

SPRING 2018 · EDITION

# JCBCA NEWSLETTER

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE

**NJCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION**

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RECAPS · COACHES Q&A · ALL-STAR GAME NEWS · NABC UPDATE · HALL  
OF FAME RECAP/INFORMATION · LIST OF ALL-AMERICANS · NIKE BASKETBALL CLINIC INFORMATION



## ...IT'S ANOTHER SEASON IN THE BOOKS.

Since the last JCBCA Newsletter, three teams won national championships, including a program's first. 90 players combined from all three divisions earned All-American status, and many more made their commitment to the next step in their basketball career-- most in large part due to help from their coaches in the process. This edition of the JCBCA newsletter will look back at this year's postseason, look ahead to this year's All-Star Game and Nike Basketball Clinic in Las Vegas, as well as some one-on-one time with this year's successful coaches.

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# NATIONAL CHAMPIONS



## DI SOUTH PLAINS 28-8 (12-4)

### ROAD TO THE TITLE

3/7	RANGER COLLEGE	89-75
3/9	MCLENNAN	85-76
3/10	ODESSA COLLEGE	101-92
3/19	HIGHLAND (IL)	91-71
3/21	SALT LAKE	79-78
3/22	CONNORS STATE	80-75
3/23	EASTERN FLORIDA STATE	89-76
3/24	COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN IDAHO	98-95



## DII TRITON 33-4 (13-1)

### ROAD TO THE TITLE

3/1	MCHENRY COUNTY COLLEGE	114-75
3/4	ILLINOIS VALLEY	105-66
3/10	OLIVE-HARVEY COLLEGE	102-64
3/20	ULSTER COUNTY	107-59
3/21	DANVILLE AREA	87-71
3/23	SOUTHWESTERN	85-67
3/24	PIMA	89-85



## DIII BROOKDALE 34-0 (24-0)

### ROAD TO THE TITLE

2/27	PASSAIC COUNTY	99-74
3/3	NORTHAMPTON	81-79
3/4	CUMBERLAND COUNTY	70-62
3/15	MINNESOTA WEST CTC	94-72
3/16	COLUMBUS STATE	109-79
3/17	NASSAU	70-57



DIVISION I

# TEXANS EDGE SOUTHERN IDAHO IN THRILLING FINAL

recap courtesy of NJCAA



**SOUTH PLAINS**  
28-8 (12-4)



Hutchinson, KS—For the third time in program history, the South Plains (TX) Texans captured the NJCAA DI Men's Basketball National Championship with a thrilling 98-95 victory over Southern Idaho at the Hutchinson Sports Arena. The 13-seeded Texans tied the record for lowest seed to win the national title.

South Plains, who made an improbable run through the NJCAA Region V Tournament to qualify for the national tournament, won five games in six days to capture the title. South Plains finished the season with eight consecutive wins, including six against teams ranked in the final NJCAA DI Men's Basketball Poll.

Two of the most prolific scoring teams in the tournament, Southern Idaho entered Saturday's matchup as the third highest-scoring team in the nation. South Plains matched the Golden Eagles every step of the way through the first half. As South Plains had done each of the previous four tournament games, the Texans went into the intermission with a lead, though minimal at 51-50.

South Plains built its lead to seven early on in the second half, but a spurt from Southern Idaho gave the No. 10 seed Golden Eagles a 61-59 lead with 15:38 to play. The lead lasted over six minutes, but South Plains responded as Isaiah Maurice hit a jumper at the 9:24 mark to put South Plains ahead 76-75, a lead that stood to the final horn. The Texans hit seven free throws in the final minute to seal the victory.

- The Texans third title came in its fourth national championship appearance. South Plains also won the championship in 2008 and 2012.
- South Plains joins the 2016 Salt Lake (UT) team as the lowest seed to win the men's national championship.
- With its five tournament wins, South Plains improved to 26-7 all-time in tournament action.
- Freshman Keith McGee earned Tournament MVP honors for the Texans after averaging 17.6 points while shooting 56.0 percent from three-point range.
- Head coach Steve Green of South Plains was awarded the Coach of the Tournament Award for the third time in his 18-year career at South Plains. Green becomes just the fourth coach to win three national titles at the Division I level.
- Southern Idaho average 100.8 points per game throughout the tournament
- The Golden Eagles placed a pair of players on the All-Tournament Team in Tommy Burton and Charles Jones Jr.
- Keshon Montague was awarded the Small Guy honor after leading Barton to a pair of shocking upsets early in the tournament.



## DIVISION II

# TRITON WINS FIRST MEN'S BASKETBALL TITLE

recap courtesy of NJCAA



**TRITON**  
33-4 (13-1)

Danville, Ill. – In the 2018 NJCAA DII Men's Basketball Championship, No. 1 Triton (IL) downed No. 2 Pima (AZ) 89-85 in a high scoring affair to capture its first men's basketball championship in program history. The Trojans' last national title came in 1997 in wrestling.

Entering the championship finale versus the Aztecs, Triton averaged a 27.3 margin of victory throughout the tournament while Pima entered the contest averaging 104.3 points in its first three national tournament games.

