



2003-04 OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE MEN'S BASKETBALL REPORT

March 1, 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

	CONFERENCE (Final)						OVERALL (Through Feb. 28)						
	W	L	PCT.	Home	Away	Streak	W	L	PCT.	Home	Away	Neutral	Streak
Austin Peay	16	0	1.000	8-0	8-0	W16	19	8	.704	11-0	8-7	0-1	W2
Murray State	14	2	.875	7-1	7-1	W4	25	5	.833	14-1	10-4	1-0	W5
Morehead State	10	6	.625	6-2	4-4	W2	15	12	.556	11-2	4-10	0-0	W2
Eastern Kentucky	8	8	.500	5-3	3-5	L2	13	14	.481	10-3	3-11	0-0	L2
Jacksonville State	7	9	.438	6-2	1-7	W3	14	13	.519	12-2	2-11	0-0	W3
Tennessee Tech	7	9	.438	5-3	2-6	L4	13	14	.481	11-4	2-10	0-0	L4
Samford	7	9	.438	5-3	2-6	W1	12	15	.444	9-3	3-11	0-1	W1
Tennessee State	6	10	.375	4-4	2-6	L2	7	20	.259	5-7	2-13	0-0	L2
Tennessee-Martin	5	11	.313	4-4	1-7	W2	10	18	.357	8-4	1-13	1-1	W2
Southeast Missouri	4	12	.250	3-5	1-7	L2	11	16	.407	8-5	2-11	1-0	L2
Eastern Illinois	4	12	.250	3-5	1-7	L3	6	21	.222	5-8	1-13	0-0	L3

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

Monday, February 23

@Murray State 73, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 53

Tuesday, February 24

*Morehead State 80, @Eastern Kentucky 71

*@Austin Peay 88, Tennessee Tech 64

*@Jacksonville State 71, Samford 51

Thursday, February 26

*@Samford 86, Tennessee State 70

*@Murray State 76, Southeast Missouri 63

*@Tennessee-Martin 77, Eastern Illinois 73

Saturday, February 28

*@Tennessee-Martin 88, Southeast Missouri 71

*@Murray State 81, Eastern Illinois 51

*@Austin Peay 81, Eastern Kentucky 64

*@Jacksonville State 86, Tennessee State 70

*Morehead State 90, @Tennessee Tech 86

* - Denotes OVC contest

END OF REGULAR SEASON

2004 OVC TOURNAMENT

Tuesday, March 2 - Campus sites of top seeds

#6 Jacksonville State at #3 Morehead State - 6:00 p.m.

#5 Samford at #4 Eastern Kentucky - 6:00 p.m.

#7 Tennessee Tech at #2 Murray State - 7:00 p.m.

#8 Tennessee State at #1 Austin Peay - 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 5 - Municipal Auditorium - Nashville, TN

APSU/TSU Winner vs. EKV/SAM Winner - 6:00 p.m.

MUR/TTU Winner vs. MOR/JSU Winner - 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 6 - Municipal Auditorium - Nashville, TN


OVC Championship - 5:00 p.m. (ESPN2)

ESPN2 - Live telecast on ESPN2

ALL TIMES CENTRAL

**OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE
2004 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
MARCH 5 - 6 • MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

MEN'S BRACKET

TUESDAY, MARCH 2 <i>(@ Campus Site of Higher Seed)</i>	FRIDAY, MARCH 5 <i>(@ Municipal Auditorium)</i>	SATURDAY, MARCH 6 <i>(@ Municipal Auditorium)</i>
#1 Austin Peay (19-8)		
GAME 1 7:30 p.m. (Central time)		
#8 Tennessee State (7-20)		
#4 Eastern Kentucky (13-14)	GAME 5* 6:00 p.m. (Central time)	
GAME 2 6:00 p.m. (Central time)		
#5 Samford (12-15)		
#3 Morehead State (15-12)		GAME 7 5:00 p.m. (CT) <i>(ESPN2 Live Telecast)</i>
GAME 4 6:00 p.m. (Central time)		NCAA AUTOMATIC QUALIFIER
#6 Jacksonville State (14-13)	GAME 6 8:00 p.m. (Central time -- or 25 minutes after Game 5)	
#2 Murray State (25-5)		
GAME 3 7:00 p.m. (Central time)		
#7 Tennessee Tech (13-14)		

* - The bracket pairing which includes the highest remaining seed among quarterfinal winners plays in Game 5.

