



16TH ANNUAL JACKSON ROTARY CLASSIC

NOVEMBER 19-21, 2009 @ UNION UNIVERSITY

FRED DELAY GYMNASIUM - DAVID BLACKSTOCK COURT - JACKSON, TENNESSEE



Jackson Rotary Classic to feature six ranked teams for fourth straight year

November 17, 2009 - The Jackson Rotary Club will host their 16th Annual Jackson Rotary Classic, and for the seventh straight season, Union University's Fred DeLay Gymnasium will be the site. The Rotary Classic begins Thursday, Nov. 19 and goes through Saturday, Nov. 21.

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.

In fact, each of the last six 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, Vanguard 2008, Union 2009).

In each of the four seasons since the classic expanded to six teams in 2003, the entire field of six is ranked or receiving votes in the NAIA preseason rankings. This season, the classic boasts three teams in the top 10, four in the top 25, with all six in the top 29 of the preseason rankings. This year's field includes top 25 teams No. 1 Union (Tenn.) University, No. 6 Freed-Hardeman (Tenn.) University, No. 9 Lambuth (Tenn.) University, No. 25 Biola (Calif.) University. The Master's (Calif.) College and Westminster (Utah) College are receiving votes in the preseason rankings.

Five of the six teams in this year's classic participated in the 2009 NAIA Women's Basketball National Tournament in Jackson last March. Masters's missed the tournament for the first time in four seasons. Freed-Hardeman, Westminster and Biola each advanced to the second round, while Lambuth and Union both advanced to the championship game with Union winning their fourth NAIA title.

The Rotary Classic field could be on display again in March of 2010 as these teams work to get back to Jackson for the national tournament. This year's Rotary Classic field has combined for 54 total national tournament appearances, posting a combined record of 93-49 (.655). The field has advanced to 15 semifinals appearances (Union 10, Freed-Hardeman 2, Lambuth 2 and The Master's 1). Included in the 15 trips to the semifinals, the field has also produced five national champions (Union 4, Lambuth 1) and three national runner-up finishes (Union 2, Lambuth 1).

Thursday, Nov. 19

- 5:00 pm: #1 Union vs. #RV Westminster
- 7:00 pm: #3 Freed-Hardeman vs. #RV The Master's
- 9:00 pm: #9 Lambuth vs. #25 Biola

Friday, Nov. 20

- 5:00 pm: #9 Lambuth vs. #RV Westminster
- 7:00 pm: #1 Union vs. #RV The Master's
- 9:00 pm: #3 Freed-Hardeman vs. #25 Biola

Saturday, Nov. 21

- 5:00 pm: #3 Freed-Hardeman vs. #RV Westminster
- 7:00 pm: #9 Lambuth vs. #RV The Master's
- 9:00 pm: #1 Union vs. #25 Biola

2009-10 NAIA Division I Women's Basketball Coaches' Preseason Top 25 Poll - (Oct. 26)

No.	Prev.	School (1st Place Votes)	Record	Points
1	1	UNION UNIVERSITY (Tenn.) (9)	37-1	280
2	2	Vanguard University (Calif.) (2)	31-4	272
3	4	Oklahoma Baptist University	32-5	261
4	8	Point Loma Nazarene (Calif.)	27-7	250
5	5	Lee University (Tenn.)	30-6	238
6	6	FREED-HARDEMAN (Tenn.)	25-9	232
7	6	Saint Xavier University (Ill.)	26-5	224
8	12	Oklahoma City University	31-6	220
9	9	LAMBUTH UNIVERSITY (Tenn.)	29-5	209
10	18	Azusa Pacific (Calif.)	23-11	194
11	13	Campbellsville University (Ky.)	26-7	193
12	11	Univ. of the Cumberlands (Ky.)	29-5	172
13	9	Trevecca Nazarene (Tenn.)	25-8	171
14	19	Columbia College (Mo.)	29-5	158
15	14	Southern Nazarene (Okla.)	24-8	148
16	22	Lewis-Clark State College (Idaho)	23-8	129
17	17	Lindsey Wilson College (Ky.)	25-9	127
18	16	Westmont College (Calif.)	22-9	123
19	10	Lubbock Christian (Texas)	27-7	117
20	23	Bethel University (Tenn.)	19-13	112
21	20	Loyola University (La.)	23-7	107
22	25	Auburn Univ. Montgomery (Ala.)	20-9	98
23	NR	Carroll College (Mont.)	15-16	80
24	RV	Evangel University (Mo.)	21-10	65
25	21	BIOLA UNIVERSITY (Calif.)	20-12	61

Others receiving votes:

William Woods University (Mo.) 55; WESTMINSTER COLLEGE (Utah) 45; Xavier University (La.) 37; THE MASTER'S COLLEGE (Calif.) 19; Wayland Baptist University (Texas) 13; Langston University (Okla.) 13; Shorter College (Ga.) 6; University of St. Francis (Ill.) 6; Louisiana State University-Shreveport 5; McKendree University (Ill.) 4; Montana State University-Northern 3; Georgetown College (Ky.) 3; Indiana University-South Bend 1; Benedictine College (Kan.) 1; Morris College (S.C.) 1; William Jewell College (Mo.) 1; Pikeville College (Ky.) 1; Rogers State University (Okla.) 1



#25 BIOLA UNIVERSITY EAGLES

La Mirada, California - Golden State Athletic Conference
Head Coach: Ken Crawford
Assistant Coaches: Allison Wulff, Bethany Miller, Tiffany Hadden
National Tournament History: 4 appearances (1-4 .200)

#6 FREED-HARDEMAN UNIVERSITY LADY LIONS

Henderson, Tennessee - TranSouth Athletic Conference
Head Coach: Dale Neal
Assistant Coach: Lain Hinson
National Tournament History: 13 appearances (17-13 .567)

#9 LAMBUTH UNIVERSITY LADY EAGLES

Jackson, Tennessee - Association of Independent Institutions
Head Coach: Tony Hill
Assistant Coaches: Delia De La Torre
National Tournament History: 7 appearances (13-6 .684)

#RV THE MASTER'S COLLEGE MUSTANGS

Santa Clarita, Calif. - Golden State Athletic Conference
Head Coach: Dan Waldeck
Assistant Coaches: Jessica Seyler, John Spring
National Tournament History: 7 appearances (6-7 .461)

#1 UNION UNIVERSITY LADY BULLDOGS

Jackson, Tennessee - TranSouth Athletic Conference
Head Coach: Mark Campbell
Assistant Coach: Katie Woodruff, Keily Schork
National Tournament History: 20 appearances (54-16 .771)

#RV WESTMINSTER COLLEGE GRIFFINS

Salt Lake City, Utah - Frontier Conference
Head Coach: JD Gustin
Assistant Coaches: Dave Hammer, Mike Evans
National Tournament History: 3 appearances (2-3 .400)

