

TIP-IN CLUB NEWSLETTER

January 2008



Dear Fellow Tip-In Club Members,

Greetings from the Lumberjack Basketball Team and Coaching Staff. We hope you had a very happy and safe holiday season. It was very good to us, both coaches and players alike. Time spent with your family and friends is always great for morale!

December was a very successful one for the Lumberjack basketball program. We didn't lose a game!!! The month started with a road victory over Jackson State. The Jacks played very well in a 82-67 victory! Gerald Fonzie led the Jacks with 18 points with a great shooting performance. Matt Kingsley had 26 points and Josh Alexander had 10 rebounds. In our next game against Southern University in Nacogdoches, Benson Akpan had 12 points and 9 rebounds to lead the Jacks to a 56-39 victory. Offensively, we did not perform very well. Our defense, however, was outstanding.

Our next game was in Norman, Oklahoma to play the Sooners of O.U. In a really exciting game, the Lumberjacks played very well in a 66-62 victory. Josh Alexander had 19 points and Eric Bell and Nick Shaw each had 7 rebounds. Gerald Fonzie played very well for us, hitting some key 3 point shots. The win is probably the biggest in school history in terms of beating a major "name" school. I was very happy and proud for the players. They overcame many obstacles to win!

Our fourth game of the month was on the road against the University of San Diego. I was very concerned that we could not "come down" from our victory over Oklahoma. Secondly, we had just finished an exhausting week of final exams! In a slow and rusty first half, the Lumberjacks took a 21-19 lead. In the second half, we "woke-up" to 35 points behind the hot hand of Josh Alexander (22 points). Matt Kingsley added 15 points. It was a good road win! About two weeks later, San Diego went to Kentucky and won.

Just before the Christmas break, the Lumberjacks defeated Huston-Tillotson 79-33. Josh Alexander had 19 points to lead the Jacks while Dean Pele had 7 rebounds. It was a good game in that all the players got considerable time and we set an all-time defensive scoring record for William R. Johnson Coliseum.

Finally, we played in the S.M.U. Classic to end the month. Against Paul Quinn in the first game, the Lumberjacks got 25 points and 7 rebounds from Matt Kingsley in a 98-62 victory. In the second game against S.M.U., the Jacks rode the hot hand of

Josh Alexander (17 points) and Gerald Fonzie (13 points) to defeat the Mustangs 61-58. Matt Kingsley and Gerald Fonzie led all rebounders with 5 each. It was a tough road victory for us.

The Jacks are 12-1 heading into January and ranked #11 in the mid-major poll. Matt Kingsley was named player of the week once and Josh Alexander received the same award twice during the month of December. The Jacks got a vote for two weeks in the U.S.A.-CNN Top 25 poll. It was a great month for the program.

Our featured players for the month are Matt Kingsley and Josh Alexander. Matt is a 6'8" red shirt junior who averages 16.1 points a game along with 5.4 rebounds a game. Josh is a junior who averages 15.7 points a game along with 5.6 rebounds a game. Josh was a third team all-conference selection in 2007 while Matt was given Honorable Mention All-Conference. Both are fine young men who are key factors in our successful season thus far.

We hope to see you at many of our upcoming games. If you have not yet joined the 2007-2008 Tip-In Club, please consider doing so. We sincerely need your help with the rising cost of tuition, books, and fees. Tip-In Club members have been instrumental in helping our players get their degrees through financial assistance for summer school attendance and to fifth year seniors trying to complete their education. This indeed, is a priority for me and our program! If a player is motivated to graduate, we want to help! I hope you feel the same way.

God bless you and your family with safe travels and good health!

Sincerely,

Danny Kaspar

**Danny Kaspar
Lumberjack Basketball**