2003-04 OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE MEN'S BASKETBALL REPORT

OVC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

RICKY MINARD • G/F, SR., 6'4, 205 • MANSFIELD, OH • MOREHEAD STATE

Minard shot an impressive 58.3 percent from the field as he led Morehead State to a pair of OVC road victories to close out the regular season. The senior guard/forward collected 24 points and seven rebounds at Eastern Kentucky, then fell just short of a triple-double at Tennessee Tech with 24 points, nine boards and eight assists. For the week, he was 14-of-24 from the field and 18-of-24 from the foul line (75%). Minard, who picks up his third OVC Player of the Week honor, tops the OVC and ranks among NCAA leaders with 21.1 points a game.

NEWCOMER OF THE WEEK

WALKER RUSSELL • G, SO., 6'0, 170 • ROCHESTER, MI • JACKSONVILLE STATE

Russell collects his second OVC Newcomer of the Week accolade after averaging 16.5 points, 7.0 assists and 3.5 rebounds in Jacksonville State's two OVC victories last week. The sophomore guard opened with 18 points and four assists against Samford, then recorded his fifth double-double of the season with 16 points and 10 assists versus Tennessee State. Russell, who leads the league and ranks among national leaders with a 6.37 assists average, also shot 55 percent from the field (11-of-20) and 75 percent from the foul stripe (9-of-12).

ROOKIE OF THE WEEK

SHAWN WITHERSPOON • F, FR., 6'5, 215 • OVIEDO, FL • MURRAY STATE

Witherspoon earns his first OVC Rookie of the Week award after blistering the nets for a 68.4 shooting percentage, including a perfect 3-of-3 from behind the arc, in Murray State's two conference victories last week. The rookie guard went 6-of-9 from the floor against Southeast Missouri, finishing with 13 points and four rebounds, then added 14 points and eight boards on 6-of-8 field shooting versus Eastern Illinois.

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 by 5 p.m. CT. The report is available by fax and e-mail, and is 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.

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)

EASTERN ILLINOIS

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)

TENNESSEE TECH

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

2003-04 OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE MEN'S BASKETBALL REPORT

AROUND THE OVC...

AUSTIN PEAY (19-8 overall, 16-0 OVC): Regular-season champion Austin Peay closed out its conference run undefeated with wins over Tennessee Tech (88-64) and Eastern Kentucky (81-64)...The victory over ECU marked APSU's 27th consecutive win in the Dunn Center, setting a school record and ranking as the nation's fourth-longest active home win streak...Senior center **Josh Lewis** (Lexington, KY) has recorded 15 blocked shots over the last three games, including six versus Tech. Lewis has tallied seven six-block outings over his career and currently sits three swats shy of 250...Lewis (9 pts./10 rbd.) and senior forward **Adrian Henning** (14 pts./9 rbd.) just missed double-doubles against Tech. Versus ECU, Henning (Memphis, TN) scored 15 second-half tics en route to his second 20-point effort of the season...APSU, which entered the week ranked last in the OVC in scoring and ninth in field goal shooting, rolled up 80 points in both games last week, hitting better than 50 percent from the field in each contest (51.8% vs. TTU, 51.9% vs. ECU)...The Gobs have won 19 straight regular-season OVC games, and 30 of their last 31, dating back to the 2002-03 season. They enter postseason play with a 22-game win streak against OVC opposition, including tourney contests...Head coach Dave Loos will be looking for his 300th career coaching victory when top-seeded APSU hosts #8 Tennessee State in first-round OVC Tournament action. The Governors and Tigers played only once during the regular season.

