

2009 General Shale Brick Atlantic Sun Men's Basketball Championship

Allen Arena: March 7, 2009



Game Notes: No.2 ETSU 85, No. 1 Jacksonville 68

ETSU

* Tournament MVP, Kevin Tiggs, the A-Sun's leading scoring finished off his stellar A-Sun Championship with 21 points on 9-for 16 shooting. In three games this week, he accumulated 79, eight off the three-game record held by Willie Jackson, in the 1982 Championship. His 81 points are the most in an A-Sun Championship in the last 13 years.

* Tiggs became just the fifth scoring champ to lead his team to the A-Sun Championship. The last had been Shernard Long, from Georgia State in 2000-01.

* With tonight's 27-margin of victory, the last three title games have been decided by an average of 20.7 points since Belmont defeated Lipscomb, 74-69 in OT, in 2006.

* The Bucs improved to 7-3 record in title games, 1-1 in A-Sun finals. They last won a conference title as part of back-to-back SoCon titles in 2003 and 2004.

* The Bucs win an A-Sun Championship game for the first time in three tries games in which they were the lower seeded team. They are 5-0 as the higher seed.

* ETSU will enter the NCAA Tournament on a season-high tying five-game win streak. In those five games, the Bucs have averaged 89.4 points per game and not scored fewer than 81 points in any contest. They have outscored the five opponents (Kennesaw State, Mercer, Stetson, Belmont and Jacksonville by a combined 447-345 count. They won all five by an average of 20.4 points per game and won all five by least 14 points.

* Murry Bartow will be making his 3rd NCAA Tournament appearance. His dad, Gene, made 12 NCAA Tournaments in his career (once with Memphis State, twice at UCLA and nine times while coaching UAB).

* ETSU is the 16th different A-Sun school to win the league's Championship. Belmont, in 2006, was the last first-time winner of the league's automatic bid.

<More>

JACKSONVILLE

* Lehmon Colbert grabbed 13 rebounds, the most in school history in an A-Sun Championship game. Ayron Hardy held the previous mark, 12 boards against Gardner-Webb exactly one year ago.

* Ben Smith scored 29 points, breaking his own record for points in a Dolphin in an A-Sun Championship game. He scored 27 against Gardner-Webb last year.

* Despite the loss, the Dolphins will still be making their first postseason appearance since earning an NIT bid in 1987. They have not been to the NAAs since 1986.

A-SUN CHAMPIONSHIP NOTES

* This matchup featured six 1000-point scorers (Ben Smith, Marcus Allen and Lehmon Colbert for JU; Courtney Pigram, Kevin Tiggs and Mike Smith). ETSU and Jacksonville are two of the 16 programs in the country with three 1000-point scorers on the roster. Never in the 31-year history of the league have two teams stepped onto the court each with a trio of 1000point scorers on their respective rosters.

* For the third time in the last eight years, the same two schools will meet in both the men's and women's title games, and for the first time since the championships have been played concurrently at the same site. In 2007, Belmont's men and women defeated ETSU. In 2002, FAU and Georgia State met each other. FAU won the men's crown while Georgia State won the women's title.

* With ETSU's win, the No. 2 seeds have won five of the last six title games featuring the top two seeds.