10.2 ppg, 5.0 rpg, 56 percent from the floor).

■ **LATER THIS WEEK:** Xavier will play another Texas school, Wiley College of Marshall, at 7 p.m. Friday in The Barn.

■ **SPORTS INFORMATION:** Contact Ed Cassiere at (504) 520-5707 (work), (504) 256-5380 (cell) or ecassier@xula.edu.