EASTERN ILLINOIS (6-21 overall, 4-12 OVC): Eastern Illinois will miss its first OVC Tournament since joining the league in 1996 after road losses to Tennessee-Martin (77-73) and Murray State (81-51) eliminated the Panthers from the eight-team field...Senior forward **Jesse Mackinson** (Pontiac, IL) topped the 1,000-point mark for his career (1,016). He shot 53.9 percent from the field (9-of-17) while averaging 12 points a game for the week, collecting his second double-double of the season in the process with 14 points and 10 rebounds at Murray State...Sophomore guard **Josh Gomes** (Indianapolis, IN) converted 9-of-12 foul shots and contributed 13 points per outing. He led the team in scoring (13.6 ppg) this season while ranking sixth in the conference in field goal percentage (47.9%)...The Panthers tied for 10th (4-12) in the OVC in 2003-04, the lowest finish for an EIU squad in its eight-year history with the league.

EASTERN KENTUCKY (13-14 overall, 8-8 OVC): Eastern Kentucky lost its final two regular-season games to Morehead State (80-71) and Austin Peay (81-64), but still finished in fourth with an 8-8 OVC mark, its first .500 or better effort since going 9-7 for a fourth-place finish in 1993-94...Sophomore guard **Matt Witt** (Tipp City, OH) averaged 19 points and 4.5 assist per game for the week...Freshman guard **Brandon Moore** (Huntington, WV) made his second career start in the APSU contest. He played 27 minutes, collecting three rebounds and an assist before fouling out...Skipper **Travis Ford** is the first ECU coach to lead the Colonels to back-to-back OVC Tournament appearances since Mike Calhoun did it in 1994-95 and 1995-96...The Colonels' run of 16 straight games in which they equaled or surpassed an opponent's assist total ended at APSU, where ECU dished out just seven assists to the Governors' 14...EKU's 13 overall wins are the most since a 13-14 record during the 1995-96 campaign...Seeded fourth for OVC tourney action, the Colonels will be hosting a first-round game for the first time since the event moved to its current format in 1997. ECU entertains fifth-seeded Samford after sweeping both in-season meetings with the Bulldogs, including a double-overtime thriller on Jan. 24.

JACKSONVILLE STATE (14-13 overall, 7-9 OVC): Jacksonville State posted wins over Samford (71-51) and Tennessee State (86-70) to claim the No. 6 seed for the upcoming OVC Tournament. Jax State finished in a three-way tie for fifth in the OVC standings, but came out in the middle of the tiebreaker...The victory against the Bulldogs marked the Gamecocks' second consecutive 20-point win following an 80-59 decision versus Tennessee Tech the previous week...Sophomore guard **Walker Russell** (Rochester, MI) recorded his fifth double-double of the season with 15 points and 10 assists against TSU. He shot 55 percent from the field while averaging 16.5 points, 7.0 assists and 3.5 rebounds for the week...The Gamecocks finished the 2003-04 season with a 12-2 record in Pete Mathews Coliseum, the most home wins for the program at the Division I level...Jax State copped 13 three-pointers against the Tigers, the seventh time this season JSU has registered 10+ treys in a game. The Gamecocks have made 54 treys over the last five outings...JSU travels to third-seeded Morehead State for its first foray into OVC Tournament action. The Gamecocks will be looking for their first win against the Eagles in 2003-04 after losing both regular-season meetings.

MOREHEAD STATE (15-12 overall, 10-6 OVC): Morehead State closed out regular-season action with back-to-back road wins over Eastern Kentucky (80-71) and Tennessee Tech (90-86)...At 15-12, the Eagles have clinched a winning record for the third consecutive season. The last time Morehead State posted winning records in three straight campaigns was 1981-84...Senior guard/forward **Ricky Minard** (Mansfield, OH) fell short of a triple-double at Tech with 24 points, nine boards and eight assists. He shot 58.3 percent from the field (14-of-24) for the week, averaging 24 points, eight rebounds and 5.5 assists per game while also going 18-of-24 from the foul line (75%)...According to all available records, Minard is the first player in school and OVC history to surpass 2,300 points (2,321), 700 rebounds (710), 400 assists (404) and 200 steals (235) for his career...Freshman guard **Josh Reed** (East Liverpool, OH) has seen more action recently following **Chez Marks'** season-ending injury. Reed averaged 10.5 points per game last week, including a career-high 13 at Tech. He went 7-of-14 from the field in the two contests, including 5-of-10 from 3-point range...Five Eagles scored in double figures at Tech...Starting point guard **Quinton Smith** missed the second half of the TTU contest after becoming ill during the game...Third-seeded Morehead State hosts No. 6 Jacksonville State in first-round action of the OVC Tournament. The Eagles swept the Gamecocks in regular-season play.

