

January 5, 2004 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Kim Melcher Phone: (615) 371-1698 Ohio Valley Conference 278 Franklin Road, Suite 103 Brentwood, Tennessee 37027 www.ovcsports.com

# **OVC STANDINGS**

Austin Peay
Murray State
Southeast Missouri
Tennessee Tech
Eastern Kentucky
Morehead State
Samford
Tennessee-Martin
Eastern Illinois
Tennessee State
Jacksonville State

CONFERENCE					
W	L	PCT.	<u>Home</u>	<u>Away</u>	<u>Streak</u>
1	0	1.000	0-0	1-0	W1
0	0	.000	0-0	0-0	
0	0	.000	0-0	0-0	
0	0	.000	0-0	0-0	
0	0	.000	0-0	0-0	
0	0	.000	0-0	0-0	
0	0	.000	0-0	0-0	
0	0	.000	0-0	0-0	
0	0	.000	0-0	0-0	
0	0	.000	0-0	0-0	
0	1	.000	0-1	0-0	L1

W	<u>L</u>	PCT.	<u>Home</u>	<u>Away</u>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Streak</b>
4	7	.364	3-0	1-6	0-1	W1
10	2	.833	6-0	3-2	1-0	L1
7	4	.636	5-0	1-4	1-0	W1
6	5	.545	6-1	0-4	0-0	W1
5	6	.455	5-0	0-6	0-0	W2
5	6	.455	5-0	0-6	0-0	W1
5	6	.455	4-0	1-5	0-1	W1
5	7	.417	4-0	0-6	1-1	W1
2	8	.200	2-2	0-6	0-0	W1
1	10	.091	1-3	0-7	0-0	L10
6	5	.545	5-1	1-4	0-0	L1

Overall

# **RECENT RESULTS**

## Saturday, January 3

\*Austin Peay 76, @Jacksonville State 58 @Eastern Illinois 93, Illinois College 75 @Eastern Kentucky 67, Robert Morris 58 @Morehead State 96, Greenville 48 @Louisville 91, Murray State 69 @Samford 94, Tennessee Wesleyan 46 Southeast Missouri 77, @IFPW 75 @Tennessee Tech 102, Bluefield College 63

# Friday, January 2

@Tennessee-Martin 76, Portland State 65 (ot)

#### Wednesday, December 31

Kentucky 61, **Austin Peay 53** (@Louisville, KY) @DePaul 57, **Southeast Missouri 50** 

## Tuesday, December 30

Q Xavier 93, Morehead State 76
Q Oklahoma State 65, Samford 50
Q Jacksonville State 74, Alcorn State 41
Portland State 74, @Tennessee State 71
Q lowa 71, Eastern Illinois 62
Q Central Florida 80, Tennessee-Martin 68
Q Eastern Kentucky 107, Alabama A&M 71

#### Monday, December 29

@Jacksonville 71, Tennessee Tech 67

#### Sunday, December 28

@Notre Dame 84, Morehead State 69 Murray State 65, @Delaware State 56

#### Saturday, December 27

@Florida 109, Eastern Kentucky 63

#### Tuesday, December 23

@ Middle Tennessee 70, Austin Peay 46 @ Ohio State 69, Eastern Illinois 50 @ Kentucky 101, Eastern Kentucky 72 @ Indiana 77, Morehead State 57

#### Monday, December 22

Murray State 78, Georgetown College 64
@ Chattanooga 74, Tennessee State 70
@ Tennessee 79, Tennessee Tech 61
@ Mississippi 64, Jacksonville State 56
@ Memphis 63, Samford 62
@ Indiana State 87, Tennessee-Martin 60
@ Southeast Missouri 75, North Texas 68

# UPCOMING GAMES

<u>Tuesday, January 6</u> Jacksonville State at Samford\* - 7:00 p.m.

#### Thursday, January 8

Tennessee-Martin at Eastern Kentucky\* - 6:30 p.m. Murray State at Morehead State\* - 6:30 p.m. Austin Peay at Southeast Missouri\* - 7:30 p.m. Jacksonville State at Tennessee State\* - 7:30 p.m. Tennessee Tech at Eastern Illinois\* - 7:35 p.m. (WEIU)

#### Saturday, January 10

Tenn.-Martin at Morehead State\* - 1:00 p.m. (FSNS) Murray State at Eastern Kentucky\* - 6:30 p.m. Samford at Tennessee State\* - 7:00 p.m. Austin Peay at Eastern Illinois\* - 7:05 p.m. (WEIU) Tennessee Tech at Southeast Missouri\* - 7:30 p.m.