The Trojans used a strong first half to build a 39-26 lead over Pima at intermission, but the Aztecs responded to start the second half. Pima's offense came to life with a 59-point second frame, but the Triton offense continued to thrive with 50 points themselves to hold off Pima 89-85 and capture its first national championship.

- Five players from Triton scored in double-figures with Alondes Williams pacing the group with 22 points. Two other starters, tournament MVP Deonta Terrell and Najee Brown-Henderson tallied 15 and 16 points, respectively. Devin Blake and Martrell Barnes powered the Trojans off the bench with 13 and 11 points. Blake also reached double-digits in rebounds with 11 for the only double-double for Triton.
- Triton shot 45.9 percent from the field, as they connected on 28 of 61 shots in the title game.
- Terrell reached double-figure scoring in all four tournament games with totals of 10, 11, 17, and 15 points to average 13.2 points for the tournament.
- Triton now has five national championships total in its program's history.
- The Trojans cap its championship season campaign with a 33-4 record and a 90.5 points per game scoring average.
- Pima finished the season with a 31-5 record and averaged 102.4 points per game, the top mark in the nation.
- Southwestern (IA), the defending national champions, defeated Delta 95-81 to finish third in the tournament.
- Arkansas State Mid-South edged Erie (NY) 72-71 in the fifth-place final and Cuyahoga (OH) topped Grand Rapids (MI) 105-50 to seal a seventh-place finish.

## DIVISION III

# BROOKDALE CAPS PERFECT SEASON WITH DIII TITLE

recap courtesy of NJCAA



**BROOKDALE**  
34-0 (24-0)



Loch Sheldrake, NY – Brookdale (NJ) capped its perfect season with the 2018 NJCAA DIII Men's Basketball National Championship. The Jersey Blues pulled away down the stretch to top second-seeded Nassau 70-57 at the Paul Gerry Fieldhouse.

Brookdale, the top overall seed in this year's tournament, was led by Grant Goode's double-double as the sophomore poured in a game-high 20 points to go along with 12 rebounds. Tarique Holmes added 16 points while Jaimik Moore contributed 10. Matthew Ringel dominated the glass for the Jersey Blues with 25, including 11 on the offensive end as Brookdale outrebounded Nassau 54-32.

The Lions used an array of offensive attacks to build an eight-point lead late in the first half and maintained its advantage after 20 minutes of play with a 31-29 halftime lead. Nassau built its lead back up to eight to start the second half, but a 10-0 run from Brookdale propelled the Jersey Blues back into contention.

Brookdale's offense continued to thrive down the stretch and eventually ran away the title, its second in program history. Brookdale becomes the first DIII program to record an undefeated championship season since Sullivan County in 2007.

Brookdale, who outscored its opponents by an average of 25.0 points per game during the regular season, won all three of its national tournament games by an average of 21.6 points per game.

The Jersey Blues' previous national title came in 2013, a 61-55 victory over Eastfield (TX)

Ringel earned Tournament MVP honors after controlling the glass for the Jersey Blues while averaging 12.0 points and 2.0 blocks per game.

Brookdale's offensive rebounding efforts led to 18 second-chance points in the win.

Head coach Paul Cisek was named the Gary Cole Coach of the Tournament for the Jersey Blues

Nassau was led by three players in double-figure scoring as Cameron Winston totaled a team-best 16.

Columbus State (OH) took the third-place finish with a 97-87 victory over Montgomery.

Herkimer placed fifth after defeating defending champs North Lake while Massasoit took seventh after a 91-86 win over Minnesota West.

Collin Turner of Montgomery (MD), the nation's third-leading scorer in the regular season, averaged 34.6 points per game while earning All-Tournament team honors.





## COACHES Q&A WITH NATIONAL CHAMPION STEVE CHRISTIANSEN

Steve Christiansen just completed his 14th season at Triton while guiding the Trojans to the NJCAA Division II championship, edging Pima College in the title game, 89-85. Triton finished the season with a 33-4 won-loss record and lifted Christiansen's career mark to 367-96, an impressive winning percentage of .792. Coach Christiansen sat down with us to talk about this season's success, as well as the future of the Triton program which is about to venture into the Division I ranks of junior college basketball.

**Q1**

**How does it feel to be a national champion?**

CHRISTIANSEN: I don't think it's fully hit me yet but it's starting to. The outpouring of love and support from all the wonderful people at Triton has been overwhelming. I was so blessed to have such an amazing group of people around me. Our assistant coaches, Plato Dimakos, Tyler Jones, Rex Parker & Brad Fitzpatrick have all given so much to this program and they have done it for all the best of reasons. For them it's not about the money, they do it simply because they love the game and they love our players.

**"THEY DO IT SIMPLY BECAUSE  
THEY LOVE THE GAME AND THEY  
LOVE OUR PLAYERS"**

Speaking of the players, they were an absolute blast to work with and be around each and every day. We joked that we had a love affair going on. The coaches loved the players, the players loved each other, and about 95% of the time we thought the players loved the coaches! Seriously though it's the players that deserve all the credit. They worked very hard and more importantly believed in our vision by allowing themselves to be coached. Our championship dream would never have come to fruition without that.