MURRAY STATE (25-5 overall, 14-2 OVC): Murray State enters postseason play having won its last five and 10 of its last 11 following a non-conference victory over Texas A&M-Corpus Christi (73-53) and OVC triumph versus Southeast Missouri (76-63) and Eastern Illinois (81-51)...Senior forward **Cuthbert Victor** (St. Croix, Virgin Islands) tallied his 13th double-double of the season and 29th of his career with 22 points and 13 rebounds against TAMCC. He also matched a career-high with six blocked shots in the contest to lead the Racers' school-record 13-block effort. The Racers' all-time shot blocker, Victor has 156 career swats...Freshman forward **Shawn Witherspoon** (Oviedo, FL) went 12-of-17 (70.6%) in the two OVC contests, averaging 13.5 points and six rebounds a game off the bench...The Racers are 5-0 since the loss of starting junior point guard **Adam Chiles** (Louisville, KY). Chiles suffered a shoulder injury in a Feb. 14 contest at Austin Peay and is sidelined indefinitely...Murray State leads the league with an 80.8 scoring average. The Racers are 157-8 over the last 10 years when scoring 80+ points...Second-seeded Murray State welcomes #7 Tennessee Tech for opening-round OVC Tournament action. The Racers won a road contest at Tech in their only in-season meeting.

SAMFORD (12-15 overall, 7-9 OVC): Samford split its final two OVC regular-season contests, dropping a 71-51 decision to Jacksonville State before picking up an 86-70 triumph over Tennessee State...Senior forward **Eddie Harper** (Laurel, MS) tossed in a career-high 27 points versus TSU on 9-of-12 shooting from the floor. He averaged 18 points each time out while converting 55 percent of his field attempts, including a 6-of-13 effort from 3-point range...Freshman guard **Jerry Smith** contributed eight points, 6.5 rebounds and four assists per game...Samford shot 58 percent from the floor (52% from 3-pt. range) and 81 percent at the foul stripe in the win over TSU...After finishing in a three-way tie for fifth place in the league standings, the Bulldogs won the tiebreaker for the No. 5 seed and will travel to fourth-seeded Eastern Kentucky on Tuesday for opening-round tourney action. The Bulldogs lost both of their in-season meetings with the Colonels, including a double-overtime outing on Jan. 24.

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI (11-16 overall, 4-12 OVC): Southeast Missouri closed out its 2003-04 slate with consecutive road losses at Murray State (76-63) and Tennessee-Martin (88-71)...Junior forward **Reggie Golson** (Kansas City, KS) led the Indians with 19 points and six boards at Murray, followed by a 15-point effort from junior guard **Derek Winans** (East Cape Girardeau, IL)...Golson went 7-of-14 from the floor and finished with a team-high 17 points at UTM. He scored double digits in each of his last five games while filling in for an injured **Brandon Griffin** (Greensburg, LA). Griffin suffered a severely sprained ankle just four minutes into a Feb. 14 outing at Tennessee State and missed the rest of that game, plus the remaining four. At the time of his injury, Griffin was shooting 57.6 percent from the field and led the team with 7.4 rebounds and 3.3 assists per game...Winans will enter his senior year in 2004-05 as the program's seventh-leading all-time scorer (1,253 points) and ninth-leading assists man (230)...After losing eight OVC contests by six points or less, the Indians finished the 2003-04 season with a disappointing 4-12 conference record and 10th-place tie.