#### \* - Denotes OVC contest ALL TIMES CENTRAL

FSNS - Live telecast on Fox Sports Net South WEIU - Live telecast on WEIU-TV (Charleston, IL)

<sup>\* -</sup> Denotes OVC contest

# OVC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

#### **PLAYER OF THE WEEK**

## JON BENTLEY • SR., C, 6'9, 235 • HAZARD, KY • EASTERN KENTUCKY

**Bentley** averaged 11.8 points and 4.8 rebounds a game as Eastern Kentucky posted a 2-2 record over the holiday break. The senior center netted 12 points and three boards apiece in road losses to Top 20 opponents Kentucky and Florida, then went 7-of-7 from the field en route to a 17-point, seven-rebound effort in the Colonels' rout of Alabama A&M. He finished with six points in a reserve role in a win over Robert Morris. A native of Hazard, Ky., Bentley shot 50 percent or better in all four contests and leads the team with a 66.2 percent conversion rate from the field.

#### **NEWCOMER OF THE WEEK**

#### DAINMON GONNER • JR., F, 6'6, 230 • FORT WORTH, TX • SOUTHEAST MISSOURI

**Gonner** turned in three solid efforts as Southeast Missouri went 2-1 during the break. The junior foward opened with 15 points and eight rebounds in the Indians' win over North Texas, then collected his first career double-double (14 pts./11 rbds.) in a road loss to DePaul. The Fort Worth, Tex., product also netted 18 points and five caroms in a victory at IPFW. For the week, Gonner shot 46.9 percent from the field (6-of-12 from 3-point range) and went 11-of-16 from the free throw line while also tallying seven steals and a blocked shot.

#### **ROOKIE OF THE WEEK**

#### JERRY SMITH • FR., G, 6'1, 170 • PICAYUNE, MS • SAMFORD

**Smith** contributed 7.7 points and 5.3 rebounds a game as Samford went 1-2 during the holidays. After chipping in seven points and seven rebounds in a 63-62 loss at Memphis, the redshirt freshman guard chimed in with six points and six boards while making his first collegiate start at Oklahoma State. He also had 10 points and three caroms in the Bulldogs' win over Tennessee Wesleyan. Smith shot 57.1 percent from the field (5-of-8 from behind the arc) and dished out seven assists for the week.

# 2003-04 OVC MEN'S BASKETBALL PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH (Selected by Head Basketball Coaches and Sports Information Directors)

1.	Austin Peay (18 first-place votes)	198
2.	Morehead State (3 first-place votes)	172
3.	Murray State (1 first-place vote)	168
4.	Southeast Missouri	123
5.	Tennessee Tech	114
6.	Tennessee-Martin	91
7.	Samford	84
8.	Eastern Kentucky	83
9.	Eastern Illinois	70
10.	Jacksonville State	67
11.	Tennessee State	40

(\*Schools were not allowed to rank their own team.

Ten points awarded for a first-place vote, nine for second, etc.)



# 2004 Ohio Valley Conference Basketball Tournament

Nashville, Tennessee • March 5-6, 2004 Municipal Auditorium

First Round: March 2 (at campus sites), times TBA Semifinals: March 5 (at Nashville), 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. CT Championship: March 6 (at Nashville), 5 p.m. CT, ESPN2

#### OVC MEDIA INFORMATION

#### Kim Melcher

#### Assistant Commissioner/Media Relations

Phone: (615) 371-1698, x16 E-mail: kmelcher@ovc.org

**WEB SITE:** For updated stats, standings, news and notes, log on to the official OVC site: **www.ovcsports.com**.

WEEKLY NOTES: The OVC will release its weekly men's basketball report each Monday throughout the season (except for Dec. 29) by 5 p.m. CT. The report is available by fax and email, and will be posted on the league's website in text and PDF versions. Statistics are available by fax and are updated throughout the week on the OVC web site.

#### **OVCTELECONFERENCES:**

The OVC will hold a series of teleconferences throughout the season in which the men's basketball head coach of each OVC institution will answer questions from the media. There will be nine teleconferences in the 2003-04 season, and the schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, January 6 Tuesday, January 13 Tuesday, January 20 Tuesday, January 27 Tuesday, February 3 Tuesday, February 10 Tuesday, February 17 Tuesday, February 24 Monday, March 1

Each call will take place at 10:00 a.m. CT, and each coach will be on for seven minutes. The schedule is as follows:

