



SPORTS NEWS

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2002-03 Ole Miss Rebel Basketball



Game #3
 Ole Miss (1-1)

vs.

George Mason (0-2)



November 30, 2002 • 6:00 p.m. (CT)
 Patriot Center • Fairfax, Va.

REBELS ON TELEVISION & RADIO

Television: None

Radio: Ole Miss Radio Network (David Kellum, play-by-play; Gary Darby, color analyst)

SETTING THE SCENE

☞ The Rebels will play their second road game this week at George Mason. Ole Miss opened its season at East Carolina last Sunday.

☞ The contest will be the home opener for George Mason.

☞ George Mason returns 4 players from last year's team that defeated Ole Miss 71-70 in Oxford. The Patriot win snapped the Rebels' 44-game homecourt win streak versus non-SEC opponents, which was the second longest in the nation at the time.

OLE MISS ON THE ROAD AGAIN AT GEORGE MASON ON SATURDAY

The Rebels take to the road for the second time this week, traveling to Fairfax, Va., to meet the George Mason Patriots on Saturday, Nov. 30. Game time is 6:00 p.m. (CT).

Ole Miss (1-1) bounced back after its season-opening loss at East Carolina with a 74-58 home victory over Alabama State Nov. 27 (see page 4 for recap and boxscore). The game was the home opener for the Rebels.

George Mason opened the 2002-03 season with two road setbacks at Central Michigan 61-58 and Southern Illinois 83-74. Saturday's contest will be the Patriots' home opener.

BARNES IN FIFTH SEASON AS REBEL MENTOR

Rod Barnes is in his fifth season at the helm of the Ole Miss Rebel basketball program. **The 2001 Naismith and CollegeInsider.com National Coach of the Year, Barnes has an 87-47 record (.649 winning percentage). He is 1-1 in 2002-03.** The 86 wins in his first four seasons were the most by a Rebel coach in that span of time in Ole Miss history. Last year, Barnes, the 2001 Southeastern Conference Coach of the Year, guided Ole Miss to a 20-11 overall record and a berth in the NCAA Tournament. The winning season and postseason tournament both were the sixth straight for the Ole Miss program.

Ole Miss Probables	<i>(Based on previous game's starters)</i>							
	No.	Player (Yr.)	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	PPG/RPG	Hometown	Notes
	1	Aaron Harper (Jr.)	F	6-7	217	13.5/4.5	Jackson, Miss.	☞ Went over 700 pts for career vs. ECU (716)
	23	Justin Reed (Jr.)	F	6-8	240	11.5/6.5	Jackson, Miss.	☞ 12 pts, 8 rebs, 2 blks vs. Alabama State
	31	John Gunn (R.Jr.)	F/C	6-10	260	16.0/4.0	Oxford, Miss.	☞ Career-high 16 pts vs. Alabama State
	2	Trey Pearson (Fr.)	G	6-4	165	6.5/4.0avg	South Fulton, Tenn.	☞ Started 1st 2 collegiate games
	15	David Sanders (Sr.)	G	6-3	185	11.5/3.0	Jackson, Miss.	☞ 13 pts, 5 asts, 2 blks vs. Alabama State
	TOP RESERVES							
4	Kendrick Fox (So.)	F	6-7	210	2.0/0.5	Oxford, Miss.	☞ Made 2nd start of career at ECU	
32	Emmanuel Wade (Sr.)	G	6-3	185	5.5/3.5	Marianna, Ark.	☞ 7 pts, 5 rebs, 2 asts, 2 stls vs. Alabama St.	
40	Derrick Allen (Sr.)	F	6-8	238	6.5/5.0	Gadsden, Ala.	☞ Grabbed 5 boards vs. Alabama State	