TENNESSEE-MARTIN (10-18 overall, 5-11 OVC): Tennessee-Martin ended the 2003-04 season on a winning note, capturing back-to-back victories over Eastern Illinois (77-73) and Southeast Missouri (88-71)...Six UTM players, including all five starters, scored in double figures against Southeast. Sophomore guard **Jared Newson** (Bellefonte, IL) had six rebounds and went 8-of-11 from the field to lead the sextet with 20 points, while senior forward **Kenan Asceric** (Sarajevo, Bosnia) collected his only career double-double with 13 points and 10 rebounds in his final game. Sophomore center **Cleve Woodfork** (St. Louis, MO) hit 6-of-10 from the floor, adding 15 points and seven boards...The Skyhawks were credited with a season-best 25 assists against the Indians, led by junior point guard **Tyler George's** (Princeton, IN) career-high 12 helpers...The Skyhawks shot 76.2 percent in the first half of the SEMO contest en route to posting their second-best shooting effort of the season (57.1%)...After suffering two key personnel losses early in the year with season-ending injuries to senior guard **Earl Bullock** (knee) and junior guard **Justin Smith** (Achilles tendon), UT Martin finished ninth in the conference standings with a 5-11 mark (10-18 overall).

TENNESSEE STATE (7-20 overall, 6-10 OVC): Tennessee State finished off the regular-season portion of its schedule with identical 86-70 road losses at Samford and Jacksonville State, but will still qualify for the OVC Tournament as the No. 8 seed...Junior forward **Roshawn Bowens** (Nashville, TN) averaged 22.5 points and 9.5 rebounds a game last week, scoring 35 of his 45 points in the second halves of each contest...Freshman guard **Bruce Price** (Minneapolis, MN) contributed 16 points per game while also handing out nine assists and grabbing 10 rebounds in the two contests...Senior guard **Garrett Richardson** (El Paso, TX) netted a season-high 22 points at JSU...Under the direction of first-year coach **Cy Alexander**, the Tigers are making an OVC tourney appearance after a one-year absence. TSU, picked to finish last in the OVC in preseason balloting, posted a 6-10 record in league action for an eighth-place effort. The Tigers visit regular-season champ and top seed Austin Peay for first-round play.

TENNESSEE TECH (13-14 overall, 7-9 OVC): Tennessee Tech dropped contests to Austin Peay (88-64) and Morehead State (90-86) to finish the regular-season on a four-game slide for the first time since the 1990-91 campaign...Junior forward **Willie Jenkins** (Memphis, TN), the league's second-ranked scorer this season (19.4 ppg), is on pace to post the Golden Eagles' best scoring average since 1955 (Kenny Sidwell, 21.3 ppg). Jenkins, a UMass transfer, has netted double-figures in 25 of 26 outings in his first year in the OVC...Senior guard **Cameron Crisp** (Boling, TN) went 6-of-6 from the free throw line at APSU, marking his 10th perfect outing this season. He has converted 57 of 71 foul attempts (80.3%) thus far in 2003-04...Sophomore reserve **Milone Clark** (Gibson, NC) tossed in 16 points versus Morehead State, hitting four 3-pointers as part of a 6-of-10 field shooting effort...The Golden Eagles, who finished in a three-way tie for fifth place in the OVC standings but lost the tiebreaker, are seeded seventh for the OVC Tournament and will travel to No. 2 Murray State for the opening round. Tech lost the teams' only in-season meeting in Cookeville.

2003-04 OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE MEN'S BASKETBALL REPORT

OVC HOOPS NOTES

AUSTIN PEAY CROWNED CHAMPS: **Austin Peay** led from start-to-finish en route to capturing its second straight OVC regular-season crown and sixth overall. After sharing the title with **Morehead State** a year ago, the Governors won the 2003-04 race outright, the third time in school history APSU has claimed sole possession of the crown. Austin Peay ran the conference table, making the Governors the first team to go undefeated in OVC regular-season action since former league member Western Kentucky went 14-0 in 1969-70. APSU is the only team other than WKU (three times) to go unbeaten in OVC play and the first to do so in a 16-game format.

DOUBLE THE PLEASURE: The **Austin Peay** women's basketball team also repeated as OVC regular-season champions, marking the third time in league history both the men's and women's teams from one school have either won outright or shared back-to-back regular-season crowns. **Tennessee Tech's** men's and women's teams each won two straight titles in 2000-01 and 2001-02, while former league member Middle Tennessee had consecutive men's and women's champions in 1985-86 and 1986-87.