**10:00** - Dave Loos, Austin Peay **10:07** - Rick Samuels, Eastern Illinois

**10:14** - Travis Ford, Eastern Kentucky **10:21** - Mike LaPlante, Jacksonville State

10:28 - Kyle Macy, Morehead State 10:35 - Mick Cronin, Murray State

10:42 - Jimmy Tillette, Samford

**10:49** - Gary Garner, Southeast Missouri **10:56** - Bret Campbell, Tennessee-Martin

11:03 - Cy Alexander, Tennessee State

11:10 - Mike Sutton, Tennessee Tech

The number to call is: 412-380-2000

You will be prompted for the following passcode: 9592292

# 2003-04 Ohio Valley Conference Men's Basketball Report AROUND THE OVC...

AUSTIN PEAY (4-7 overall, 1-0 OVC): Austin Peay ended its challenging non-conference schedule with losses to Middle Tennessee (70-56) and Kentucky (61-53), but picked up its first road win of the season with a 76-58 victory over Jacksonville State in both teams' OVC opener...Anthony Davis (Inglewood, CA) averaged 17.3 points per game and went 8-of-16 from behind the arc over the three-game stretch...Head coach Dave Loos made a starting lineup change for the first time in 22 outings when sophomore Zac Schlader (Columbia, MO) made his first collegiate start. Sophomore Maurice Hampton (Russellville, KY) also gained his first collegiate start at JSU after netting a career-high 17 points in a reserve role at UK...The Govs held the Wildcats nearly 18 points under their season scoring average of 78.8...APSU pulled down a season-high 43 rebounds at Jax State while recording its 13th regular-season OVC win in 14 tries and seventh straight versus OVC opponents...The Govs continue their eight-game road trip at Southeast Missouri (Jan. 8) and Eastern Illinois (Jan. 10).

**EASTERN ILLINOIS (2-8 overall, 0-0 OVC):** Eastern Illinois lost a pair of decisions to Big Ten opponents Ohio State (69-50) and Iowa (71-62), then snapped its fourgame slide with a 93-75 drubbing of Illinois College...**Josh Gomes** (Indianapolis, IN) led five Panthers in double-figure scoring in the win over the Blue Boys, hitting 10-of-11 from the field en route to a career-high 26 points...**Jason Wright** (DeKalb, IL) has reached double digits in five of the last six games, averaging 12.5 points per game during the stretch...After making just 14 free throws in their previous three games, the Panthers converted 16-of-22 charity attempts versus Illinois College...EIU plays four straight OVC contests at home, beginning with Tennessee Tech (Jan. 8) and Austin Peay (Jan. 10).

EASTERN KENTUCKY (5-6 overall, 0-0 OVC): Eastern Kentucky went .500 over the holidays, dropping a pair of outings at Top-20 teams Kentucky (101-72) and Florida (109-63) before kicking off a six-game homestand with back-to-back wins over Alabama A&M (107-71) and Robert Morris (67-58)...Jon Bentley (Hazard, KY) continues to lead the team with a 66.2 field goal percentage after hitting 19-of-29 (65.5%) floor attempts and averaging 11.8 points per game over the stretch...The Colonels are 5-0 at home thus far in 2003-04, but 0-6 on the road...EKU entered its homestand averaging 5.8 treys per game, but hit 12 three-pointers in consecutive outings versus AAMU and RMU...The Colonels have been playing with a depleted roster (12 players) over the last two contests, due to injuries and illness...EKU kicks off the conference portion of its schedule against Tennessee-Martin (Jan. 8) and Murray State (Jan. 10).

JACKSONVILLE STATE (6-5 overall, 0-1 OVC): Jacksonville State had its 10-game home win streak snapped in the Gamecocks' OVC-opening loss to Austin Peay (76-58). Earlier in the break, Jax State lost a 64-56 outing at Ole Miss and staged a 74-41 rout of Alcorn State...James Denson (Walnut Grove, MS) hit 7-of-9 field attempts and finished with 18 points at Ole Miss. He led the Gamecocks with 12 points a game over the break...Walker Russell dished out a season-high 10 assists in the ASU contest and currently ranks fourth in the league with 4.9 helpers per game...Abdou Diame blocked a season-best four shot attempts against ASU and leads the team with nine rejections... JSU is a perfect 6-0 when scoring 70+ points this season...Six different players have led or co-led Jax State in scoring this season...The Gamecocks kick off a four-game road trip with dates at Samford (Jan. 6) and Tennessee State (Jan. 8).

MOREHEAD STATE (5-6 overall, 0-0 OVC): Morehead State played to a tough 1-3 record over the holiday break, dropping contests at Indiana (77-57), Notre Dame (84-69) and Xavier (93-76) before halting the three-game skid and kicking off a five-game homestand with a 96-48 rout of Greenville College... Chez Marks (Paris, KY) shot a blistering 72.5 percent from the field (37-of-51) during the stretch, including 13-of-21 from 3-point range (61.9%) to average 23.3 points per game. He became the 27th member of the Eagles' 1,000-point club and now ranks 24th on the school's all-time scoring list with 1,030 points... Ricky Minard (Mansfield, OH) also had a solid four-game run (18.8 ppg, 7.8 rpg, 8.5 apg) and is now the squad's second-ranked career scorer with 1,975 points, sitting 97 tics shy of the school record of 2,072 set by Herbie Stamper (1975-79)... The defending OVC regular-season co-champion Eagles open conference play against Murray State (Jan. 8) and Tennessee-Martin (Jan. 10). Saturday's game will be televised on Fox Sports Net South at 1 p.m. (CT).

