



# XAVIER

UNIVERSITY  
RUSH *gold* NUGGETS



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updated Nov. 15, 2006

## Men's Basketball

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For ticket information, call (504) 520-7329

### Did You Know?

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



Shaun Dumas



Mark Stewart



Alfred Williams

**This Week:** Xavier's men's basketball team will play twice in the University of Mobile Classic at Pharr Gymnasium in Mobile, Ala. The Gold Rush will play at 6 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 17 against the Webber International Warriors of Babson Park, Fla., and at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 18 against the Martin Methodist RedHawks of Pulaski, Tenn. Both opponents, like Xavier, are NAIA Division I schools.

**Records:** Xavier is 3-0, Webber International is 2-3, and Martin Methodist is 2-2. Martin Methodist will play 24th-ranked Mobile at 8 p.m. Friday.

**Leading Scorers:** Xavier — Mark Stewart (6-1 junior guard), 15.7 ppg; Webber International — Ishmael Firova (6-2 sophomore forward), 10.3 ppg; Martin Methodist — Chauncey Shelton (6-4 senior forward), 17.5 ppg.

### NAIA Division I National Statistics:

- Shaun Dumas — Tied for first with 5.0 steals per game, tied for second with 7.7 assists per game.
- Mark Stewart — Tied for sixth with 3.7 three-point field goals made per game, tied for 10th with an .889 free-throw percentage.
- Xavier — 13th with a field-goal percentage defense of .387, 17th with 10.3 steals per game.

### Streaks:

- A victory against Webber would make Xavier 4-0 for the fourth consecutive season.
- Xavier has a seven-game home winning streak, which includes a victory against Dillard in the New Orleans Arena in 2005.
- Xavier has a six-game winning streak in The Barn. The last loss was 98-89 to Mobile on Jan. 20, 2005.
- Xavier has not allowed 100 points in its last 403 games. The last opponent to score 100 was Southern University of Baton Rouge, which defeated the Gold Rush 102-85 in Baton Rouge, La., on Dec. 7, 1992. (Texas defeated Xavier 103-53 on Monday Nov. 6, but that was an exhibition which did not count in Xavier's statistics or records.)

### Xavier's Probable Starters:

**ALMA MATER**

In the Mississippi Valley,  
In the Crescent Bend  
Stands our loved and noble  
Xavier,  
Far her praises send.

Refrain:  
Wave her colors bear them  
onward  
Gold and white so true  
Hail to thee, all hail, dear Xavier  
Hail, all hail, X.U.!

Xavier, ever be our guide  
And lead us on the way,  
Through life's journey, onward,  
upward  
To the eternal day. (Refrain)

Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Exp.	Hometown
F	20	Dannie Woods	6-7	170	Fr.	HS	San Antonio, Texas
F	24	Alfred Williams	6-4	190	Jr.	1L	Greenville, S.C.
C	21	Aaron Burgess	6-8	250	Sr.	TR	Lancaster, Calif.
G	4	Mark Stewart	6-1	160	Jr.	2L	Destrehan, La.
G	12	Shaun Dumas	5-11	160	So.	1L	Marrero, La.

**Rankings:** Neither Xavier, Webber International nor Martin Methodist received votes in the NAIA Division I Men's Basketball Preseason Rating released Nov. 1. The next rating will be announced Dec. 6.

**Most Recently:**

- Shaun Dumas scored 14 points, including the go-ahead basket with 3:27 remaining, and had seven assists to rally Xavier to a 56-53 victory against Wiley at The Barn on Friday, Nov. 10. [Game Story](#) • [Box Score](#)
- Mark Stewart scored a career-high 28 points in a 67-58 victory at Huston-Tillotson on Tuesday, Nov. 7. [Game Story](#) • [Box Score](#)

**Tickets:** Ticket prices for Xavier basketball 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 identification card are admitted free.

**2005-06 Recap:** Xavier did not compete because of the effects of Hurricane Katrina.

**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).

**Next Week:** No games during Thanksgiving week. The Gold Rush's next game will start at 6 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 27 in The Barn against the Philander Smith Panthers of Little Rock, Ark.