DOESN'T MATTER WHERE THEY PLAY: **Austin Peay** finished the road portion of its 2003-04 OVC schedule with a perfect 8-0 record. The Govs became the first team to win all of their away games in conference play since **Murray State** went 6-0 on the road during the 1990-91 season. Additionally, APSU's 27 consecutive home victories in the Dunn Center is ranked as the nation's fourth-longest active home win streak.

SWAN SONG FOR MR. EVERYTHING: As the OVC Tournament kicks off this week, conference opponents will be getting their last look at Morehead State senior guard/forward **Ricky Minard**, who has ranked among the league's Top 15 in every statistical category for each of the last three seasons. According to all available records, the Mansfield, Ohio, native is the only player in school and OVC history to surpass 2,300 points (2,321), 700 rebounds (710), 400 assists (404) and 200 steals (235) for his career.

PRESEASON PREDICTIONS: Regular-season champion **Austin Peay** and fifth-place **Tennessee Tech** were the only teams to finish according to preseason predictions. While several teams finished within one or two spots of their preseason nods, **Jacksonville State** and **Tennessee State** posted the biggest improvements on their preseason selections of 10th and 11th place, respectively. JSU tallied a 7-9 OVC record and finished tied for fifth, while TSU went 6-10 in conference play for an eighth-place effort.

IT'S ALL ACADEMIC: Southeast Missouri junior guard **Derek Winans** and Austin Peay senior guard **Rhet Wierzba** have been named to their respective College Sports Information Directors Association (CoSIDA) Academic All-District Teams. Winans, a business management major, carries a perfect 4.0 grade point average. Wierzba, a 2003-04 OVC Scholar-Athlete recipient, sports a 3.91 GPA in business.

SPEAKING OF HONORS: Three OVC hoopsters have been recognized by the National Association of Basketball Coaches for their efforts on the hardwood during the 2003-04 campaign. Murray State senior forward **Cuthbert Victor** (14.5 ppg/10.4 rpg) was selected to the District 7 first team, while Morehead State senior forward/guard **Ricky Minard** (20.4 ppg/7.3 rpg) and Austin Peay senior forward **Adrian Henning** (13.5 ppg/6.4 rpg) were second team honorees.

AIN'T IT GRAND: Eastern Illinois' **Jesse Mackinson** posted his 1,000th career point last week, bringing to 11 the number of active OVC cagers who have reached that milestone. A 12th player, Morehead State's **Chez Marks**, hit the plateau earlier in the season prior to being sidelined with a knee injury. Also recording their 1,000th career point during the 2003-04 campaign were Murray State's **Cuthbert Victor**, **Antione Whelchel** and **Chris Shumate**; Austin Peay's **Anthony Davis** and **Adrian Henning**; Tennessee State's **Roshawn Bowens**; Tennessee Tech's **Cameron Crisp** and Southeast Missouri's **Derek Winans**. Morehead State's **Ricky Minard** and Tennessee State's **Garrett Richardson** each topped the 1,000-point plateau last year.

OVC PLAYERS IN NCAA STATS: Eastern Kentucky's **Jon Bentley** leads a trio of OVC players ranked among the Top 30 in the NCAA in field goal shooting percentage through games of Feb. 23. Bentley is fourth (64.2%), followed by Murray State's **Cuthbert Victor** (62.4%) in fifth and Southeast Missouri's **Brandon Griffin** (57.6%) in 27th. Victor is also fourth among national leaders in rebounding (10.5 rpg). Samford's **Tyson Dorsey** is third in 3-point field goal percentage (47.1%). Two OVC players rank among the nation's Top 40 scorers, led by Morehead State's **Ricky Minard** (20.9 ppg). Minard is 17th, followed by Tennessee Tech's **Willie Jenkins** (19.6 ppg) at 31st. Tennessee State's **Garrett Richardson** is 20th in steals (2.5 spg), while Jacksonville State's **Walker Russell** is 13th in assists (6.3 apg). Austin Peay's **Josh Lewis** is 20th in the country with 2.5 blocks per game.

RANKING THE MID-MAJORS: Murray State is in eighth place in the latest *CollegeInsider.com* poll, while Austin Peay sits in 12th. APSU is ranked 10th in Tony Meija's most recent *CBS Sportsline.com* poll, while the Racers are 12th. APSU and Murray State both fell out of *ESPN.com's* latest Mid-Major Top 10 ranking, but continue to be listed under other teams receiving votes.

