



BIG 12 CONFERENCE NEWS

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2008 ACADEMIC ALL-BIG 12 MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM ANNOUNCED

IRVING, Texas — The Big 12 Conference has named 20 student-athletes to the 2008 Academic All-Big 12 Men's Basketball Team, the league office announced.

Texas led the conference with six selections -- four on the first team and two on the second.

Nominated by each institution's director of student-athlete support services and the media relations offices, the men's basketball academic all-league team consisted of 10 first team members combined with 10 on the second team. First team members consist of those who have maintained a 3.20 or better GPA, and the second team are those who have a 3.00 to 3.19 GPA.

To qualify student-athletes must maintain a 3.00 GPA or higher either cumulative or the two previous semesters and must have participated in 60 percent of her team's scheduled contests. Freshmen and transfers are not eligible in their first year of academic residence. Senior student-athletes who have participated for a minimum of two years and meet all the criteria except percent of participation are also eligible.

The Phillips 66 Big 12 Men's Basketball Championship will return to Kansas City in 2008 at the newly-opened Sprint Center. It will be the home of the league championship for three of the next four seasons. The four-day, 11-game event is scheduled for March 13-16 in the final year of a Thursday – Sunday format.

Four different teams have won the 11 previous titles at the Phillips 66 Big 12 Men's Basketball Championship. Kansas has won the most with five crowns, followed by Oklahoma (3), Oklahoma State (2) and Iowa State (1). The Jayhawks captured the postseason title the last two years, their first since winning the initial three league postseason championships from 1997-99.

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2008 ACADEMIC ALL-BIG 12 MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

FIRST TEAM (3.20-PLUS GPA; * - INDICATES NOMINATED WITH A 4.00 GPA)

Name, School	Class	Major	Hometown
Josh Lomers, Baylor	So.	Pre-Business	Boerne, Texas
Mark Shepherd, Baylor	Sr.	MBA	Austin, Texas
Jeremy Case, Kansas	Sr.	Graduate courses	McAlester, Okla.
Sasha Kaun, Kansas	Sr.	Computer Science	Melbourne, Fla.
Clent Stewart, Kansas State	Sr.	Business - MIS	Tulsa, Okla.
Paul Velandier, Nebraska	Jr.	Biological Sciences	Blacksburg, Va.
Connor Atchley, Texas	Jr.	Corporate Communications	Clear Lake, Texas
D.J. Augustin, Texas	So.	Education	New Orleans, La.
Damion James, Texas	So.	Education	Nacogdoches, Texas
Dexter Pittman, Texas	So.	Education	Rosenberg, Texas

SECOND TEAM (3.00 TO 3.19 GPA)

Name, School	Class	Major	Hometown
Mark Currie, Iowa State	Sr.	Civil Engineering	Odebolt, Iowa
Alex Thompson, Iowa State	Jr.	Political Science	Ames, Iowa
Russell Robinson, Kansas	Sr.	Communication Studies	New York, N.Y.
Matt Lawrence, Missouri	Jr.	Finance	St. Louis, Mo.
Taylor Griffin, Oklahoma	Jr.	Pre-Health/Exercise Science	Oklahoma City, Okla.
Austin Johnson, Oklahoma	Jr.	Sociology-Criminology	Amarillo, Texas
Justin Mason, Texas	So.	Education	Amarillo, Texas
Ian Mooney, Texas	Sr.	Advertising - Graduate	Austin, Texas
Chinemelu Elonu, Texas A&M	So.	Agricultural Leadership	Houston, Texas
Trevor Cook, Texas Tech	So.	Business Economics	Coppell, Texas