



Skyhawk Nation News

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT MARTIN

September, 2009

SCHEDULE INCLUDES SEVEN BIG NON-CONFERENCE GAMES



Jason James, the first-year men's head basketball coach at The University of Tennessee at Martin, has always said the Skyhawks would play anyone. Well, he's backing up that talk with the walk.

James and the Skyhawks will play three teams from the Missouri Valley Conference, one team from the Sun Belt, one team from the Atlantic Coast Conference and one team from the Big 12 Conference. On top of that the Skyhawks will try to defend their Ohio Valley Conference title with a full slate of league games in the friendly confines of the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

"We believe in playing top-notch competition and I think we have done that with our schedule," James said.

The Skyhawks open the season on the road at Southern Illinois University Carbondale on Saturday, Nov. 14. Three days later, on Nov. 17, the Skyhawks invade Columbia, Mo., where they will face host Missouri from the Big 12. The Skyhawks will use Arkansas State for the final warm-up for the OVC slate on Wednesday, Nov. 25.

"The challenge of this year's schedule excites me and our team," James said. "All of the non-conference teams that we play have experienced a great deal of success in the past few years. These games will help us see where we are as a basketball team and where we need to go."

League play opens Dec. 3 when defending OVC Tournament champions Morehead State come to the Elam Center. Eastern Kentucky will be in town Dec. 5.

After the two OVC games, the Skyhawks hit the road for a quick trip to Springfield, Mo., to face Missouri State on Dec. 9. Central Arkansas will come to Martin on Dec. 12. The Skyhawks will play Evansville, also a member of the MVC on Saturday, Dec. 19.

From Evansville the team will travel south to Tallahassee, Fla., to meet UT Martin alumnus Leonard Hamilton and his Florida State Seminoles. The Skyhawks close out 2009 at home in the Elam Center against Westminster on Wednesday, Dec. 30.

The team opens the 2010 portion of the schedule on the road at Murray State on Monday, Jan. 4. The Skyhawks will be in Clarksville to meet Austin Peay on Thursday, Jan. 7, and close out the week on Saturday, Jan. 9, at Tennessee State in Nashville.

The Skyhawks will play Tennessee Tech and Jacksonville State at home on Jan. 14 and 16 before traveling to Southeast Missouri State and Eastern Illinois.

The team will open a five-game homestand at the end of the month with games against Southern Illinois Edwardsville, Murray State, Austin Peay, Tennessee State and Southeast Missouri State.

The Skyhawks will make a long road trip to Jacksonville State and Tennessee Tech on Feb. 11 and 13, before playing their last home game of the season against Eastern Illinois on Feb. 16. The season will come to a screeching halt with a BracketBuster road game and the trip to Eastern Kentucky and Morehead State on Feb. 25 and 27.

"We get a chance to walk into hostile environments on the road and compete at the highest level," James said.

The OVC Tournament begins Tuesday, March 2 and wraps up with the semifinals and finals in Nashville at the Sommet Center on March 5 and 6.

The Skyhawks will open the year at home on Monday, Nov. 9 with an exhibition game against Rhodes College. The Skyhawks will also host the Character Counts game on Friday, Nov. 21 against visiting Harris Stowe University. Tipoff is set for 11 a.m. in the Elam Center.



Basketball Season Tickets Available

- Season Chair Seats - \$170
- Season General Admission - \$90
- Individual Chair Seats - \$14
- General Admission Adult - \$7
- General Admission Student - \$5
- Business & Industry - \$100 (5 Bench Back)

Faculty/Staff Discount Packages also available
Call 731-881-7207 for information.

James Hires New Assistant Coach



Jason James, the first-year head men's basketball coach at The University of Tennessee at Martin, announced he has hired Cornelius Jackson as an assistant coach. Jackson has been an assistant coach at West Virginia State University since 2003.

"I am very excited about Cornelius joining our basketball program," James said. "He is a very hard worker and a tireless recruiter."

Jackson was responsible for all recruiting and scheduling at West Virginia State. He also coordinated the video film exchange, scouted opponents and helped develop game plans. He developed specialized workouts for individual skill instruction for both post and perimeter players and coordinated all itineraries and travel arrangements for unofficial and official visits.

"Cornelius is a great person who works well with young people," James said. "He brings integrity and a solid character to this community."

West Virginia State finished this past season with a 24-6 record. The team won the West Virginia Interscholastic Athletic Conference (WVIAC) championship for the fourth time in six years. West Virginia State compiled a 148-43 worksheet with Jackson as an assistant coach since 2003.

Jackson signed with the University of Tennessee out of high school and after being a part-time starter for the Vols as a freshman, he transferred to Marshall University where he enjoyed an outstanding collegiate career. Jackson was Marshall's starting point guard and team captain for three years. He was also the only Herd player to start every game during his career. He led the Mid-American Conference in assists as a junior and senior.

After graduation, Jackson was drafted by the Roanoke Dazzle of the National Basketball Development League (NBDL). He also played professionally in Germany and Austria.

Jackson has a bachelor's degree in sociology and he and Tiffany Allen are the proud parents of daughters Valessa and Tiarra.

"Cornelius will be a valuable asset to this basketball team and this university," James said.



Assistant Climbs The Next Step Up The Coaching Ladder



For Dylan Dudley landing a job as an assistant men's basketball coach at The University of Tennessee at Martin is literally the next step up the coaching ladder.

Dudley, a 2005 graduate of Illinois College in Jacksonville, started his coaching career at Sullivan (Illinois) High School. After one season, he jumped up to Westminster College, an NCAA Division III school in Fulton, Mo. Dudley spent the 2008-09 season at Drury University, an NCAA Division II school in Springfield, Mo.