OVC IN 2003-04 NCAA RANKINGS (Through Feb. 23)

INDIVIDUAL

SCORING

Ricky Minard, MOR - 17th (20.9 ppg)
Willie Jenkins, TTU - 31st (19.6 ppg)

REBOUNDING

Cuthbert Victor, MUR - 4th (10.5 rpg)

ASSISTS

Walker Russell, JSU - 13th (6.3 apg)

STEALS

Garrett Richardson, TSU - 20th (2.5 spg)

BLOCKED SHOTS

Josh Lewis, APSU - 20th (2.5 bpg)

FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE

Jon Bentley, ECU - 4th (64.2%)
Cuthbert Victor, MUR - 5th (62.4%)
Brandon Griffin, SEMO - 27th (57.6%)

3-POINT FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE

Tyson Dorsey, SAM - 3rd (47.1%)

MOST POINTS IN A SINGLE GAME

Josh Gomes, EIU - 13th (40)

BEST SINGLE-GAME FG%

Chez Marks, MOR - 9th (93.3%, 14-15)
Roshawn Bowens, TSU - 11th (92.3%, 12-13)
Carl Brown, JSU - 13th (91.7%, 11-12)
Josh Gomes, EIU - 117th (90.9%, 10-11)

MOST SINGLE-GAME 3-PT FG MADE

Tyson Dorsey, SAM - 115th (8)
Ricky Minard, MOR - 115th (8)

BEST SINGLE-GAME 3-PT FG%

Rick Jones, MUR - 112th (77.8%, 7-9)
Ricky Minard, MOR - 119th (72.7%, 8-11)

BEST SINGLE-GAME FREE THROW %

Phillip Ramelli, SAM - 11st (100%, 13-13)

MOST SINGLE-GAME REBOUNDS

Cuthbert Victor, MUR - 110th (20)

MOST SINGLE-GAME ASSISTS

Walker Russell, JSU - 17th (14)

MOST SINGLE-GAME STEALS

James Denson, JSU - 11st (9)

TEAM

SCORING OFFENSE

Murray State - 11th (81.0 ppg)

SCORING DEFENSE

Austin Peay - 14th (59.5 ppg)

SCORING MARGIN

Murray State - 20th (+11.4 ppg)

FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE

Murray State - 5th (49.8%)
Samford - 12th (48.8%)

3-POINT FIELD GOAL %

Samford - 21st (38.9%)
Southeast Missouri - 24th (38.8%)

3-POINTERS MADE PER GAME

Samford - 3rd (9.4 pg)
Tennessee State - 22nd (8.2 tpg)
Tennessee Tech - 126th (8.0 pg)

FREE THROW PERCENTAGE

Morehead State - 24th (74.0%)

ASSISTS

Murray State - 4th (18.9 apg)
Eastern Kentucky - 121st (16.8 apg)

FEWEST TURNOVERS PER GAME

Southeast Missouri - 13th (12.2 tpg)
Tennessee State - 14th (12.3 tpg)

BEST SINGLE-GAME FG%

Samford - 6th (69.8%, 37-53)
Eastern Illinois - 7th (69.6%, 32-46)
Samford - 8th (68.8%, 33-48)

MOST SINGLE-GAME 3-PT FG MADE

Samford - 116th (16, twice)

BEST SINGLE-GAME FT %

Morehead State - 117th (94.1%, 16-17)
Tennessee-Martin - 117th (94.1%, 16-17)

2003-04 OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE MEN'S BASKETBALL REPORT

OVC PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

PLAYER:

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	Chris Shumate, Murray State
J 19	Josh Lewis, Austin Peay Derek Winans, Southeast Missouri
J 26	Ricky Minard, Morehead State
F 2	Cuthbert Victor, Murray State
F 9	Ricky Minard, Morehead State
F 16	Jon Bentley, Eastern Kentucky
F 23	Matt Witt, Eastern Kentucky
M 1	Ricky Minard, Morehead State

NEWCOMER:

