



2004-05 BIG 12 MEN'S BASKETBALL

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PHILLIPS 66 BIG 12 MEN'S BASKETBALL AWARDS ANNOUNCED

DALLAS - Wayne Simien (Kansas) has been named Player of the Year and Taj Gray (Oklahoma) was chosen as Newcomer of the Year, highlighting the Phillips 66 All-Big 12 Men's Basketball Awards. Daniel Gibson (Texas) was honored as Freshman of the Year, while Billy Gillispie (Texas A&M) was picked as Coach of the Year.

The All-Big 12 honors are selected by the league's head coaches, who are not allowed to vote for their own players.

Simien, a unanimous selection, becomes the fourth KU player to earn Big 12 Player of the Year recognition. The senior forward led the Big 12 in scoring (19.4 ppg) and rebounding (11.1), the only player in the conference to average a double-double. He posted 12 games with 20 points or more, including a career-high 32-point effort versus Oklahoma State on Feb. 27. One of his top outings was on March 2 against Kansas State, when he became just the seventh player in Big 12 history to record 20 or more points and rebounds in the same contest. Simien also had seven different games where he was perfect from the free throw line, finishing the regular season hitting at 82.8 percent from the stripe.

Gray is the third player from Oklahoma to garner the Big 12 Newcomer of the Year award. The junior forward finished second in the league behind Simien (14) with 10 double-doubles. He led the Sooners in scoring with 14.7 points per game and ranked fourth in the conference in rebounding (7.8). Gray was first in the league with 57 blocks and also led the way with 96 offensive rebounds. He finished the regular season second in the Big 12 in field goal percentage (.570).

Gibson becomes the second Longhorn (T.J. Ford, 2002) to be tabbed Big 12 Freshman of the Year. The guard topped UT in scoring, averaging 14.5 points to go along with 118 assists. Since the mid-January loss of two of Texas' top scorers, Gibson led UT in scoring in seven of its final 12 contests. He has posted double-figure scoring in 13 of the last 14 outings, including four games with 20 points or better. Gibson was fourth in the conference in steals, with 52 in 29 games.

Gillispie is the first Aggie mentor to be named Big 12 Coach of the Year. He led Texas A&M to a tie (San Diego) for the nation's top turnaround, as the squad posted 12 more wins than a year ago. The Aggies also tied the league mark for best turnaround with its eight-game conference improvement after going winless last season. Gillispie set a school record for most wins by a first-year coach and has the Aggies one win away from their first 20-win campaign since 1986.

The All-Big 12 First, Second, Third and Honorable Mention teams were also announced, with each league squad represented. Simien and Lucas were unanimous picks on the first team, as both repeated from 2003-04.

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2004-05 PHILLIPS 66 ALL-BIG 12 MEN'S BASKETBALL AWARDS

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Wayne Simien, Kansas, Sr., F, 6-9, 255, Leavenworth, Kan./Leavenworth**

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

Taj Gray, Oklahoma, Jr., F, 6-9, 235, Wichita, Kan./Redlands (Okla.) CC

FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR

Daniel Gibson, Texas, Fr., G, 6-2, 190, Houston, Texas/Jones

COACH OF THE YEAR

Billy Gillispie (Texas State '83) - At Texas A&M: First Season, 19-8 (.703); Career: Third Season, 49-40 (.551)

ALL-BIG 12 FIRST TEAM

Wayne Simien, Kansas**	Sr.	F	6-9	255	Leavenworth, Kan./Leavenworth
Taj Gray, Oklahoma	Jr.	F	6-9	235	Wichita, Kan./Redlands (Okla.) CC
Joey Graham, Oklahoma State**	Sr.	F	6-7	225	Brandon, Fla./Brandon/UCF
John Lucas, Oklahoma State	Sr.	G	5-11	165	Houston, Texas/Bellaire
Ronald Ross, Texas Tech	Sr.	G	6-2	185	Hobbs, N.M./Hobbs

ALL-BIG 12 SECOND TEAM

Curtis Stinson, Iowa State	So.	G	6-3	215	Bronx, N.Y./Bronx Regional/Winchendon Prep
Keith Langford, Kansas	Sr.	G	6-4	215	Fort Worth, Texas/North Crowley
Jeremiah Massey, Kansas State	Sr.	F	6-7	230	Detroit, Mich./Oxnard (Calif.) CC
Brad Buckman, Texas	Jr.	F	6-8	235	Austin, Texas/Westlake
Antoine Wright, Texas A&M	Jr.	F	6-7	210	San Bernardino, Calif./ Lawrence Academy (Mass.)

ALL-BIG 12 THIRD TEAM

Jared Homan, Iowa State	Sr.	C	6-10	250	Remsen, Iowa/St. Mary's
Aaron Miles, Kansas	Sr.	G	6-1	175	Portland, Ore./Jefferson
Kevin Bookout, Oklahoma	Jr.	F	6-8	259	Stroud, Okla./Stroud
Daniel Gibson, Texas	Fr.	G	6-2	190	Houston, Texas/Jones
Jarrius Jackson, Texas Tech	So.	G	6-1	185	Monroe, La./Ouachita

ALL-BIG 12 HONORABLE MENTION (Listed alphabetically by school)

Aaron Bruce, Baylor	Fr.	G	6-3	190	Horsham, Victoria, Australia/Horsham College
Richard Roby, Colorado	Fr.	G	6-6	190	San Bernardino, Calif./ Lawrence Academy (Mass.)
Linas Kleiza, Missouri	So.	F	6-8	245	Kaunas, Lithuania/Montrose Christian
Joe McCray, Nebraska	Fr.	G	6-5	210	Fort Lauderdale, Fla./Laurinburg Institute (N.C.)
Terrell Everett, Oklahoma	Jr.	G	6-4	185	Charleston, S.C./ Southwest Missouri State-West Plains CC
Ivan McFarlin, Oklahoma State	Sr.	F	6-8	240	Missouri City, Texas/Willowridge
Joseph Jones, Texas A&M	Fr.	C	6-9	240	Normangee, Texas/Normangee
Acie Law, Texas A&M	So.	G	6-3	185	Dallas, Texas/Kimball

** - Unanimous Selection