George Mason Probables	<i>(Based on previous game's starters)</i>							
	No.	Player (Yr.)	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	PPG/RPG	Hometown	Notes
	2	Jon Larranaga (Sr.)	F	6-7	230	9.0/5.0	Oakton, Va.	☞ Hit game-winner vs. OM last year (22 pts)
	3	Jesse Young (Sr.)	F	6-10	250	4.5/5.5	Peterborough, Ontario	☞ 2002-03 preseason All-CAA first team
	24	Mark Davis (Jr.)	F/G	6-5	200	23.0/5.5	Springfield, Va.	☞ Team leader in pts, rebs, stls, 3-pt FG pct.
	4	Raoul Heinen (Jr.)	G	6-5	185	14.0/2.0	Bunschoten, Holland	☞ Had 14 pts, 11 asts vs. OM last year
	12	Richard Tynes (Jr.)	G	6-4	200	3.0/3.0	Washington, D.C.	☞ Started GMU's 2 games this season
	TOP RESERVES							
23	Kevin Harris (Fr.)	G	6-3	180	0.0/1.0	Fairfax, Va.	☞ Saw 1st collegiate action vs. C. Michigan	
35	Trent Wurtz (Fr.)	F	6-8	210	4.5/3.0	Sheboygan, Wisc.	☞ 9 pts, 4 rebs vs. Southern Illinois	
55	Jai Lewis (Fr.)	F	6-7	275	8.0/4.0	Aberdeen, Md.	☞ 8.0 pts, 4.0 rebs off the bench	

2002-03 Schedule/Results

1-1, 0-0 SEC

Date	Opponent	Time
Nov. 9	West Alabama (Exh.)	97-35 W
<i>Freshman Trey Pearson scores 18 pts</i>		
Nov. 16	Athletes In Action (Exh.) .	70-67 W
<i>Harper - 16 pts, 5 rebs, 6 asts; Allen - 16 points</i>		
Nov. 24	East Carolina	58-65 L
<i>Harper - 15 pts, 6 rebs; Pearson gets 1st start</i>		
Nov. 27	Alabama State	74-58 W
<i>Gunn starts, scores career-high 16 pts. (8-11 FG)</i>		
Nov. 30	George Mason	6 pm
Dec. 4	Austin Peay	7 pm
Dec. 14	VCU (FXSNS-TV)	8 pm
Dec. 17	Louisiana-Monroe	7 pm
Dec. 19	Memphis (ESPN2)	8:30 pm
Dec. 21	Nicholls State	2 pm
Dec. 23	Evansville	7 pm
Dec. 28	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	2 pm
Dec. 31	Samford	3 pm
Jan. 8	South Carolina*	6:30 pm
Jan. 11	Tennessee* (JP-TV)	12 pm
Jan. 18	LSU* (JP-TV)	1 pm
Jan. 21	Alabama* (ESPN-TV)	8 pm
Jan. 25	Arkansas* (FXSNS-TV)	5 pm
Jan. 29	Mississippi State*	7 pm
Feb. 1	Vanderbilt*	7 pm
Feb. 5	Auburn*	7 pm
Feb. 8	Kentucky* (JP-TV)	2 pm
Feb. 12	Florida* (JP-TV)	7 pm
Feb. 15	Mississippi St.* (FXSNS-TV) . .	6 pm
Feb. 22	Auburn* (FXSNS-TV)	4 pm
Feb. 26	Georgia*	7 pm
Mar. 2	Alabama* (CBS-TV)	1 pm
Mar. 5	LSU*	7 pm
Mar. 8	Arkansas*	2 pm
Mar. 13-16	SEC Tournament (JP, CBS-TV) TBA	
<i>(Louisiana Superdome)</i>		

* SEC Game

All Times Central

Home games in bold

— 2002-03 Numerical Roster —

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown/High School
1	Aaron Harper	F/G	6-7	217	Jr.	Jackson, Miss./Provine HS
2	Trey Pearson	G	6-4	165	Fr.	South Fulton, Tenn./South Fulton HS
4	Kendrick Fox	F/G	6-7	210	So.	Oxford, Miss./Lafayette HS
10	Patrick Fields*	G	6-5	190	Fr.	San Antonio, Texas/John Jay HS
12	Justin Johnson	G	6-0	200	So.	Fayetteville, N.C./Seventy-First HS
15	David Sanders	G	6-3	185	Sr.	Jackson, Miss./Provine HS/ Tallahassee (Fla.) C.C.
21	Cavadas Nunnery	G	5-9	165	So.	Magnolia, Miss./South Pike HS
23	Justin Reed	F	6-8	240	Jr.	Jackson, Miss./Provine HS
25	Bryan Brown#	G	5-10	185	Fr.	Corinth, Miss./Corinth HS
31	John Gunn	F/C	6-10	260	RJr.	Oxford, Miss./Oxford HS
32	Emmanuel Wade	G	6-3	185	Sr.	Marianna, Ark./Lee HS
33	Chris Rhodes	F	6-7	220	So.	Houston, Texas/Westbury Christian HS
34	Shaun Holtz	F	6-8	250	Sr.	Crystal Springs, Miss./Crystal Springs HS/ Towson (Md.) University
35	Kendall Granderson*	G	6-2	195	Fr.	Yazoo City, Miss./Yazoo City HS
40	Derrick Allen	F	6-8	238	Sr.	Gadsden, Ala./Gadsden HS/ Southern Union State (Ala.) C.C.
44	Jonathan Loe	G	6-3	185	RFr.	Memphis, Tenn./Bartlett HS
45	Richard Kirklin	F	6-9	215	Sr.	Pine Bluff, Ark./Watson Chapel HS
54	Lonnice Jackson*	F	6-8	195	So.	Montgomery, Ala./G.W. Carver HS/ Okaloosa-Walton C.C.