Photos courtesy of Tim McKinney/Triton Athletics





# COACHES Q&A WITH NATIONAL CHAMPION STEVE CHRISTIANSEN



**Q2**

**Triton has been a contender the last few years. What was the difference in this year's squad?**

CHRISTIANSEN: Well...I think most people would tell you that I finally didn't screw it up! That may be true but again I'll go back to the love our players had for one another. The term "family" gets tossed around a lot in sports but the guys in our locker room played for each other and that manifested itself over our last nine games. That chemistry was so powerful I really stayed out of the way and just let the juggernaut that was happening naturally develop on its own.

**Q3**

**How did you get your start into coaching?**

CHRISTIANSEN: My dad was my coach. We spent countless hours practicing in the driveway. We would dissect my performance on the car ride home as a family with my mom and sister. I think those things fostered my love for the game. My dad passed away almost ten years ago, I'd give anything to have one more of those conversations now.

**YEAR**

**RECORD**

2004-05	16-11
2005-06	26-10 *
2006-07	14-18
2007-08	23-9
2008-09	29-4 *
2009-10	26-3 *
2010-11	31-6
2011-12	28-5 *
2012-13	24-7
2013-14	24-9 *
2014-15	29-4 *
2015-16	34-3 *
2016-17	30-3 *
2017-18	33-4 *

\*Conference champions

CHRISTIANSEN BY THE YEARS



## Q4

### What brought you to the junior college game?

CHRISTIANSEN: Opportunity really. I didn't know much about junior colleges in general, not just athletically but overall. I had a chance to become a head coach at age 24. That was scary but I knew I had been well coached as a player and felt like even though I was young and inexperienced I wanted to work. When you love what you do it doesn't feel like work. I trusted that if I worked hard I would eventually start to figure things out and improve...and judging from where I started I needed to improve a lot! I look back on my first few teams and feel sorry for those players because I was so green but they believed in me. I tell them all the time that they laid the foundation for all of our success now. I'm so thankful to them for that.

## Q5

### You've now been at Triton for 15 years. What makes Triton so special that you've stuck around?

CHRISTIANSEN: This one is easy. It's the people. I have a great job and I am supported by so many who are always looking to assist. From our Chairman of the Board, Mark Stephens, to our President, Mary-Rita Moore, and on down the line. Our faculty who is so willing to give their time and attention to support our student-athletes and staff members who take great pride in helping out. It's a wonderful place to come to work every day and then now having been there this long it is pretty neat to see and hear from all my former players. To see how their lives have progressed and flashback to all of our good times together here with basketball.



**Q6****What do you like/appreciate about the junior college game...what makes it special?**

CHRISTIANSEN: Coaches can have such a profound impact on players at every level but I think at the junior college level you can really change lives. You may deal with some kids that could go either way and if you can help guide them the right direction it's incredibly gratifying. Seeing a former player years later who "made it" because you gave the tiniest bit of help is what this job is all about. I've told people for years that although I'm not considered wealthy I'm very rich when it comes to what really matters in life.

**Q7****This was Triton's final year as a Division II program-- making the transition next season to Division I. What have you as a coach, and as a program, done to prepare for it?**

CHRISTIANSEN: We've strengthened our schedule for starters. We played some good Division I programs this past season on the road so we could get a glimpse of what the cream of the crop looked like before we made the jump. That helped two-fold. It prepared this team because it forced us to face adversity early on in our season and it gave me a better idea of the caliber of student-athlete needed to be successful at that level.



**Q8****What was the main reason behind Triton's decision to move to Division I?**

CHRISTIANSEN: A few reasons but mostly I think it was just time. We have had three straight 30-win seasons. We played in the National Championship Game twice in the last three years. Trust me I have loved competing at the Division II level, in particular at the National Tournament in Danville. The caliber of players and coaches is outstanding but I think any true competitor wants to see what the highest level is all about. This move should help both our recruiting and our players' recruitment.

I've campaigned for years that Division II & III players are largely overlooked at this level but that hasn't stopped it from happening to varying degrees. Triton didn't win the [2018] national championship because of their coach, they won it because we have great players. I want our players to have every opportunity possible in their careers. This move should help that. Additionally, our institution comes from a proud history of great teams and players. The goal of our staff is to create a program that people from all over the country quickly recognize and everyone at and around Triton feels proud of.

**Q9****Chicago is a hot area for talent. 10 of 15 of your current players are from the area. Will the transition to Division I make it easier to attract the best junior college prospects Chicago has to offer?**

CHRISTIANSEN: Yes! "The Chi", as our Chicagoans refer to it as, is home to some of the best high school basketball players in the world. Those guys take great pride in having played there because of its rich history and positive associations people have with it. Chicago is a world-class city. There aren't many junior colleges located in major metropolitan areas so you can be sure we are going to use that as part of our recruiting pitch.