MURRAY STATE (10-2 overall, 0-0 OVC): Murray State continues to sport the league's best record after going 2-1 on the road over the holidays. The Racers picked up a 78-64 victory over NAIA powerhouse Georgetown College in their final game of the Pittsburg Holiday Classic, then won a 65-56 meeting at Delaware State before dropping a 91-69 decision at 11th-ranked Louisville...Four Murray State starters scored in double figures in two of the three games as Antione Whelchel (Gainesville, GA) led the way with 16 points against GC, while Kelvin Brown (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) had a team-high 17 points at Louisville...Cuthbert Victor (St. Croix, Virgin Islands) collected his sixth double-double of the season (21 pts./12 rbds.) at DSU...Murray State's 10-2 start is its best 12-game opening since the 1998-99 season when the Racers finished the year with a 27-6 record, winning both the OVC regular-season and tournament titles...The Racers wrap up a six-game road stretch at Morehead State (Jan. 8) and Eastern Kentucky (Jan. 10).

SAMFORD (5-6 overall, 0-0 OVC): Samford went 1-2 over the break with losses at Memphis (63-62) and Oklahoma State (65-50) preceding a 94-46 triumph over Tennessee Wesleyan...Junior Josh Hare (Cleveland, TN), who matched a career-high with 19 points against TWC, is warming up to his role off the bench. Over the last four games, he has averaged 12.5 points while shooting 75 percent from the field (18-of-24), including 5-of-6 from behind the arc...Freshman Jerry Smith (Picayune, MS) chipped in six points and six boards in his first collegiate start at OSU...Phillip Ramelli (New Orleans, LA) continues to lead the Bulldogs in both scoring (13.1 ppg) and rebounding (5.5 rpg), despite netting single digits the last two outings...Samford shot a blistering 63 percent from the field (52% from 3-point range) in the 48-point win over TWC, which marked the second-largest margin of victory under head coach Jimmy Tillette...Samford, 4-0 at home this season, hosts Jacksonville State in its first-ever OVC contest (Jan. 6) before traveling to Tennessee State (Jan. 10).

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI (7-4 overall, 0-0 OVC): Southeast Missouri went 2-1 over the holidays, sandwiching a 57-50 loss at DePaul between wins over North Texas (75-68) and IPFW (77-75)...Brett Hale (Dexter, MO) hit his first-ever game-winning shot at IPFW with .8 seconds remaining. He finished with 15 points...Dainmon Gonner netted a double-double at DePaul (14 pts./11 rbds.). He went 6-of-12 from 3-point range over the three-game stretch (15-of-32 overall), averaging 15.6 points and eight boards per game...Derek Winans (East Cape Girardeau, MO) is just six points shy of becoming the 18th player in school history to score 1,000 career points...The win at IPFW marked the Indians' first road victory of the season and head coach Gary Garner's 100th at Southeast ...Junior point guard Kevin Roberts (1.2 ppg/0.7 rpg), has transferred to Fontbonne College in St. Louis...The Indians put their 5-0 home record on the line when they open OVC play against Austin Peay (Jan. 8) and Tennessee Tech (Jan. 10).

TENNESSEE-MARTIN (5-7 overall, 0-0 OVC): Tennessee-Martin went 1-2 during the holiday break with road losses at Indiana State (99-70) and Central Florida (80-68) preceding a 76-65 overtime home victory against Portland State...Justin Smith (Memphis, TN) went 5-of-10 from 3-point against PSU after converting just one of 13 trey attempts in the previous two contests...Jared Newson (Belleville, IL) converted 16-of-23 at the free throw line during the three-game stretch, averaging nine points and 4.7 rebounds a game...Cleve Woodford (St. Louis, MO) tossed in a career-high 17 points and cleared eight boards at UCF...UTM is 4-0 at home, but just 1-7 on the road, including a 1-1 mark on neutral courts...Head coach Bret Campbell continues to tinker with his starting lineup, as freshman Will Lewis (Fort Wayne, IN) earned his second start of the season at UCF...The Skyhawks will be looking for their first win in four years at Morehead State when they embark on their "Death Valley" road trip. UTM visits Eastern Kentucky on Jan. 8 and the Eagles on Jan. 10.