* expected to redshirt in 2002-03

will join team following the football season

Barnes was hired as the Rebel head coach on April 9, 1998. A 1988 graduate of Ole Miss, Barnes served as an assistant under Evans from 1993-98. During his time as an assistant coach, the Rebels compiled a record of 76-63 and won back-to-back Southeastern Conference Western Division titles and received consecutive NCAA Tournament berths in 1997 and 1998. Barnes played at Ole Miss from 1984-88 and was named All-SEC his senior season. He still ranks on the Ole Miss career charts in scoring (17th; 1,201 points), assists (2nd; 456) and steals (7th; 154).

OLE MISS-GEORGE MASON SERIES

The Patriots lead the all-time series 1-0. George Mason defeated Ole Miss 71-70 in Oxford last year (see page 5 for last game recap and boxscore). The Patriot victory ended the Rebels' 44-game home-court win streak against non-conference opponents. At the time, the streak was the second longest in the country.

SCOUTING GEORGE MASON

The Patriots enter Saturday's game with a 0-2 record, but both were narrow road losses at Central Michigan (61-58) and Southern Illinois (83-74). Head coach Jim Larranaga is in his sixth season at George Mason and had an 84-64 record. He has guided the Patriots to the postseason the last two years (2002 NIT, 2001 NCAA). The Patriots were selected to finish second in the Colonial Athletic Association in a poll of the league's coaches. UNC Wilmington was picked to win the league.

Junior college transfer Mark Davis leads the Patriots in scoring (23.0 ppg), rebounding (5.5 rpg), three-point field goal percentage (35.7) and steals (9). Junior guard Raoul Heinen is also averaging double figures with a 14.0 average. Freshman for-

ward Jai Lewis is the squad's top field goal shooter at 77.8 percent (7-of-9). George Mason is shooting 44.8 percent from the field, 29.2 percent from the three-point arc and 70.5 percent from the charity stripe.

OLE MISS VERSUS THE CAA

Saturday's game versus George Mason will be only the sixth time that the Rebels have faced a current member of the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA). **Ole Miss has a 2-3 record versus teams from the CAA. The Rebels are 2-0 versus Virginia Commonwealth and 0-1 versus George Mason, Hofstra and James Madison.**

The last two times the Rebels played a CAA member were memorable. Last year, George Mason and Ole Miss played a thriller in Oxford, with the Patriots taking a 71-70 win. The George Mason victory snapped the Rebels' 44-game homecourt win streak versus non-league opponents, which was the second longest in the nation at the time. In the 2000-01 season, Ole Miss defeated VCU 88-84 in an overtime heart-stopper in Richmond, Va. That contest proved to be a big boost in the Rebels' season and the team's run to the NCAA Tournament "Sweet Sixteen."

LOVE THOSE NOVEMBER GAMES!!!

The Rebels love to play games in November and it shows in their record in contests played during that month. **Since the 1990-91 campaign, Ole Miss has a 30-5 record (.857 winning percentage) in the month of November. Ole Miss is 1-1 this November.** The Rebels were 4-1 in November last year, with the lone setback an 82-78 overtime loss to Bowling Green. Prior to that loss, the Rebels had won 11 straight in the month of November.

A GOOD SIGN?