Making the jump up will help us in terms of recruiting even more Chicago area kids but what I really think it will do is help us recruit players from all over the world who now have a legitimate option to play in a city that they have heard great things about. Triton is in such an accessible location, too, that traveling to and from it for both players, their families and recruiters are very easy. All of those factors are reasons why I am so excited to see where this program is headed.

**Q10****What is the biggest challenge that moving to Division I presents?**

CHRISTIANSEN: Probably just the combination of history and funding that some of our new competition has going for it. There are some proud programs in the Division I ranks that have big-time facilities and tons of resources to offer prospective players. We won't win all of our recruiting battles with them...but we're sure going to try. If a player wants a great arena they may choose to go elsewhere (although we like our gym especially after winning 70-straight in there) but the same things we have valued on our climb up Division II will be the same now in Division I. It's my job to assemble the best group I can without compromising any of the values it takes to be successful.





## JAY HERKELMAN'S JUNIOR COLLEGE SUCCESS COMES FULL CIRCLE WITH HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

He remembers the times in grade school in grade school and junior high where he would walk to Clinton (IA) Community College and watch the men's basketball games.

Jim Wyatt was the head coach at Clinton, then. He, too, would go on to have his own NJCAA Hall of Fame career. But, not before making an impact on Herkelman.

In 1981-- Herkelman's senior year of high school, Wyatt left to take a position at Southeastern (IA). There Wyatt would compile 371 additional wins, make seven trips to the NJCAA National Tournament in Hutchinson in 15 seasons at the helm all the while setting the foundation for Southeastern to win three Division I national championships in five years in 2000, 2003, and 2004 shortly after Wyatt retired in 1997.

Herkelman chose to follow and play the first two seasons of his collegiate career at Southeastern under Wyatt.

Herkelman enjoyed his time in Burlington, highlighted by winning the conference and advancing to the play-in game of the NJCAA National Tournament.

After his time there, Herkelman finished his collegiate playing career at the University of Dubuque-- an NCAA Division III program slightly closer to Herkelman's hometown.



*Herkelman, seen in a team photo from his first year coaching as an assistant at the University of Dubuque (Back row, second from the right)*

It was pretty immediate that he knew his future was in coaching.

After wrapping up his playing career, finishing both seasons at Dubuque with All-IIAC honors as well as a top 10 mark for best free throw percentage in program history, Herkelman immediately set out on his coaching journey. In his first two years coaching at Dubuque, he was put in charge of the JV program as well as an assistant for the primary team.

"[My first influence] was Jon Davison, who was the head coach at Dubuque," said Herkelman. "I played for and then coached under him. He got me into this profession and I am truly grateful for that.



*Herkelman and his assistants look on in a postseason game.*

Herkelman would move into a brief stint at Fort Hays State where he completed grad school. After a few stops along the way, including an assistant coach stint at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M, he settled with his wife in Coffeyville-- where he has been ever since.

"Being able to have an impact on young men as they are making the transition from high school to becoming a young man in college," reasoned Herkelman on what his favorite aspect of the junior college game was. "The satisfaction of helping someone through the struggles that the majority of them will have and assisting them in reaching their final destination of a scholarship to a four-year program."

Herkelman has plenty of experience in that capacity. With more than 50 players that have come through his program and on to four-year programs has shown that results speak louder than words in the community of nearly 10,000 people in southeastern Kansas.

One of his most notable players, Reggie Evans, enjoyed a long career in the NBA. Making stops with seven organizations, Evans was on an NBA roster from 2002 until 2015.



It's even easier to hang around a program when you've turned it into a powerhouse and built so many memories around it. One that sticks out to Herkelman was his first year on the job.

"My first year at Coffeyville, I took over a program that was bad-- just 3-26 the year before," reminisced Herkelman. "My assistant at the time, Doug Wagemester and I brought in a whole new team. We won the conference championship, made it to the Region (VI) Championship, where we got beat by Butler in a very close game and ended the season 26-7. The interesting part about that is that in my 23-year career at Coffeyville, we have averaged 26 wins and seven losses per year."

Sometimes basketball can bring light to a not so great situation. In September 2001, Herkelman was involved with an accident while golfing that resulted in him permanently losing his right eye.

"After that, we had a great year and won the conference with an 18-0 record and the Region (VI) Championship," said Herkelman. "My wife gave birth to our third daughter, Halle, early on Friday morning-- just two days later. By Sunday, we were on our way to the NJCAA National Tournament in Hutch and my wife, along with all three daughters (including Halle at just four days old) were at our first game on Tuesday at 11 a.m.."

Coffeyville would go on to play in the national championship bout, falling to Dixie State by just a point (the closest game since 1992). But finishing year the with a 36-2 record, and best national tournament finish for the Red Ravens since before the moon landing made the whole situation much more bearable.

A career that has encompassed more than 600 victories, 14 conference titles, eight Region VI Tournament titles and nine NJCAA National Tournament appearances in 23 years has been recognized with Coach Herkelman's place in the Hall of Fame.

"It is a great feeling of accomplishment," remarked Herkelman. "To get a call that tells you that you have been selected to the NJCAA Hall of Fame is truly amazing. To play for another NJCAA Hall of Famer at Southeastern (Jim Wyatt) and now years later to be recognized myself for this honor is really special."