**TENNESSEE STATE (1-10 overall, 0-0 OVC):** Tennessee State's losing skid stretched to 10 games as the Tigers ended a six-game road trip with a 74-70 setback at Chattanooga (74-70) before falling to Portland State (74-71) in their first home game since Dec. 4... The Tigers' offense was led by **Garrett Richardson** (El Paso, TX) and **Bruce Price** (Minneapolis, MN), who averaged 20 and 19 points per game, respectively. Richardson, who crossed the 1,200-point mark for his career, also dished out eight assists and grabbed six steals in the two games...Head coach **Cy Alexander** missed the PSU contest after being hospitalized with flu-like symptoms...The Tigers will be coming back from a nine-day layoff when they conclude a three-game homestand and open OVC play against Jacksonville State (Jan. 8) and Samford (Jan. 10).

**TENNESSEE TECH (6-5 overall, 0-0 OVC):** Tennessee Tech went 1-2 in a trio of holiday outings, losing consecutive road trips to Tennessee (79-61) and Jacksonville (71-67) before returning home to pick up a decisive 104-63 victory over Bluefield College... **Willie Jenkins** (Memphis, TN) registered three straight 20+ scoring efforts, including back-to-back double-doubles against UT (21 pts./11 rbds.) and JU (25 pts./14 rbds.)... After having his seven-game double-digit scoring streak snapped in a Dec. 20 loss to Appalachian State, **Cameron Crisp** (Bolivar, TN) regained his shot with three straight double-figure efforts (16.0 ppg). He also moved into eighth place on the school's all-time assists list (119)... The Golden Eagles canned 10 three-pointers in the win over Bluefield, extending to 182 their streak of consecutive games with at least one made trey. Tech had eight players combine for 33 treys over the three-game stretch... The Golden Eagles open OVC play on the road, beginning a four-game stretch with trips to Eastern Illinois (Jan. 8) and Southeast Missouri (Jan. 10).

# **OVC HOOPS NOTES**

**FAREWELL TO A LEGEND:** After 33 1/2 years at the helm of the Eastern Kentucky Sports Information Office, a widely-respected **Karl Park** has hung up his typewriter/laptop. His final day was Dec. 31, 2003. OVC media members may recognize EKU's new SID, as former Middle Tennessee Assistant Media Relations Director **Ryan Simmons** takes over the reins, effective immediately.

**GOLDEN EAGLE SOARING:** Tennessee Tech's **Willie Jenkins** has had an immediate impact after sitting out last season as a transfer from UMass. The junior foward has scored in double figures in all 11 outings thus far and currently ranks third in the league with 19.7 points per game. He is also among conference leaders in rebounding (6.9 rpg) and field goal shooting (51.8%).

**BLOCK PARTY:** Austin Peay senior center **Josh Lewis** has at least one blocked shot in the last 37 games and leads the OVC with 22 rejections in 2003-04. He needs only four more to become just the fourth player in conference history with 200 career blocked shots.

**EAGLES ENJOY M&M FIX:** Morehead State senior guards **Chez Marks** (21.3 ppg) and **Ricky Minard** (20.5 ppg) currently account for over half of the Eagles' scoring, ranking first and second in league scoring, respectively. Each player has tallied double figures in 10 of 11 games thus far with two 30+ outings apiece. Marks is shooting 61 percent from the field (50.7% from 3-point range) and leads the OVC with 3.45 treys per game, while Minard ranks among conference leaders in eight categories, including a third-best 82 percent conversion rate at the free throw line.

**BULLDOGS LIKE THEIR NEW HOME:** Heading into its first season of OVC action, **Samford** leads the league in several categories. The Bulldogs are also the only OVC team converting more than 50 percent of its field attempts (53.6%), holding opponents to a league-low 62.9 points per game in the process. They are converting an OVC-best 43.4 percent of their 3-point attempts while averaging a league-high 10.18 treys per game. Samford also boasts the conference's top backcourt play with an 18.65 assists average and 1.18 assists-to-turnover ratio.

**REMEMBER TO SET THE VCR:** The Jan. 10 contest between **Tennessee-Martin** and **Morehead State** is the first of five OVC contests that will be televised on Fox Sports Net South during the 2003-04 season. **Mike Hogewood** will handle play-by-play duties while **Tom Apke** will provide analysis.

**CONFERENCE PLAY OFF TO AN EARLY START:** Conference play kicked off early last week as OVC preseason favorite **Austin Peay** picked up its first road win of the season Jan. 3 at **Jackson-ville State** (76-58). The contest, originally scheduled for Feb. 21, was moved to facilitate Austin Peay's participation in the second edition of ESPN's "Bracket Buster Series."

**TORCHING THE NETS:** Through games of Dec. 15, four of the nation's best single-game shooting efforts have come courtesy of the OVC. Morehead State's **Chez Marks** occupies the top spot following a 14-of-15 (93.3%) showing against Kentucky Christian. Tennessee State's **Roshaun Bowens** is second after going 12-of-13 (92.3%) versus Chattanooga, while Jacksonville State's **Carl Brown** is tied for third with his 11-of-12 (91.7%) effort against Shorter College. Murray State's **Cuthbert Victor** is tied for seventh after a 13-of-16 (81.3%) performance versus Chicago State.