In the Rod Barnes' era, the Rebels have played the weekend following Thanksgiving every year, and it seems as if the holiday doesn't slow them down. Ole Miss has a 6-0 record under Barnes when playing the weekend after Thanksgiving, including 5-0 away from Oxford. The following shows the Rebels' success in contests the weekend after Thanksgiving:

Date	Opponent	Score
11/24/01	at Kansas State	67-65 W
11/25/00	at VCU (ot)	88-84 W
11/28/99	Wisconsin-Green Bay*	57-53 W
11/27/99	Oregon State*	77-58 W
11/26/99	Furman*	75-61 W
11/28/98	Austin Peay	105-62 W

* SoCon Holiday Hoops Tournament in Greenville, S.C.

REBELS TOUGH ON NON-CONFERENCE FOES IN RECENT YEARS

In the last 10 years (including 2002-03), the Rebels have posted an 86-29 record (.748 winning percentage) versus non-conference opponents. **Non-conference foes have found Ole Miss especially tough the last eight seasons (1995-96 through 2002-03), as the Rebels have an impressive 74-21 mark (.779 winning percentage) against out-of-conference teams.** The following shows Ole Miss' non-conference record the last 10 years:

Year	Record
1993-94	7-3
1994-95	5-5
1995-96	6-4
1996-97	8-3
1997-98	9-2
1998-99*	11-4
1999-2000*	14-2
2000-01*	14-2
2001-02*	11-3
2002-03*	1-1
Totals	86-29
*Totals Under Barnes	51-12

GUNN'S A-BLAZING

Indeed, redshirt junior **John Gunn (Oxford, Miss.)** came out on fire in the Rebels' victory over Alabama State Nov. 27. After being away from the court for over a year with a kidney illness, the 6-foot-10 forward scored a career-high 16 points against the Hornets. The 16-point performance bested his previous career high of 14 points against Tennessee in the 1999-2000 campaign (Gunn's freshman year). He scored his 16 points on 8-of-11 shooting from the field, and the 8 field goals were also a career best.

Gunn also got the starting nod for the game, which was the second of his career and the first since the 1999-2000 season (started against Prairie View on Dec. 29, 1999).

GETTING DEFENSIVE

Defense has always been a trademark of the Ole Miss Rebel basketball program, and it is continuing in the early part of the 2002-03 campaign. After two games, Ole Miss is holding opponents to 39.3 percent shooting from the field and 21.2 percent from the three-point arc. The Rebels are also holding the opposition to 61.5 points per game.

Last year, Ole Miss finished third in the league in scoring defense, allowing only 64.3 points per contest.

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF CHARITY

Entering the 2001-02 season, free throw shooting had been a weak spot in the Ole Miss armor. But that changed last year, as the Rebels shot 73.8 percent from the charity stripe. The 73.8 percentage from the foul line led the Southeastern Conference last season, and tied for fourth best for a single season in Ole Miss history.

Move forward to 2002-03 and it looks as if the Rebels are going to continue that good fortune from the charity stripe. After two games, Ole Miss is hitting 79.3 percent from the free throw line (23-of-29).

BARNES GOING FOR CENTURY MARK...

Ole Miss head coach **Rod Barnes** enters the 2002-03 season going after a milestone of his own. After the Rebels' win over Alabama State Nov. 27, **Barnes now has 87 victories and needs only 13 to reach 100 for his career.** The 87 victories are tied for second most in Ole Miss history, trailing only B.L. "Country" Graham (145). **With the Rebels' next victory, Barnes will be the program's second-winningest coach ever.** If Barnes is successful in reaching 100 victories, he would be only the second Rebel mentor to do so. Barnes is the only coach in the program's history to average 20 or more wins per season. The following lists the winningest coaches in Rebel history:

Coach	Years	Wins
B.L. Graham	1950-62	145
Rod Barnes	1999-present	87
Cob Jarvis	1969-76	87
Rob Evans	1993-98	86
Bob Weltlich	1977-82	83
Ed Murphy	1987-92	76

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2002-03 Media Services**

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FAX-ON-DEMAND

Call 1-770-558-6000 from the handset of your fax machine. Enter your Personal Identification Number (PIN). To receive a PIN, contact Pivotal Communications at 770-399-0096. Enter the pass-code 732 (SEC). The following are the catalogue numbers for information:

Game Release	1920
Updated player bios	1921
Cumulative Stats	1922
Schedule/Roster	1923
Previous Game Box	1924

MEDIA TEAMLINK

Media Teamlink is another way to access Ole Miss basketball information. To use Media Teamlink, you must have access to the internet and must have Adobe Acrobat 4.0 on your computer. To get Adobe Acrobat 4.0, you can download it off the web. To use Media Teamlink, go to their website at mediateamlink.com and set up your account. **The catalogue numbers are the same as fax-on-demand. If you need assistance, please call the Ole Miss SID office.**

REBEL BASKETBALL ON THE WEB

The Ole Miss athletics page address is:
www.OleMissSports.com/

ROD BARNES TELEVISION SHOW

"Ole Miss Basketball With Rod Barnes" begins in January. Check local listings for day and time in your area.

ROD BARNES RADIO CALL-IN SHOW

The Rod Barnes Radio Call-In Show begins in January. The show will be held every Thursday from 6-7:00 p.m. (CT) at the Downtown Grill on the Oxford Square throughout the season. Check the radio affiliates in your area.

— 2002 REBEL SIGNEES —

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/JC/HS	Notes
	Byron Burnett	F	6-9	250	Anniston, Ala./ Southern Union CC	☞ Avg. 12.7 pts, 13.3rebs in 1st 5 games of 2002-03 season; did not play HS hoops
	Bam Doyne	G	6-4	170	Little Rock, Ark./ Mills HS	☞ 2002 Gatorade Player of the Year in Ark.; 2001 Ark. Democrat-Gazette Sophomore of the Year

2002-03 REBEL RECAP
Game #2 • Nov. 27, 2002
Ole Miss 74, Alabama St. 58

Redshirt junior forward John Gunn scored a career-high 16 points to lead Ole Miss to a 74-58 non-conference victory over Alabama State before a crowd of 3,392 at Tad Smith Coliseum. The contest was the home opener for the Rebels.

Gunn netted his 16 points on a career-best 8 field goals. David Sanders (13 points), Aaron Harper (12) and Justin Reed (12) also scored in double figures for Ole Miss. Reed grabbed a team-best 8 boards.

Lamar Clark led the Hornets with 15 points, while Cedric Mitchell added 14 points and a team-best 7 rebounds. Alvin Pettway had 13 points and 6 boards.

Alabama State jumped out to a 2-0 lead and stayed with the Rebels throughout the first half. The Rebels' largest lead in the first half was 5 points, and the Hornets even had a one-point lead at 30-29 with only 1:56 remaining before intermission. Ole Miss, though, regained the lead before the break on a Harper three-point play.

In the second half, Ole Miss picked up its defense and used a 22-8 run in the first nine minutes to push the lead to 54-38. The Rebels forced Alabama State into 6 turnovers during the second-half opening spurt. From that point, Ole Miss maintained its double-digit advantage.

The Rebels shot 57.1 percent from the field and 77.8 percent from the foul line. The Ole Miss defense held Alabama State to 39 percent shooting from the floor and 15.8 percent from the arc.

Ala. State	FG	3P	FT	R	TP	A	B	S
Pettway	5-10	0-0	3-5	6	13	1	0	2
Oliver, X.	0-3	0-0	2-2	3	2	2	1	3
Clark	7-12	0-1	1-4	3	15	1	0	1
Gamble	2-5	1-3	0-0	0	5	0	0	1
Campbell	3-11	1-6	0-1	1	7	1	0	3
Harris	0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Smith	1-3	0-2	0-0	0	2	2	0	0
Mitchell	5-13	1-6	3-4	7	14	0	0	2
West	0-1	0-0	0-0	2	0	0	0	0
Oliver, A.	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Green	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0	0	0
Russell	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0	0	0
TEAM				4				
Totals	23-59	3-19	9-16	28	58	7	1	12