"All these moments along the way in the junior college game obviously influenced me without knowing at the time. Here I have been coaching at the junior college level for the last 27 years and I don't see it changing in the future."

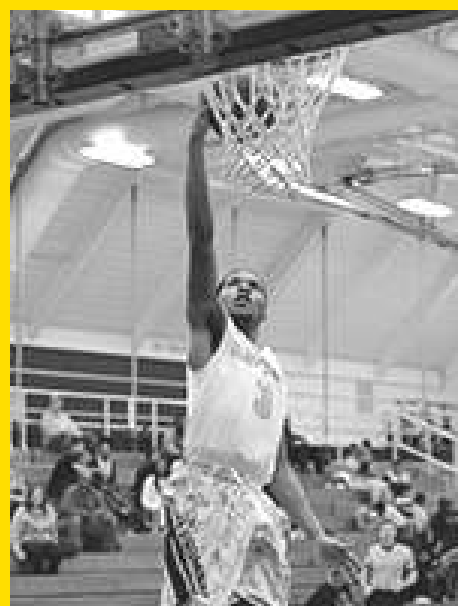






# NJCAA ALL- AMERICANS

100 NJCAA BASKETBALL PLAYERS ACROSS ALL THREE DIVISIONS EARNED THEIR NAME IN THE RECORD BOOKS AS NJCAA ALL-AMERICANS THIS SEASON.



## PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



### CHARLES JONES JR.

Southern Idaho

A first team All-America selection, Jones Jr. led the Golden Eagles to a 31-6 record that included a dominant run through the national tournament where Southern Idaho averaged 100.8 points per game. During the five-game run to the national title game, Jones Jr. averaged 24.2 points per game. Jones Jr. was a repeat All-American selection after earning third-team honors as a freshman.



Jones Jr.'s sophomore campaign was only part of a stellar career at Southern Idaho. In 2017-18, the Portland, OR native amassed 670 points for a career total of 1,194, one point shy of the all-time school record.



### TRAY CROFT

Iowa Central

After a stellar freshman campaign, Tray Croft upped his efforts as a sophomore in nearly every statistical category. Throughout the 2017-18 campaign, Croft averaged a nation-best 27.5 points per game while shooting 49.5 percent from the floor. Croft connected on 106 three-point shots this season which ranked eighth nationally.



The Anniston, AL native set an Iowa Central record with 772 points as a freshman only to top that mark with 854 points as a sophomore for a school-record 1,626 points.



### COLLIN TURNER

Montgomery

Collin Turner ranked second in the nation at 28.0 points per game after scoring 30 or more points on 18 occasions, including three games of more than 40 points. Turner's scoring efforts were complimented by his shooting ability as the sophomore posted percentages of 48.6 from the field and 42.4 from three-point range.



Turner's career as a Raptor concluded with 1,197 career points while shooting 48.8 from the floor. The Poolesville, MD native totaled 152 three-point shots during his tenure at Montgomery.

## FIRST TEAM ALL-AMERICANS

### DIVISION I

Andres Feliz	Northwest Florida St	G	6'2	SO
LJ Figueroa	Odessa (TX)	G	6'5	FR
Rashawn Fredericks	Motlow St (TN)	F	6'6	SO
Shane Gatling	Indian Hills (IA)	G	6'2	SO
<b>Charles Jones Jr.</b>	Southern Idaho	G	6'2	SO
Wendell Mitchell	Trinity Valley (TX)	G	6'3	SO
Tremell Murphy	Florida Southwestern St	F	6'6	SO
JJ Rhymes	Hutchinson (KS)	G	6'4	SO
Isaiah Tisdale	Vincennes (IN)	G	6'1	SO
Ricky Torres	Missouri St- West Plains	G	6'3	SO

### DIVISION II

Kamari Balton	North Arkansas	G	6'1	FR
Catoni' Collins	Lake County (IL)	F	6'3	FR
<b>Tray Croft</b>	Iowa Central	G	6'1	SO
Quintin Dove	Cuyahoga (OH)	F	6'4	SO
Brian Fobbs	Genesee (NY)	G	6'4	SO
Rashaad Goolsby	Phoenix (AZ)	F	6'6	SO
Walt Kelser	Schoolcraft (MI)	G	6'0	SO
Harlyn Owens II	Dakota County (MN)	G	6'2	FR
Holden Redparth	Highland (KS)	F	6'5	SO
Deonta Terrell	Triton (IL)	G	6'4	SO

### DIVISION III

Jaimik Moore	Brookdale (NJ)	G	6'5	SO
Deven Palmer	Quincy (MA)	F	6'5	FR
<b>Collin Turner</b>	Montgomery (MD)	G	6'1	SO
Steve Tynes	Suffolk County (NY)	G	5'8	FR
Mario Young	Columbus State (OH)	G	6'3	SO

