

West Division

Concordia University at Austin
Hardin-Simmons University
Howard Payne University
University of Mary Hardin-Baylor
McMurry University
Schreiner University
Sul Ross State University
Texas Lutheran University



East Division

Austin College
East Texas Baptist University
LeTourneau University
Louisiana College
Mississippi College
University of the Ozarks
University of Texas at Dallas
University of Texas at Tyler

1221 West Campbell Road, Suite 245 • Richardson, Texas 75080 • Phone (972) 234-0033 • Fax (972) 234-8433
www.americansouthwestconf.org

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Contact: Amy Carlton, Media Relations

Mississippi College and Mary Hardin-Baylor Tabbed ASC Men's Basketball Division Favorites; Guards Cedric Isom and Sidney Hooper Claim Preseason Division Player of the Year Honors

RICHARDSON, Texas—Defending East Division champion Mississippi College and West Division challenger University of Mary Hardin-Baylor have been voted as favorites in the 2005-06 American Southwest Conference men's basketball race. Voting was conducted among the ASC head coaches, sports information directors and media representatives.

Mississippi College listed first on 19 of 22 ballots cast in the ASC East Division to total 173 points and easily outdistance second-place pick East Texas Baptist University (138 points). Mary Hardin-Baylor earned first-place votes on eight of 20 ballots cast in the ASC West Division, slipping past defending Division tri-champion Sul Ross State University by six points (121 pts.).

Voters also selected East Texas Baptist senior guard **Cedric Isom** (*Newton, Texas*) as Preseason ASC East Player of the Year and Sul Ross State senior guard **Sidney Hooper** (*Andrews, Texas/AHS*) as Preseason ASC West Player of the Year. Named ASC East Player of the Year as both a sophomore and junior, Isom led ASC scoring (24.1 ppg) and ranked third in rebounding (9.1 rpg) last season. He is a two-time All-Conference and three-time All-East Division pick. Hooper finished the 2004-05 season as the conference's second-leading scorer (22.2 ppg) while netting a conference-best 88 three-point field goals. Hooper was named All-Conference and All-ASC West First Team a year ago.

In the ASC East Division, Mississippi College and East Texas Baptist were followed by the University of Texas at Tyler (125 pts.), defending ASC champion University of Texas at Dallas (113 pts.) and University of the Ozarks (85 pts.) in third, fourth and fifth, respectively. Louisiana College (79), Austin College (45) and LeTourneau University (34) complete the ASC East predictions.

Eight points separates the top four teams in the ASC West Division. Top picks Mary Hardin-Baylor and Sul Ross State are followed by defending tri-champions McMurry University (120) and Hardin-Simmons University (119) in the upper half of the Division. Howard Payne University (73), Texas Lutheran University (58), Concordia University at Austin (48) and Schreiner University (36) complete the ASC West picks.

ASC MEN'S BASKETBALL PRESEASON NOTABLES

= The **ASC Men's Basketball Championship Tournament** is scheduled February 24-26 at the site of the ASC West Division No. 1 seeded team. The top four seeded teams in each division advance to the conference postseason party with the champion claiming the Conference title and an automatic berth in the NCAA Division III Men's Basketball Championship.

= **Mississippi College** advanced to the Sweet 16 of last season's NCAA Division III Championship, and turned that success into a No. 2 preseason ranking by *Street & Smith's*.

= Three ASC players garnered *Street & Smith's Preseason All-America* notice, led by First Team selection **Tyler Winford** (*Madison, Miss.*), a sophomore forward from Mississippi College. Winford was last season's ASC East Freshman of the Year, All-East Division and NABC All-South Region pick. Guard **Cedric Isom** of East Texas Baptist is listed on the magazine's Preseason All-America Second-Team. Sophomore post player **Travis Tennison** (*San Antonio, Texas/Converse-Judson HS*) of McMurry is among the Honorable Mention Preseason All-American honorees.

= There has been just one **head coaching change** in the ASC over the off-season. Bob Davis takes over at LeTourneau University from Bernie Balikian, inheriting a squad that finished 5-20 overall a year ago. Davis spent the last three seasons as associate coach at NCAA Division I Liberty University.

ASC 2005-06 MEN'S BASKETBALL PRESEASON POLL, AWARDS

Selected by Conference Coaches, Sports Information Directors and Media

ASC EAST DIVISION

Rank	Team (first place votes)	Points	2004-05 Records
1.	Mississippi College (19)	173	24-5, 19-3 ASC
2.	East Texas Baptist (3)	138	12-13, 12-10 ASC
3.	Texas-Tyler	125	13-12, 13-9 ASC
4.	Texas-Dallas	113	15-14, 10-12 ASC
5.	Univ. of the Ozarks	85	12-14, 10-12 ASC
6.	Louisiana College	79	10-14, 9-13 ASC
7.	Austin College	45	7-18, 6-16 ASC
8.	LeTourneau	34	5-20, 4-18 ASC

ASC East Division Preseason Player of the Year:

Cedric Isom, G, Sr., East Texas Baptist University

ASC WEST DIVISION

Rank	Team (first place votes)	Points	2004-05 Records
1.	Mary Hardin-Baylor (8)	127	17-9, 15-7 ASC
2.	Sul Ross State (4)	121	19-7, 16-6 ASC
3.	McMurry (5)	120	17-9, 16-6 ASC
4.	Hardin-Simmons (3)	119	19-8, 16-6 ASC
5.	Howard Payne	73	9-16, 9-13 ASC
6.	Texas Lutheran	58	13-12, 12-10 ASC
7.	Concordia-Austin	48	6-19, 6-16 ASC
8.	Schreiner	36	3-21, 3-19 ASC

ASC West Division Preseason Player of the Year:

Sidney Hooper, G, Sr., Sul Ross State University