



XAVIER

UNIVERSITY
RUSH *gold* NUGGETS



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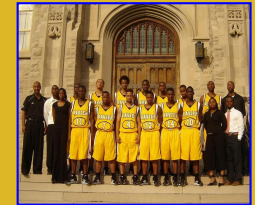
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*Xavier's 23 seasons of 20 or more victories are the most
in the history of Louisiana men's college basketball*

Men's Basketball

For ticket information call (504) 520-7329
updated Dec. 29, 2006

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[Click team photo for larger view](#)

Hall of Famer visits Gold Rush



Willis Reed, the New Orleans Hornets' vice president of basketball operations, gave a motivational speech to the team after its Dec. 15 practice.

click on either photo for a larger view

Next Game: The Gold Rush added to its schedule a neutral-site game on New Year's Eve against the Wiley College Wildcats of Marshall, Texas. Xavier is 1-1 this season against Wiley. Xavier continues to search for games to replace the three it lost because of the cancellation of the Hoopin' in Holidays Tournament in Los Angeles. Interested coaches should call XU Coach Dannton Jackson at (504) 520-5448.

• **Date:** Sunday, Dec. 31

• **Time:** Noon

• **Site:** Southern University of Shreveport's Health and Physical Education Center, Shreveport, La. (3050 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., zip 71107)

Record: Xavier is 6-3 and has a two-game losing streak.

Leading Scorer: Mark Stewart (6-1 junior guard), 14.7 ppg.

Ratings: For the second straight week Xavier is among "others receiving votes" in the NAIA Top 25 poll. The Gold Rush received one point, a drop from the 15 it received in the Dec. 6 poll.

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)

Most Recently: Xavier lost 76-63 at Nicholls State on Dec. 11. [Game Story](#) • [Box Score](#)

Series: Xavier and Wiley have played as far back as the 1935-36 season. Xavier Coach Dannton Jackson's teams are 6-1 in four seasons against Wiley, including a 56-53 victory at The Barn on Nov. 10 and a 79-61 loss at Wiley on Dec. 6.

NAIA Division I National Statistics:

- Shaun Dumas — Third with 3.7 steals per game, 11th with 5.4 assists per game.
- Mark Stewart — 11th with 3.1 three-point field goals made per game, 11th with an .878 free-throw percentage.
- Xavier — 10th with 11.2 steals per game, 21st in 3-point field-goal percentage defense (.318), 23rd in scoring defense (66.3), 24th in turnover margin (+2.8). There are 95 Division I men's basketball schools.

Xavier Streaks:

- Eight consecutive home victories (last home loss: 98-89 to Mobile on Jan. 20, 2005).
- Seven consecutive victories in The Barn (last loss in The Barn: 98-89 to Mobile on Jan. 20, 2005).
- 21 consecutive victories in The Barn against HBCUs — Historically Black Colleges and Universities (last loss: 74-72 to SUNO on Jan. 26, 2003).
- 408 consecutive games allowing less than 100 points (last time: Southern University of Baton Rouge 102, Xavier 85 on Dec. 7, 1992, in Baton Rouge).

After Wiley: If Xavier adds no more games, the Gold Rush will open its Gulf Coast Athletic Conference schedule on the road against the Tougaloo University Bulldogs of Tougaloo, Miss., on Thursday, Jan. 4 at 7:30 p.m. The next home game will be against a GCAC opponent, the University of Mobile Rams of Mobile, Ala., on Saturday, Jan. 6 at 7 p.m. in The Barn.

2006-07 Summary:

- Xavier won its first four games for the fourth consecutive season.
- The Gold Rush won three consecutive games — Huston-Tillotson, Wiley and Webber International — after trailing at halftime.
- Mark Stewart's 28 points at 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 in the season opener against Texas College tied his career best, and his nine assists were the second most of his career.
- After not fielding a team in 2005-06 season because of the effects of Hurricane Katrina, the 2006-07 Gold Rush is one of the least experienced teams in school history. Seven of the 12 players on the roster are freshmen.

Xavier's Probable Starters:

Pos.	No.	Name	Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Exp.	Hometown	PPG
F	23	Cornelius Kennedy	6-5	220	Fr.	HS	Los Angeles, Calif.	4.4
F	24	Alfred Williams	6-4	190	Jr.	1L	Greenville, S.C.	9.5
C	21	Aaron Burgess	6-8	250	Sr.	TR	Lancaster, Calif.	4.8
G	3	Kelechi Okoroha	6-4	190	So.	SQ	Missouri City, Texas	10.4
G	12	Shaun Dumas	5-11	160	So.	1L	Marrero, La.	10.4

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. **The next Xavier men's home game will start at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 6 against Gulf Coast Athletic Conference opponent Mobile.**

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).

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 seven newcomers, including six 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 Coach: Dannton Jackson (Xavier 1992 and 1996) is in his fourth season as Xavier's head coach. His record is 75-33 — 22-12 in 2002-03, 23-8 in 2003-04, 24-10 in 2004-05 and 6-3 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 is 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 274-100 (.733) in The Barn. The Gold Rush was 13-3 in The Barn in 2004-05 and is 4-0 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](#)

GCAC Players of the Week:

Nov. 6-12 — Jamon Morris, LSU-Shreveport (F, 6-5, Jr.)
 Nov. 13-19 — Josh Porter, LSU-Shreveport (G, 6-3, Sr.)
 Nov. 20-26 — Jarekus Singleton, William Carey (G, 6-3, Sr.)
 Nov. 27-Dec. 3 — Noah Woolridge, Spring Hill (G, 6-6, Jr.)
 Dec. 4-10 — Luke Zumo, Loyola (G, 6-2, Soph.)
 Dec. 11-17 — Dupree Fletcher, Dillard (G, 6-0, Soph.)

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.

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

Jackson Office Phone: (504) 520-5448

Record at Xavier (Years): 75-33 (4th year)

Assistant Coach: David Egans (Xavier 2002)

Egans E-Mail: davidegans@yahoo.com

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

Appearances: 2004 and 2005

All-Time Record: 1029-596 (.633) in 63 seasons

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Gulf Coast
Athletic
Conference

National
Association of
Intercollegiate
Athletics

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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Emergency Preparedness

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