# SECOND TEAM

## ALL-AMERICANS



### DIVISION I

Ahmed Ali	Eastern Florida St	G	6'6	SO
Jaiveon Eaves	John A Logan (IL)	G	6'2	SO
Brian Halums	Itawamba (MS)	F	6'6	SO
Ra'Shawn Langston	Connors State (OK)	G	6'0	SO
Mike Laster	Central Georgia Tech	G	6'0	SO
Chaz Mack	Cochise (AZ)	F	6'6	SO
Jay'Quan McCloud	Highland (IL)	G	6'2	SO
Vinnie Shahid	Western Nebraska	G	5'10	SO
Alonzo Verge Jr.	Moberly Area (MO)	G	6'3	FR
Travis Washington	Coffeyville (KS)	G	6'0	SO

### DIVISION II

Keven Biggs	Pima (AZ)	G	6'4	SO
Dwight Burton	Macomb (MI)	G	6'2	SO
Donel Cathcart	Niagara County (NY)	G	6'5	SO
Jordan Forbes	Bryant & Stratton (VA)	G	6'4	SO
Jalen Gant	North Central Missouri	F	6'7	SO
Jordan Matthews	South Suburban (IL)	G	5'11	SO
Dee Montgomery	Arkansas St Mid-South	G	5'11	SO
Jair Rodgers	Ancilla (IN)	G	5'11	SO
Juwan Smith	Southern Maryland	F	6'1	SO
Doug Wilson	Kirkwood (IA)	F	6'7	FR

### DIVISION III

Jalen Burgess	Nassau (NY)	F	6'4	SO
Grant Goode	Brookdale (NJ)	G	6'5	FR
Malique Ross	Rock Valley (IL)	G	6'1	SO
Tyler Sullivan	Onondaga (NY)	G	6'2	FR
Isaiah Washington	Mountain View (TX)	F	6'6	SO

## COACHES OF THE YEAR



South Plains  
**STEVE GREEN**



Steve Green led the Texans to a 28-8 record on the year that included a remarkable run through the national tournament as the No. 13 seed. The Texans edged Southern Idaho 98-95 to capture the program's third title. Green also led the Texans to the 2007-08 and 2011-12 national titles.

After losing two of the team's first three games of the year, Green rallied the Texans to a strong finish with eight consecutive wins, six coming over ranked teams. On the outside looking in at the start of the Region V Tournament, South Plains captured the regional and district championships before rattling off five wins at the national tournament.

The Texans joined the 2016 Salt Lake (UT) team as the lowest seed to ever win a national championship.



Triton  
**STEVE CHRISTIANSEN**

In his 14th season at the helm of the Trojans, Christiansen guided his program to an impressive 33-4 record in 2017-18. Triton won its final nine games, including four at the national tournament to capture the program's first-ever national title.

A staple in River Grove, IL, Christiansen became the program's all-time winningest coach in 2017. During his tenure, Christiansen has also been named the District 3 Coach of the Year and Region IV Coach of the Year along with the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Junior College DII Coach of the Year.



Brookdale  
**PAUL CISEK**



Paul Cisek led Brookdale to an unprecedented 34-0 record on the year that was capped by a 70-57 victory over Nassau in the DIII national title game. Brookdale outscored its opponents in the three tournament games by an average of 21.6 points per contest.

Cisek's high-powered offense ranked fifth in the nation with 95.9 points per contest with an average of 25.0 points per game more than its opponents.

The national honor for Cisek is the second of his career at Brookdale after the Jersey Blues won the 2013 national championship. Both titles came in Loch Sheldrake, NY at the Paul Gerry Fieldhouse.



# THIRD TEAM ALL-AMERICANS

## DIVISION I

Deshaw Andrews	USC Salkehatchie (SC)	F	6'5	SO
DeMarcus Demonia	Allegany College (MD)	F	6'7	FR
Isaiah Hart	Motlow State (TN)	G	6'2	SO
Christian Jacob	Kankakee (IL)	C	6'8	SO
Tra'Quan Knight	Shelton State (AL)	G	6'1	SO
Kur Kuath	Salt Lake (UT)	C	6'9	SO
Jhery Matos	Monroe (NY)	G	6'6	SO
Melvin Newbern Jr.	North Dakota SCS	F	6'4	SO
Mohamed Thiam	Marshalltown (IA)	F	6'9	SO
Austin Trice	Wabash Valley (IL)	F	6'6	SO

## DIVISION II

Brandon Faison	Pitt (NC)	G	6'2	SO
Tremaine Fraiser	Westchester (NY)	G	6'3	SO
Anthony Lupardus	Johnson County (KS)	G	6'1	SO
Rick'Keem Mixson	Raritan Valley (NJ)	G	5'11	FR
Gavin Rasler	Lake Michigan (MI)	G	6'5	SO
Stevan Rodriguez	Lackawanna (PA)	G	5'10	SO
Trayvon Tyler	Lincoln (IL)	G	6'0	SO
Mason Vires	Morton (IL)	G	6'0	FR
Ariel Watson	Garrett (MD)	G	6'3	SO
Josh Williams	Rhode Island	G	5'10	FR

## DIVISION III

Marquis Gilbert	Mohawk Valley (NY)	G	6'1	SO
Jarret Gmazel	Joliet (IL)	G	6'0	SO
J.J. Murray	Eastfield (TX)	G	6'0	SO
David Thompson	Central Carolina	F	6'2	SO
Jumah'Ri Turner	Rochester (MN)	G	6'2	SO