**STREAKIN':** Two OVC teams boast double-digit win streaks on their home courts. **Austin Peay** is currently tied for eighth in the nation with a 19-game run in the Dunn Center, while **Murray State** has won 12 consecutive games in the Regional Special Events Center and is 14th.

**RANKING THE MID-MAJORS: Murray State** is ranked ninth in the latest edition of the *CollegeInsider.com* Mid-Major Top 25 poll. The Racers are also listed third on *ESPN.com*'s latest Mid-Major Top 10 poll.

## OVC MEN'S BASKETBALL TELEVISION SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	Game	Time (CT)	<u>Network</u>
Jan. 10	Tennessee-Martin at Morehead State	1:00 p.m.	Fox Sports Net South
Jan. 17	Austin Peay at Morehead State	1:00 p.m.	ESPN2
Jan. 24	Southeast Missouri at Austin Peay	2:00 p.m.	Fox Sports Net South*
Jan. 31	Morehead State at Murray State	2:00 p.m.	Fox Sports Net South
Feb. 7	Murray State at Southeast Missouri	2:00 p.m.	Fox Sports Net South*
Feb. 21	Tennessee Tech at Samford	2:00 p.m.	Fox Sports Net South
Mar. 6	OVC Men's Tournament Championship	5:00 p.m.	ESPN2

#### All times Central

\* Tape-delay on Fox Sports Net Midwest at 2 a.m. CT

# OVC IN 2003-04 NCAA RANKINGS

(Through Dec. 15)

#### INDIVIDUAL

#### **SCORING**

Ricky Minard, MOR - 21st (21.4 ppg) Chez Marks, MOR - t37th (20.1 ppg) Cuthbert Victor, MUR - t41st (19.9 ppg)

#### REBOUNDING

Cuthbert Victor, MUR - t8th (11.3 rpg)

#### **ASSISTS**

Tyler George, UTM - 23rd (6.1 apg)

#### STEALS

Garrett Richardson, TSU (16th) 3.1 spg) Bruce Price, TSU - t18th (3.0 spg)

#### **FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE**

Cuthbert Victor, MUR - 1st (75.3%)

#### **3-POINTERS MADE**

Chez Marks, MOR - t14th (3.6 pg)

#### **FREE THROW PERCENTAGE**

Justin Smith, UTM - 7th (96%)

#### **BEST SINGLE-GAME FG%**

Chez Marks, MOR - 1st (93.3%, 14-15) Roshaun Bowens, TSU - 2nd (92.3%, 12-13) Carl Brown, JSU - t3rd (91.7%, 11-12) Cuthbert Victor, MUR - t7th (81.3% (13-16)

#### **MOST SINGLE-GAME 3-PT FG MADE**

Ricky Minard, MOR - t4th (8)

# BEST SINGLE-GAME 3-PT FG%

Ricky Minard, MOR - t6th (72.7%, 8-11)

# MOST SINGLE-GAME REBOUNDS

Cuthbert Victor, MUR - t2nd (20)

#### TEAM

# SCORING OFFENSE

Murray State - 5th (90.6 ppg) Tennessee Tech - 10th (86.7 ppg)

## SCORING MARGIN

Murray State - 9th (+20.9)

#### **REBOUND MARGIN**

Eastern Kentucky - 12th (+10.8)

#### FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE

Tennessee Tech - 4th (52.4%) Murray State - 6th (51.2%)

## 3-POINT FIELD GOAL %

Tennessee Tech - 10th (41.7%) Morehead State - 24th (40.4%)

#### **3-POINTERS MADE PER GAME**

Morehead State - 12th (9.3 pg) Tennessee Tech - t19th (8.8 pg)

#### **ASSISTS**

Murray State - 2nd (20.9 apg)

#### **STEALS**

Murray State - t28th (10.6 spg)

#### MOST POINTS IN A GAME

Eastern Kentucky - t22nd (106) Tennessee-Martin - t26th (105)

#### **BEST SINGLE-GAME FG%**

Murray State - 16th (61.7%, 37-60)

#### **BEST SINGLE-GAME FT%**

Tennessee-Martin - t2nd (94.1%, 16-17)