Ole Miss	FG	3P	FT	R	TP	A	B	S
Harper	5-8	1-2	1-2	3	12	5	0	1
Reed	4-7	0-0	4-5	8	12	1	2	0
Gunn	8-11	0-0	0-0	4	16	0	1	0
Pearson	2-4	2-3	0-0	5	6	5	0	1
Sanders	4-4	1-1	4-5	1	13	5	2	0
Fox	1-2	0-1	2-2	1	4	0	0	1
Johnson	0-1	0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Nunnery	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Wade	2-4	0-2	3-4	5	7	2	0	2
Rhodes	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Allen	1-3	0-0	0-0	5	2	0	0	1
Loe	1-4	0-2	0-0	1	2	0	0	1
TEAM				3				
Totals	28-49	4-12	14-18	36	74	18	5	7

Alabama State 30 28 — 58
Ole Miss 32 42 — 74
Officials: Stuart, Clougherty, Reyes
Attendance: 3,392

... WHILE THE REBELS GO FOR THE MILLENNIUM

The Ole Miss Rebel basketball program will be going after a milestone as well in 2002-03. Ole Miss entered the season with 992 all-time victories, needing only eight to reach 1,000. **After their 74-58 victory over Alabama State Nov. 27, the Rebels' all-time record is now 993-1081.**

HARPER REACHES 700 POINTS

Junior **Aaron Harper (Jackson, Miss.)** passed a milestone Nov. 24 against East Carolina. The 6-foot-7 forward/guard netted 15 points against the Pirates to push him over 700 points for his career. **He now has 716 points.** On his current pace, Harper would reach the 1,000-point plateau this year.

THRICE WOULD BE NICE

Entering the 2002-03 season, the Rebels have three players — **Justin Reed (Jackson, Miss.), David Sanders (Jackson, Miss.)** and **Aaron Harper** — who could top 1,000 points for their careers. If all three reach the milestone this year, it would be the first time in Ole Miss basketball history that three Rebels hit the 1,000-point plateau in the same season. **After the Rebels' Nov. 27 game against Alabama State, Reed now has 861 points, Sanders 652 and Harper 716.** Although he scored most of his points at Towson University, senior transfer **Shaun Holtz (Crystal Springs, Miss.)** could also reach 1,000 points for his collegiate career. He has 743 points. The last time Ole Miss had multiple players reach 1,000 points in the same season was 1997-98 when Ansu Sesay and Keith Carter did so.

PEARSON GETS FIRST COLLEGIATE START

It's rare when a freshman gets the starting nod in his first collegiate game, but that is what **Trey Pearson (South Fulton, Tenn.)** did when the Rebels played at East Carolina Nov. 24. The 6-foot-4 guard had 7 points, 3 assists and two rebounds in his debut. He followed that with a 6-point, 5-rebound, 5-assist performance in Ole Miss' victory over Alabama State Nov. 27. He also started the Alabama State game.

Pearson is only the fourth true freshman since 1995-96 to start his first college game. Jason Smith did so in the 1995-96 season opener, and current Rebels **Aaron Harper** and **Justin Reed** also started their first collegiate game in Ole Miss' 2000-01 opener.

WILL SEVEN BE LUCKY FOR THE REBELS?

Many say that seven is the lucky number, and the Ole Miss Rebels hope that is true for them in 2002-03. Ole Miss will be looking to extend both its winning season and postseason tournament bid streaks to seven straight. If the Rebels are successful with another winning record in 2002-03, it would be the program's seventh straight, which would be the

2002-03 Preseason Honors

JUSTIN REED

- John Wooden Award candidate
- Dick Vitale/ESPN.com All-America fifth team
- Athlon Sports All-SEC second team
- Athlon Sports No. 7 Inside-Out player in the nation
- Basketball News All-SEC second team
- Basketball News No. 14 Banger in the nation
- The Sporting News All-SEC second team
- The Sporting News No. 8 power forward in the nation
- Lindy's All-SEC first team
- Lindy's No. 3 small forward in the nation
- Lindy's SEC's Top NBA Prospect
- FOXSports.com No. 18 power forward in the nation

DAVID SANDERS

- The Sporting News SEC's Best Defender

OLE MISS (TEAM HONORS)

- Athlon Sports NCAA Tournament Predictions — One & Done
- Basketball News Best of the Best — No. 5 bench in the country
- Lindy's Field of 64

longest winning stretch in Ole Miss history since the Rebels had nine-consecutive winning seasons from 1919-20 through 1927-28. The current string of six-straight postseason tournament appearances (1997, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2002 NCAA; 2000 NIT) is the longest in Ole Miss history.