# HONORABLE MENTION ALL-AMERICANS

## DIVISION I

<b>Channel Banks Jr.</b>	Sheridan (WY)
<b>Christian Barrett</b>	Jacksonville (TX)
<b>Davon Bolton</b>	Eastern Arizona
<b>Jordan Brangers</b>	South Plains (TX)
<b>Darnell Butler</b>	Seminole State (OK)
<b>Patrick Dembley</b>	Iowa Western
<b>Simon Falokun</b>	Dawson (MT)
<b>Lony Francis Jr.</b>	Vincennes (IN)
<b>Devin Hutchinson</b>	Brunswick (NC)
<b>Darron Johnson</b>	W Oklahoma St
<b>Tajuan Johnson</b>	Georgia Highlands
<b>Martin Kelly Jr.</b>	Harford (MD)
<b>George Stanberry</b>	Volunteer State (TN)
<b>Jashawn Talton</b>	McLennan (TX)
<b>Khalid Thomas</b>	Southern Idaho
<b>Eric Thornton Jr.</b>	Pearl River (MS)
<b>Kevon Tucker</b>	Gordon State (GA)
<b>Andre Walker</b>	State Fair (MO)
<b>Josiah Wallace</b>	Olney Central (IL)
<b>Brian Warren</b>	Tyler (TX)

## DIVISION III

<b>Tim Biakapia</b>	PA Highlands
<b>Joe Boyer</b>	West Georgia Tech
<b>Christopher Byrd</b>	Columbus St (OH)
<b>Mason Harrell</b>	Sandhills (NC)
<b>Kevin Schramm</b>	Anoka-Ramsey (MN)



# 2018 ALL-STAR ROSTERS ANNOUNCED

The NJCAA Men's Basketball Coaches Association announced the roster for the 2018 NJCAA Men's Basketball Coaches All-Star Game presented by the NABC. 24 NJCAA players, 12 from Division I and six each from Division II and III, have been invited to Las Vegas, N.V. for the annual game on Saturday, May 19 at 4:30pm at The Orleans Arena.

NJCAA Division I Player of the Year Charles Jones Jr., from Southern Idaho, highlights the participants on the Division I roster. Jones, also named a First Team All-American, averaged 19.7 points, 3.6 rebounds and 3.7 assists per game this season. First Team All-Americans, Isaiah Tisdale from Vincennes University and Shane Gatling from Indian Hills, also earned invitations to the All-Star Game.

The rest of the Division I roster includes Carlos Dotson (Central Florida), Kur Kuath (Salt Lake), Travis Washington (Coffeyville), Myron Gordon (Harcum), Chaz Mack (Cochise College), Jaiveon Eaves (John A. Logan), Michael Nuga (Eastern Florida State), Austin Trice (Wabash Valley), and Jashawn Talton (McLennan).

Jared Phay, head coach at the College of Southern Idaho, has been named the head coach for the Division I All-Stars. This season, Phay helped lead the Golden Eagles to a 31-6 record and an appearance in the NJCAA Division I Championship game where they fell to South Plains, 98-95.

For the Division II/III team, Division II Player of the Year Tray Croft, from Iowa Central, and Division III Player of the Year Collin Turner from Montgomery, highlight the roster. Croft, a First Team All-American, finished the season with 27.5 points and 6.6 rebounds per game. Turner, also a First Team All-American, recorded 28 points and 4.6 rebounds per game this season.

Dontae Terrell (Triton), Holden Redparth (Highland (Kan.)), and Quintin Dove (Cuyahoga) round out the Division II First Team All-Americans on the roster, while Mario Young (Columbus State) rounds out the Division III First-Team honorees.

The remaining participants include Jordan Oakley (Louisburg), Dee Montgomery (Arkansas State Mid-South), Goree Venable (Sullivan), Mason Harrell (Sandhills), Jalen Burgess (Nassau) and Jarret Gmazel (Joliet).

Triton's Steve Christiansen, NJCAA Division II Men's Basketball Coach of the Year, and Nassau's A.J. Wynder have been chosen to coach the Division II/III team. Christiansen helped lead Triton to a NJCAA Division II National Championship victory this season, while Wynder also helped lead Nassau to a national championship appearance.





