



# 15th ANNUAL JACKSON ROTARY CLASSIC

November 20-22, 2008  
Fred DeLay Gymnasium - David Blackstock Court - Jackson, Tennessee



## Jackson Rotary Classic to feature six ranked teams for third straight year

**November 18, 2008** - The Jackson Rotary Club will host their 15th Annual Jackson Rotary Classic, and for the sixth straight season, Union University's Fred DeLay Gymnasium will be the site. The Rotary Classic begins Thursday, Nov. 20 and goes through Saturday, Nov. 22.

The Jackson Rotary Classic will benefit the Madison Haywood Developmental Services, Youth Town of Tennessee, and will also fund scholarships for students from each of the high schools in Madison County.

Year after year, the Jackson Rotary Classic has featured some of the NAIA's best talent in women's basketball. The fans of West Tennessee and many from across the nation often get a preview of the same teams that make their way back to Jackson in March for the NAIA Women's Basketball National Tournament at Oman Arena.

For the third straight season, since the classic expanded to six teams in 2003, the entire field of six is ranked in the NAIA Preseason Top 25 rankings. This season, the classic boasts three of the top six teams, and four of the top nine teams in the NAIA. This year's field includes No. 1 Union (Tenn.) University, No. 3 Freed-Hardeman (Tenn.) University, No. 6 Azusa Pacific (Calif.) University, No. 9 Lambuth (Tenn.) University, No. 13 Saint Xavier (Ill.) University, and No. 24 Loyola (La.) University.

All six teams in this year's classic participated in the 2008 NAIA Women's Basketball National Tournament in Jackson last March. Four of the teams advanced to the second round, three of the teams advanced to the quarterfinals, and two teams (Union, Freed-Hardeman) advanced to the semifinals.

In fact, each of the last five NAIA women's basketball national champions played in the Jackson Rotary Classic the year they won the title (Southern Nazarene 2004, Union 2005 & 2006, Lambuth 2007, and Vanguard 2008).

The same could easily happen again in March of 2009 as these teams work to get back to Jackson for the national tournament. This year's Rotary Classic field has combined for 56 total national tournament appearances, posting a combined record of 81-53 (.604). They have advanced to 13 semifinals appearances (Union 9, Freed-Hardeman 2, Lambuth 1, and Azusa Pacific 1). Included in the 13 trips to the final four, the field has also produced four national titles (Union 3, Lambuth 1) and two national runner-up finishes (Union 2).

### Thursday, Nov. 20

5:00 pm: #1 Union vs. #24 Loyola  
7:00 pm: #3 Freed-Hardeman vs. #13 Saint Xavier  
9:00 pm: #9 Lambuth vs. #6 Azusa Pacific

### Friday, Nov. 21

5:00 pm: #9 Lambuth vs. #24 Loyola  
7:00 pm: #1 Union vs. #13 Saint Xavier  
9:00 pm: #3 Freed-Hardeman vs. #6 Azusa Pacific

### Saturday, Nov. 22

5:00 pm: #3 Freed-Hardeman vs. #24 Loyola  
7:00 pm: #9 Lambuth vs. #13 Saint Xavier  
9:00 pm: #1 Union vs. #6 Azusa Pacific

### 2008-09 NAIA Division I Women's Basketball Preseason Top 25 Poll - Oct. 27

Rank	Prev.	School (1st Place Votes)	Points
1	1	UNION (Tenn.) (8)	279
2	4	Vanguard (Calif.) (3)	274
3	7	FREED-HARDEMAN (Tenn.)	263
4	20	Trevecca Nazarene (Tenn.)	254
5	10	Lewis-Clark State (Idaho)	238
6	9	AZUSA PACIFIC (Calif.)	224
7	2	Lee (Tenn.)	221
8	13	Carroll (Mont.)	216
9	11	LAMBUTH (Tenn.)	215
10	8	Oklahoma Baptist	214
11	3	Point Loma Nazarene (Calif.)	197
12	5	Oklahoma City	187
13	NR	California Baptist	160
13	14	SAINT XAVIER (Ill.)	160
15	17	Lubbock Christian (Texas)	158
16	16	The Master's (Calif.)	117
16	18	Westminster (Utah)	117
18	NR	Georgetown (Ky.)	114
19	T24	Xavier (La.)	112
20	NR	Columbia (Mo.)	97
21	T24	Cumberlands (Ky.)	89
22	12	Southern Nazarene (Okla.)	88
23	RV	Berry (Ga.)	87
24	15	LOYOLA (La.)	79
25	21	Olivet Nazarene (Ill.)	69

**Others receiving votes:** Lindsey Wilson (Ky.) 55; Westmont (Calif.) 48; McKendree (Ill.) 42; William Jewell (Mo.) 42; Campbellsville (Ky.) 23; Bethel (Tenn.) 20; Oklahoma Christian 14; Emmanuel (Ga.) 6; Robert Morris (Ill.) 6; Martin Methodist (Tenn.) 4; Benedictine (Kan.) 3; MidAmerica Nazarene (Kan.) 1; Montana State-Northern 1; Science and Arts of Oklahoma 1; Rocky Mountain (Mont.) 1; Park (Mo.) 1; William Carey (Miss.) 1.

### #6 AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY COUGARS Azusa, California - Golden State Athletic Conference

Head Coach: T.J. Hardeman  
Assistant Coaches: Dan Ploog, Irene Kim, Megan Fate  
National Tournament History: 10 appearances (3-11 .214)

### #3 FREED-HARDEMAN UNIVERSITY LADY LIONS

Henderson, Tennessee - TranSouth Athletic Conference  
Head Coach: Dale Neal  
Assistant Coach: Lain Hinson, Alex Woodward  
National Tournament History: 12 appearances (16-12 .571)

### #9 LAMBUTH UNIVERSITY LADY EAGLES

Jackson, Tennessee - Association of Independent Institutions  
Head Coach: Bob Bolden  
Assistant Coaches: Delia De La Torre  
National Tournament History: 6 appearances (9-5 .571)

### #24 LOYOLA UNIVERSITY-NEW ORLEANS WOLFPACK

New Orleans, Louisiana - Gulf Coast Athletic Conference  
Head Coach: Kellie Kennedy  
Assistant Coaches: Jamie Thomatis, Fran Boffone  
National Tournament History: 3 appearances (2-3 .400)

### #13 SAINT XAVIER UNIVERSITY COUGARS

Chicago, Illinois - Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference  
Head Coach: Bob Hallberg  
Assistant Coaches: Barry Shaw, Angie Brown, Jackie Heine, Jay Battles  
National Tournament History: 6 appearances (2-6 .250)

### #1 UNION UNIVERSITY LADY BULLDOGS

Jackson, Tennessee - TranSouth Athletic Conference  
Head Coach: Mark Campbell  
Assistant Coach: Katie Woodruff  
Graduate Assistant: Melissa Cook  
National Tournament History: 19 appearances (49-16 .753)