# College Insider.com Mid-Major Top 25 Poll (Dec. 22)

		RECORD	PTS	PREV.
1.	Gonzaga (31)	7-2	775	1
2.	Creighton	7-0	739	4
3.	East Tennessee State	7-2	679	3
4.	Wichita State	7-2	675	2
5.	Southern Illinois	7-1	621	7
6.	College of Charleston	6-1	611	8
7.	Illinois-Chicago	9-2	578	9
8.	Utah State	5-1	538	14
9.	MURRAY STATE	8-1	515	15
10.	Bradley	7-3	439	5
11.	Manhattan	4-2	434	6
12.	George Mason	6-2	391	11
13.	Akron	5-2	368	16
14.	Toledo	6-1	364	25
15.	UC-Santa Barbara	6-3	334	19
16.	Stephen F. Austin	6-2	242	17
17.	Arkansas State	7-1	234	NR
18.	Kent State	5-2	202	23
19.	Louisiana-Lafayette	3-3	134	12
20.	Detroit	5-3	130	NR
21.	Niagara	6-1	127	24
22.	UNC-Wilmington	4-2	116	NR
23.	Western Michigan	5-1	107	NR
24.	Buffalo	5-3	66	NR
25.	Lafayette	7-1	56	NR

OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES: New Mexico State 55, Portland 48, Northern Iowa 45, Fairfield 44, Centenary 42, Loyola Marymount 40, Ball State 39, Winthrop 36, Princeton 33, Wisconsin-Milwaukee 27, Butler 27, Southwest Missouri State 25, VCU 25, Santa Clara 23, IUPUI 22, Southeastern Louisiana 21, Oakland 11, Central Florida 7, Cal-Poly 5, Northern Illinois 5, St. Mary's 5, UC-Irvine 3, Furman 3, Monmouth 3, Weber State 2, Vermont 2, Texas-Arlington 1.

# ESPN.com Mid-Major Top 10 Poll

(Through games of Dec. 30)

		RECORD
1.	Gonzaga	8-2
2.	Creighton	9-0
3.	Murray State	10-1
4.	Utah State	8-1
5.	Southern Illinois	8-1
6.	College of Charleston	9-1
7.	Wichita State	8-3
8.	George Mason	7-2
9.	Western Michigan	7-1
10.	Belmont	6-3

**OTHERS RECEIVING VOTES:** Niagara, UC-Santa Barbara, Illinois-Chicago, Manhattan, Cal Poly, Stephen F Austin, Akron, Kent State, Toledo, IUPUI, Louisiana-Lafayette.

DROPPED OUT: Arkansas State, East Tennessee State, Bradley.

# 2004-05 SIGNEES

#### **AUSTIN PEAY**

Todd Babington - G, 6'5, 180 - Crystal Lake, IL (Prairie Ridge HS) Brandon Burney - G, 6'2 - Clarksville, TN (Montgomery Central HS) Kareem Matthews - C, 6'10, 235 - St. Louis, MO (Florissant Valley CC)

#### **EASTERNILLINOIS**

Jake Byrne - F, 6'8 - Elsberry, MO (Elsberry HS)

#### **EASTERN KENTUCKY**

Alonzo Hird - C, 6'9, 205 - DeLand, FL (Santa Fe CC)

#### **JACKSONVILLE STATE**

Courtney Beasley - G, 6'2 - Huntsville, AL (Butler HS) B.J. Spencer - G, 6'4 - Starkville, MS (Bevill State JC) Dorien Brown - F, 6'7 - Bellingham, MA (Northfield-Mount Hermon School)

#### **MOREHEAD STATE**

None

#### **MURRAY STATE**

Shane Dansby - G, 6'5, 190 - Kingston Springs, TN (Harpeth HS) Charles Johnson - F, 6'7, 225 - Atlanta, GA (South Plains College) Mike McCoy - F, 6'7, 195 - Indianapolis, IN (Pike HS) Issian Redding - F, 6'6, 195 - Sandusky, OH (South Plains College)

## SAMFORD

None

#### **SOUTHEAST MISSOURI**

Paul Paradoski - G, 6'0, 160 - St. Louis, MO (Vianney HS) James White - F - 6'7, 215 - Belleville, IL (Southwestern Illinois CC)

### **TENNESSEE-MARTIN**

None

#### **TENNESSEE STATE**

Diego Belizario - F, 6'7, 230 - San Paulo, Brazil (Laurinburg, N.C. Institute) Andrae Belton - G, 6'3, 190 - Columbia, SC (Kenan HS)

## **TENNESSEETECH**

Anthony Fisher - G, 6'2, 175 - Alpharetta, GA (Chattahoochee HS)

# OVC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

# **ACTIVE OVC CAREER LEADERS**

F	PL	Α	Υ	Ε	R	

N 24	Cuthbert Victor, Murray State
D 1	Cuthbert Victor, Murray State
D 8	Cuthbert Victor, Murray State
D 15	Brandon Griffin, Southeast Missouri
D 22	Chez Marks, Morehead State
J 5	Jon Bentley, Eastern Kentucky
J 12	
J 19	
J 26	
F2	
F 9	
F 16	
F 23	
N / 1	