## DIVISION II/III ROSTER

1	<b>JARRET GMAZEL</b>	JOLIET (IL)	6'0	G
2	<b>MASON HARRELL</b>	SANDHILLS (NC)	6'8	F
3	<b>DEONTA TERRELL</b>	TRITON (IL)	6'2	G
3	<b>HOLDEN REDPARTH</b>	HIGHLAND (KS)	6'5	G
3	<b>COLLIN TURNER</b>	MONTGOMERY (MD)	6'0	G
4	<b>TRAY CROFT</b>	IOWA CENTRAL	6'1	G
5	<b>JORDAN OAKLEY</b>	LOUISBURG (NC)	6'5	G/F
5	<b>JALEN BURGESS</b>	NASSAU (NY)	6'4	G
5	<b>MARIO YOUNG</b>	COLUMBUS STATE (OH)	6'3	G
10	<b>DEE MONTGOMERY</b>	ARK STATE MID-SOUTH	5'11	G
21	<b>GOREE VENABLE</b>	SULLIVAN (NY)	6'7	F
22	<b>QUINTIN DOVE</b>	CUYAHOGA (OH)	6'5	F

Head coach: AJ **WYNDER** (NASSAU)

STEVE **CHRISTIANSEN** (TRITON)



## DIVISION I ROSTER

1	<b>MICHAEL NUGA</b>	EASTERN FLORIDA ST	6'2	G
1	<b>SHANE GATLING</b>	INDIAN HILLS (IA)	6'2	G
3	<b>TRAVIS WASHINGTON</b>	COFFEYVILLE (KS)	6'0	G
4	<b>JAIVEON EAVES</b>	JOHN A LOGAN (IL)	6'2	G
5	<b>CHARLES JONES JR.</b>	SOUTHERN IDAHO	6'2	G
5	<b>MYRON GORDON</b>	HARCUM (PA)	6'3	G
15	<b>ISAIAH TISDALE</b>	VINCENNES (IN)	6'1	G
15	<b>JASHAWN TALTON</b>	MCLENNAN (TX)	6'5	F
23	<b>AUSTIN TRICE</b>	WABASH VALLEY (IL)	6'7	F
23	<b>KUR KUATH</b>	SALT LAKE (UT)	6'9	F
24	<b>CARLOS DOTSON</b>	CENTRAL FLORIDA	6'7	C
25	<b>CHAZ MACK</b>	COCHISE COLLEGE (AZ)	6'6	F

Head coach: JARED **PHAY** (COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN IDAHO)



# NJCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION

# ALL-STAR GAME

## LAS VEGAS



*presented by* **NABC**  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BASKETBALL COACHES

## NJCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES ALL-STAR GAME PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NABC

The NJCAA Men's Basketball Coaches Association All-Star Game has a new sponsor for the 2018 edition. The NABC (National Association of Basketball Coaches) agreed to be a partner of this year's event, taking place at The Orleans Arena in Las Vegas, Nev. on May 19th.

"This is a great opportunity for junior college basketball to expand our existing relationship with the NABC," said Thom McDonald, Executive Director of the NJCAA Men's Basketball Coaches Association and sitting board member with the NABC.

"With the NABC's help, it really solidifies our All-Star Game for what we hope to be a long-term relationship with such a great organization," added McDonald.

The one condition of this partnership is that a new requirement has been established for all nominations of players to the All-Star Game. Their nominating coach must have a membership with the NABC.

To register for membership, click below:

**<http://www.nabc.com/membership/index>**

# ALL-STAR GAME INFORMATION

We're glad to bring another edition of the NJCAA Men's Basketball Coaches All-Star Game to The Orleans Arena in Las Vegas, NV--coinciding with the BasketballCoach.com: Nike Championship Basketball Clinic and billed as "The Largest Clinic in the World."

Legend Bob Hurley will serve as the keynote speaker at the All-Star Game banquet the night before the event. The three new inductees into this year's NJCAA Men's Basketball Hall of Fame Class will also be honored.



## 2018 NJCAA Men's Basketball Coaches Association All-Star Game presented by the NABC



**SATURDAY, MAY 19**



**4:30 PM**



**THE ORLEANS ARENA**  
LAS VEGAS, NV

This year's Nike Basketball Clinic will feature the likes of Jim Boeheim, Shaka Smart, Matt Painter, as well as 2017 NJCAA Division II national champion coach Todd Lorensen.

Pre-registration cost is \$155 or \$185 at the door.

Further information can be found online on [basketballcoach.com](http://basketballcoach.com) :

**LINK HERE**





# N A B C U P D A T E

Heading into our second year with NABC affiliation, the future has never looked brighter for the relationship between our two organizations

We are now approaching just two short years in our affiliation with the world's largest college basketball coaches association. After finishing our first full academic calendar year, so much has already been accomplished, and so much more is just on the horizon.

Some of the key objectives achieved in Year No. 1 with the NABC include our latest partnership for the All-Star Game (see the release on the next page), being involved in NABC's All-American and academic award process, as well as our first year as part of the NABC's Team of the Week award.

In our most recent meeting with the NABC, which took place during the convention at this year's NCAA Division I Final Four in San Antonio, Several NJCAA Men's Basketball Coaches Association representatives were on hand, including Todd Franklin (Vincennes University).

"Having attended the convention for 27 years now, and having gone to the junior college meetings, I think the last couple years we're moving forward with our relationship, positive gains, and better dialogue with the NABC," said NJCAA MBBCA First Vice President Todd Franklin.

Some of the next objectives include greater recognition of our Coach of the Year, which with an earlier release date, would have the possibility of being officially presented at the Final Four.

The NJCAA Men's Basketball Coaches Association is also exploring involvement with the NABC Benevolence Fund, which would assist member coaches that face difficult financial circumstances typically brought on by illness or some other incident.