Dudley is glad he has made it to the Division I level. "Being at the Division 1 level is something I think every coach strives for. I have been very fortunate to meet the right people at the right time and I could not be more thankful for all their help along the way," he said. "I look forward to the challenges ahead as we continue to push this program forward."

UT Martin first-year head coach Jason James is excited about the new assistant. "Dylan has a bright future in this profession and we are excited about him," the Skyhawks' first-year head coach Jason James said.

Dudley will be responsible for recruiting players with focused attention in Illinois and Indiana. He will work with all position on the floor; and he will coordinate team travel as well as the video exchange program. He will also oversee and supervise the student managers.

"I am very grateful for the opportunity that Coach James has given me to become part of the Skyhawk family," Dudley said. "In my short time here I cannot tell you how enjoyable it has been to work on this staff with Coach James, Coach (Jay) Bowen and Coach (Cornelius) Jackson," Dudley said.

With Dudley on staff, James gains several quality attributes. "Dylan brings a lot of enthusiasm and energy to our basketball program," the coach said. "He knows the game and is very good at communicating this knowledge to the players. Dylan has developed strong relationships that will help us in the recruiting process and in our everyday operations."

Dudley has a bachelor's degree in sports management from Illinois College where he played basketball for four seasons. He helped Illinois College win its conference championship and advance to the NCAA Tournament in 2003.



Watch the Skyhawks



LIVE on OVC Sports.TV

UT Martin Skyhawk Men's Basketball Roster

0	Marquis Richardson	G	5-8	180	Fr.	Atoka, Tenn.	(Munford HS)
1	Benzor Simmons	G	6-5	215	Jr.	Miami, Fla.	(Carroll City HS)
2	Delrico Lane	G	6-1	190	Sr.	Greensboro, Fla.	(Odessa College)
3	Dominique Mpondo	C	6-10	265	Sr.	Vire, France	(Eastern Oklahoma State)
4	Marquis Weddle	G	6-1	185	Jr.	Union City, Tenn.	(Union City HS)
10	Catarius Taylor	G	5-10	185	Jr.	Brighton, Tenn.	(East Mississippi CC)
15	Reuben Clayton	G	6-3	180	Jr.	Memphis, Tenn.	(Northern Oklahoma)
20	MJ Brown	G	6-0	170	So.	Union City, Tenn.	(Union City HS)
21	Zach Jones	F	6-6	190	Fr.	Memphis, Tenn.	(Craigmont HS)
22	Ronald Spencer	F	6-9	215	Fr.	Sicklerville, NJ	(Nia Prep)
24	Daron Hood	G	6-7	225	Jr.	Bigelow, Ark.	(Bigelow HS)
25	Andres Irarrazabal	F	6-7	235	Jr.	Fort Lauderdale, Fla.	(Sagemont HS)
34	Terrance Coleman	G	6-4	170	Fr.	Tuscaloosa, Ala.	(Northridge HS)

UT Martin 2009-10 Skyhawk Men's Basketball Schedule

DAY	DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	RESULT
Mon	Nov 9	7:30 PM	Rhodes College [^]	
Sat	Nov 14	12:00 PM	@ SIU	
Tue	Nov 17	7:00 PM	@ University of Missouri	
Fri	Nov 20	11:00 AM	Harris Stowe University	
Wed	Nov 25	7:05 PM	@ Arkansas State	
Thu	Dec 3	7:00 PM	Morehead State*	
Sat	Dec 5	6:00 PM	Eastern Kentucky*	
Wed	Dec 9	TBA	@ Missouri State	
Sat	Dec 12	6:00 PM	Central Arkansas	
Sat	Dec 19	TBA	@ Evansville	
Tue	Dec 22	TBA	@ Florida State	
Wed	Dec 30	4:00 PM	Westminster	
Mon	Jan 4	TBA	@ Murray State*	
Thu	Jan 7	TBA	@ Austin Peay*	
Sat	Jan 9	12:00 PM	@ Tennessee State*	
Thu	Jan 14	7:30 PM	Tennessee Tech*	
Sat	Jan 16	6:00 PM	Jacksonville State*	
Thu	Jan 21	TBA	@ Southeast Missouri*	
Sat	Jan 23	TBA	@ Eastern Illinois*	
Mon	Jan 25	7:30 PM	SIU Edwardsville*	
Sat	Jan 30	6:00 PM	Murray State*	
Thu	Feb 4	7:30 PM	Austin Peay*	
Sat	Feb 6	6:00 PM	Tennessee State*	
Tue	Feb 9	7:30 PM	Southeast Missouri*	
Thu	Feb 11	TBA	@ Jacksonville State*	
Sat	Feb 13	TBA	@ Tennessee Tech*	
Tue	Feb 16	6:30 PM	Eastern Illinois*	
Sat	Feb 20	TBA	@ Bracket Buster	
Thu	Feb 25	TBA	@ Eastern Kentucky*	
Sat	Feb 27	TBA	@ Morehead State*	
Tue	Mar 2	12:00 PM	TBA OVC 1rst Round	
Fri	Mar 5	TBA	@ OVC Final Four	
Sat	Mar 6	TBA	@ OVC Championship	

[^]Exhibition

*OVC Game

[^]OVC Tournament Game All Times CST

Head Coach: **Jason James** Assistant Coaches: **Jay Bowen, Cornelius Jackson, Dylan Dudley**
Athletic Communications Director: **Joe Lofaro**

Coaches



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