#### **NEWCOMER:**

	<del>OIIIEIXI</del>
N 24	Justin Smith, Tennessee-Martin
D 1	Kelvin Brown, Murray State
D 8	Dainmon Gonner, Southeast Missour
	Willie Jenkins, Tennessee Tech
D 15	Jared Newson, Tennessee-Martin
D 22	Justin Smith, Tennessee-Martin
J 5	Dainmon Gonner, Southeast Missour
J 12	
J 19	
J 26	
F2	
F 9	
F 16	
F 23	
M 1	

#### **ROOKIE**

F 16 F 23

ROOK	<u>IE:</u>
N 24	Brandon Moore, Eastern Kentucky
D 1	Bruce Price, Tennessee State
D 8	No selection
D 15	Will Lewis, Tennessee-Martin
D 22	Bruce Price, Tennessee State
J 5	Jerry Smith, Samford
J 12	
J 19	
J 26	
F2	
$\Gamma \cap$	

SCORING	PTS
Ricky Minard, Morehead State	1,975
Garrett Richardson, Tennessee State	1,205
Cuthbert Victor, Murray State	1,198
Cameron Crisp, Tennessee Tech	1,102
Antione Whelchel, Murray State	1,091
Adrian Henning, Austin Peay	1,059
Chez Marks, Morehead State	1,030
Derek Winans, Southeast Missouri	994
Anthony Davis, Austin Peay	942
Chris Shumate, Murray State	890

REBOUNDS	REB
Cuthbert Victor, Murray State	721
Josh Lewis, Austin Peay	589
Ricky Minard, Morehead State	584
Antione Whelchel, Murray State	545
Adrian Henning, Austin Peay	538
Michael Haney, Eastern Kentucky	413
Brandon Griffin, Southeast Missouri	394
Phillip Ramelli, Samford	339
Garrett Richardson, Tennessee State	317
Andy Hornig, Murray State	309

<u>ASSISTS</u>	<b>AST</b>
Garrett Richardson, Tennessee State	371
Cameron Crisp, Tennessee Tech	335
Ricky Minard, Morehead State	323
Scott Watson, Jacksonville State	317
Kevin Paschel, Murray State	302
Antione Whelchel, Murray State	245
Leigh Gayden, Tennessee Tech	238
Derek Winans, Southeast Missouri	205
Matt Witt, Eastern Kentucky	202
Chris Shumate, Murray State	182

I	<u>STEALS</u>	ST
	Garrett Richardson, Tennessee State	22
	Ricky Minard, Morehead State	20
	Cuthbert Victor, Murray State	13
	Cameron Crisp, Tennessee Tech	11
	Anthony Davis, Austin Peay	11
	Antione Whelchel, Murray State	11
	Derek Winans, Southeast Missouri	9
	Chris Shumate, Murray State	9
	Rhet Wierzba, Austin Peay	9
	Josh Lewis, Austin Peay	8
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BLOCKED SHOTS	BL
Josh Lewis, Austin Peay	196
Cuthbert Victor, Murray State	124
Andy Hornig, Murray State	96
Adrian Henning, Austin Peay	92
Ricky Minard, Morehead State	62
Phillip Ramelli, Samford	60
Kenan Asceric, Tennessee-Martin	5
Antione Whelchel, Murray State	40
Damarcus Hence, Southeast Missouri	36
Tim Volpenhein, Eastern Kentucky	30

3-POINTERS MADE	<u>3's</u>
Ricky Minard, Morehead State	204
Chez Marks, Morehead State	167
Derek Winans, Southeast Missouri	148
Tyson Dorsey, Samford	128
Antione Whelchel, Murray State	128
Ben Rushing, Eastern Kentucky	129
Garrett Richardson, Tennessee State	125
Rick Jones, Murray State	124
Rhet Wierzba, Austin Peay	118
Earl Bullock, Tennessee-Martin	113

# OVC Statistics Rankings - Through Jan. 5

	SCORING	SCORING	FREE	FIELD	THREE-	REBOUND
<u>TEAM</u>	<u>OFFENSE</u>	<u>DEFENSE</u>	<u>THROW %</u>	<u>GOAL %</u>	<u>POINT %</u>	<u>MARGIN</u>
Austin Peay	10	2	11	8	10	8
Eastern Illinois	9	9	10	10	8	5
Eastern Kentucky	5	5	9	6	4	1
Jacksonville State	7	4	7	5	6	t9
Morehead State	4	8	1	4	2	t9
Murray State	2	6	2	3	9	2
Samford	6	1	5	1	1	4
Southeast Missouri	8	3	6	7	3	7
Tennessee-Martin	3	10	4	9	7	6
Tennessee State	11	11	8	11	11	11
Tennessee Tech	1	7	3	2	5	3