OLE MISS PICKED FOURTH IN WEST BY MEDIA

The Ole Miss Rebels were picked to finish in fourth place in the Southeastern Conference Western Division in a vote by media members at the annual conference media day Oct. 30 in Birmingham, Ala. Alabama was picked to win the SEC overall title and the Western Division crown, while Florida was selected to win the Eastern Division championship. The following shows the media's picks for the 2002-03 campaign (first-place votes in parentheses):

Eastern Division	Western Division
1. Florida (26)	1. Alabama (30)
2. Georgia (9)	2. Mississippi St. (8)
3. Kentucky (5)	3. LSU
4. South Carolina	4. Ole Miss (1)
5. Tennessee	5. Arkansas
6. Vanderbilt	6. Auburn (1)

OLE MISS SECOND MOST WINS SINCE 1996-97

The Rebels have, indeed, been one of the Southeastern Conference's most successful teams in recent years — especially since 1996-97. Ole Miss

has won 129 games (overall games) since 1996-97, the most by any team in the SEC Western Division. The 129 victories are also second among all league teams, only trailing Kentucky's 169 wins. The following charts show the Rebels' success:

Most Overall/SEC Wins By SEC West Teams (1996-97 to present)

Team	Overall Wins	SEC Wins
Ole Miss	129	56
Arkansas	119	51
Auburn	117	47
Alabama	114	44
Mississippi State	106	40
LSU	93	29

Most Overall/SEC Wins By SEC Teams (Top 6) (1996-97 to present)

Team	Overall Wins	SEC Wins
Kentucky	169	72
Ole Miss	129	56
Florida	127	55
Arkansas	119	51
Tennessee	117	52
Auburn	117	47

INDEED, EXPERIENCE COUNTS

One reason that Ole Miss head coach **Rod Barnes** is smiling about the 2002-03 season is because of the number of veterans returning. Four starters are back from the 2001-02 team, and when Ole Miss has had three or more starters return for the following season since 1995-96, it has resulted in a 20-win season and an NCAA Tournament berth. The following chart shows that:

Year	Starters/Prev. Yr.	Rec./Postseason
1996-97	5 (+6th man)	20-9/NCAA
1997-98	5 (+6th man)	22-7/NCAA
1998-99	3	20-13/NCAA
1999-2000	2	19-14/NIT
2000-01	3	27-8/NCAA
2001-02	3	20-11/NCAA
2002-03	4	_____

AT THE HEAD OF THE CLASS(ES)

As a result of the Rebels' success the last six seasons, the recent seniors have taken their places at the top of the charts for the most wins by a senior class. The 2002-03 senior class of **Shaun Holtz** (Crystal Springs, Miss.), **Richard Kirklin** (Pine Bluff, Ark.), **David Sanders** (Jackson, Miss.) and **Emmanuel Wade** (Marianna, Ark.) entered the year with 66 victories, which was 22 shy of tying the record of 88. **After the Rebels' win over Alabama State Nov. 27, the 2002-03 senior class now has 67 victories.** The record of 88 wins was set by the 2000-01 class of John Engstrom, Jason Flanigan, Jason Holmes and Rahim Lockhart. Last year's senior class of Jason Harrison posted the second-most victories with 86 in a four-year span. The 2002-03 senior class has also been a part of the 2001 SEC Western Division championship squad and has been to three-straight postseasons (2 NCAA, 1 NIT). The following chart lists the most successful classes:

Four-Year Span	No. of Wins
1997-98 to 2000-01	88
1998-99 to 2001-02	86
1995-96 to 1998-99	74
1979-80 to 1982-83	70
1999-2000 to present	67
1935-36 to 1938-39	63
1994-95 to 1997-98	62
1978-79 to 1981-82	62
1923-24 to 1926-27	62

OLE MISS RANKED IN TOP 50 IN FIVE PRE-SEASON PUBLICATIONS/WEB SITES

The Rebels were ranked among the top 50 teams in the country in five preseason publications. Ole Miss is No. 40 in *Basketball News*, No. 43 in *Sporting News*, No. 36 in *Lindy's*, No. 40 in *ESPN.com* and No. 33 in *ESPN.com Bracketology*.