**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. [MORE](#)

**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-Gulf Coast Athletic Conference team. [MORE](#)

**The Opponents:**

- **Webber International** — The Warriors lost three straight after a 2-0 start . . . In their only home game, they defeated Florida Christian 111-44 in their opener Oct. 31 . . . Since then they've averaged 57 points per game . . . In their most recent game, they lost 86-41 to Campbellsville on Saturday, Nov. 11 . . . John Shoffner is 16-50 in his third season as Webber's head coach.
- **Martin Methodist** — The RedHawks made four consecutive NAIA National Tournament appearances from 2001-04 but did not qualify the past two seasons . . . They're picked to finish seventh in the 10-team TranSouth Athletic Conference . . . In their most recent game, they lost 85-84 in overtime at Oakwood on Saturday, Nov. 11 after leading by 14 in the first half. They defeated Oakwood 100-67 at home in their opener 12 days earlier . . . Jason Ficca is in his fourth season on the coaching staff and his

second as head coach. His record is 17-19.

**The Coach:** Dannton Jackson (Xavier 1992 and 1996) is in his fourth season as Xavier's head coach. His record is 72-30 — 22-12 in 2002-03, 23-8 in 2003-04, 24-10 in 2004-05 and 3-0 in 2006-07. 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.

**Back in The Barn:** The resumption of basketball at Xavier means a return to its venerable campus facility, The Barn, which opened in 1937. Capacity is 1,300. The Gold Rush will play 13 regular-season games in The Barn in 2006-07, with the possibility of more games in the GCAC Tournament, when highest seeds will host throughout. This will be the Gold Rush's 62nd season in The Barn (23 seasons from 1937-60, 38 more from 1967-2005). Beginning with the 1978-79 season, Xavier's men are 272-100 (.731) in The Barn. The Gold Rush was 13-3 in The Barn in 2004-05 and is 2-0 in 2006-07. The facility was cleaned and renovated after receiving about two feet of flooding in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. Xavier is renting the wooden playing surface from Jackson State University, which allowed Xavier to paint the floor in the school colors of gold and white.

[More About The Barn](#) • [Locate The Barn](#)

#### Also Notable:

- Xavier trailed at halftime in its last two games — five points at Huston-Tillotson, eight at home against Wiley — but rallied to win both times.
- Mark Stewart's 28 points against Huston-Tillotson were the most by a Xavier player since Tim Green scored 29 in The Barn against Clark Atlanta on Nov. 25, 2003.
- Shaun Dumas' nine steals vs. Texas College tied his career best, and his nine assists were the second most of his career.

**For More Information:** Contact Ed Cassiere, Xavier's sports information director, at (504) 520-5707 (office), (504) 520-7934 (fax) or (504) 256-5380 (cell). Cassiere's e-mail address is [ecassier@xula.edu](mailto:ecassier@xula.edu).

### 2006-07 Quick Facts

**Nickname:** Gold Rush (men's teams)

**School Colors:** Gold and white

**Affiliation:** NAIA Division I

**Founded:** 1925

**Enrollment:** 3,013

**Conference:** Gulf Coast Athletic

**President:** Dr. Norman C. Francis

**Athletics Director:** Dennis Cousin

**Head Coach:** Dannton Jackson (Xavier 1992 and 1996)

**Jackson E-Mail:** [djackson@xula.edu](mailto:djackson@xula.edu)

**Jackson Office Phone:** (504) 520-5448

**Record at Xavier (Years):** 72-30 (4th year)

**Assistant Coach:** David Egans (Xavier 2002)

**Egans E-Mail:** [dgegans@xula.edu](mailto:dgegans@xula.edu)

**Egans Office Phone:** (504) 520-6778

**2005-06 Overall Record:** No team

**2004-05 Overall Record:** 24-10

**2004-05 Conference Record:** 13-5 (third place)

**Most Recent NAIA National Tournament**

**Appearance:** 2005

**All-Time Record:** 1026-593 (.634) in 62 seasons

**MORE QUICK FACTS**



The Xavier Gold Rush and Gold Nuggets compete in Division I of the [NAIA](#) (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics) as a member of the [Gulf Coast Athletic Conference](#) (GCAC). Xavier fields men's and women's teams in basketball, cross country and tennis.

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