N 24	Justin Smith, Tennessee-Martin
D 1	Kelvin Brown, Murray State
D 8	Dainmon Gonner, Southeast Missouri Willie Jenkins, Tennessee Tech
D 15	Jared Newson, Tennessee-Martin
D 22	Justin Smith, Tennessee-Martin
J 5	Dainmon Gonner, Southeast Missouri
J 12	Kelvin Brown, Murray State
J 19	Mike Nelke, Southeast Missouri
J 26	Willie Jenkins, Tennessee Tech
F 2	Jared Newson, Tennessee-Martin
F 9	Willie Jenkins, Tennessee Tech
F 16	Willie Jenkins, Tennessee Tech
F 23	Walker Russell, Jacksonville State
M 1	Walker Russell, Jacksonville State

ROOKIE:

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	Bruce Price, Tennessee State
J 19	Jerry Smith, Samford
J 26	No selection
F 2	Bruce Price, Tennessee State
F 9	No selection
F 16	Bruce Price, Tennessee State
F 23	Bruce Price, Tennessee State
M 1	Shawn Witherspoon, Murray State

ACTIVE OVC CAREER LEADERS

(Through games of March 1)

SCORING

	PTS
Ricky Minard, Morehead State	2,321
Cuthbert Victor, Murray State	1,430
Garrett Richardson, Tennessee State	1,369
Cameron Crisp, Tennessee Tech	1,342
Anthony Davis, Austin Peay	1,307
Antione Whelchel, Murray State	1,295
Adrian Henning, Austin Peay	1,290
Derek Winans, Southeast Missouri	1,253
*Chez Marks, Morehead State	1,187
Chris Shumate, Murray State	1,165
Roshaun Bowens, Tennessee State	1,154
Jesse Mackinson, Eastern Illinois	1,016
*Out for season	

REBOUNDS

	REB
Cuthbert Victor, Murray State	905
Ricky Minard, Morehead State	710
Josh Lewis, Austin Peay	709
Antione Whelchel, Murray State	663
Adrian Henning, Austin Peay	630
Michael Haney, Eastern Kentucky	508
Brandon Griffin, Southeast Missouri	484
Roshaun Bowens, Tennessee State	464
Phillip Ramelli, Samford	421
Garrett Richardson, Tennessee State	364

ASSISTS

	AST
Garrett Richardson, Tennessee State	433
Ricky Minard, Morehead State	404
Cameron Crisp, Tennessee Tech	365
Scott Watson, Jacksonville State	362
Kevin Paschel, Murray State	349
Antione Whelchel, Murray State	301
Matt Witt, Eastern Kentucky	289
Leigh Gayden, Tennessee Tech	247
Jeremy Kelly, Tennessee-Martin	234
Derek Winans, Southeast Missouri	230

STEALS

	STL
Garrett Richardson, Tennessee State	254
Ricky Minard, Morehead State	237
Cuthbert Victor, Murray State	164
Cameron Crisp, Tennessee Tech	132
Anthony Davis, Austin Peay	138
Antione Whelchel, Murray State	128
Derek Winans, Southeast Missouri	122
Chris Shumate, Murray State	117
Jeremy Kelly, Tennessee-Martin	116
Rhet Wierzba, Austin Peay	107
Josh Lewis, Austin Peay	107

BLOCKED SHOTS

	BLK
Josh Lewis, Austin Peay	247
Cuthbert Victor, Murray State	176
Andy Hornig, Murray State	117
Adrian Henning, Austin Peay	100
Phillip Ramelli, Samford	79
Ricky Minard, Morehead State	70
Kenan Asceric, Tennessee-Martin	60
Tim Volpenhein, Eastern Kentucky	47
Antione Whelchel, Murray State	46
Damarcus Hence, Southeast Missouri	41

3-POINTERS MADE

	3's
Ricky Minard, Morehead State	223
*Chez Marks, Morehead State	184
Derek Winans, Southeast Missouri	187
Tyson Dorsey, Samford	176
Ben Rushing, Eastern Kentucky	170
Chris Shumate, Murray State	158
Garrett Richardson, Tennessee State	148
Rick Jones, Murray State	153
Antione Whelchel, Murray State	138
Rhet Wierzba, Austin Peay	134
*Out for season	

OVC Statistics Rankings - Through Mar. 1

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