**LAST MEETING
December 1, 2001
George Mason 71, Ole Miss 70**

George Mason's Jon Larranaga scored 22 points, including the game-winning hoop with 12 seconds left, to give the Patriots a 71-70 victory over Ole Miss. The George Mason win snapped the Rebels' 44-game homecourt win streak versus non-conference opponents.

Rob Anderson scored a game-high 23 points for the Patriots, while Raoul Heinen added 14 points and 11 assists. Anderson also grabbed seven boards.

David Sanders led four Rebels in double figures with 17 points. Aaron Harper (14 points), Jason Harrison (13) and Justin Reed (11) also netted double digits. Reed led Ole Miss with seven boards.

The Rebels led 70-63 with 2:20 left after Harrison nailed a three-pointer. Anderson answered with a trey at the two-minute mark to make the score 70-66. After a Patriot defensive stop, Larranaga hit another three-pointer to pull George Mason to within one at 70-69 with 1:14 to play.

The Patriots pulled off another defensive stop, and got the ball with under 30 seconds to play. After a timeout, George Mason inbounded the ball to Anderson, who passed it to Larranaga. The Patriot forward then drove it all the way to the basket for a layup, giving the visitors a 71-70 lead with :12 on the clock. The Rebels had a final chance for the win, but Sanders' attempt rimmed out.

The contest was tight throughout with largest first-half lead six points (14-8 Ole Miss) and the biggest second-half advantage 10 points (55-45 Ole Miss with 9:14 left).

The Rebels hit 46.3 percent from the field and 76.9 percent from the foul line. George Mason shot 55.6 percent from the floor and 100 percent from the charity stripe. The Patriots out-rebounded Ole Miss 33-22.

G. Mason	FG	3P	FT	R	TP	A	B	S
Larranaga	9-12	2-2	2-2	3	22	1	1	0
Young	3-8	0-0	0-0	5	6	2	1	0
Nixon	2-4	0-0	2-2	4	6	2	0	1
Heinen	6-13	0-3	2-2	1	14	11	0	1
Anderson	10-16	3-5	0-0	7	23	1	1	1
Tynes	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Butler	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Cooper	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
TEAM				13				
Totals	30-54	5-10	6-6	33	71	18	3	3

Ole Miss	FG	3P	FT	R	TP	A	B	S
Reed	4-11	0-1	3-5	7	11	1	0	1
Hayes	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0
Allen	2-4	0-0	3-4	5	7	0	0	1
Harrison	3-8	3-8	4-4	0	13	6	0	1
Sanders	8-12	1-2	0-0	1	17	1	0	1
Fox	1-2	1-2	0-0	0	3	0	0	1
Harper	5-12	4-8	0-0	3	14	3	0	1
Johnson	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0	0	0
Wade	2-5	1-3	0-0	3	5	2	0	1
Kirklin	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	1	1	0
TEAM				2				
Totals	25-54	10-24	10-13	22	70	14	1	7

George Mason 32 39 — 71
Ole Miss 33 37 — 70
Attendance: 4,235
Officials: Lopes, Stuart, M. Eades

OLE MISS/GEORGE MASON TEAM COMPARISONS

Ole Miss	Statistical Category	George Mason
66.0	Scoring Offense	66.0
61.5	Scoring Defense	72.0
33.0	Rebound Avg.	31.5
33.5	Opponent Rebound Avg.	31.5
-0.5	Rebound Margin	0.0
48.1	Field Goal Percentage	44.8
39.3	Opponent Field Goal Percentage	50.5
33.3	Three-Point Field Goal Percentage	29.2
21.2	Opp. Three-Point Field Goal Percentage	26.7
79.3	Free Throw Percentage	70.5
38	Turnovers	37
36	Opponent Turnovers	34
32	Assists	16
6	Blocks	0
10	Steals	18

G A M E - B Y - G A M E T E A M S T A T I S T I C S

<u>OPPONENT</u>	<u>SCORE</u>	<u>FG-FGA</u>	<u>PCT</u>	<u>3P-3PA</u>	<u>PCT</u>	<u>FT-FTA</u>	<u>PCT</u>	<u>OFF-DEF-TOT</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>BLK</u>	<u>ST</u>
Ole Miss	58	22-55	.400	5-15	.333	9-11	.818	8-22-30	14	18	1	3
at EAST CAROLINA	65	19-48	.396	4-14	.286	23-31	.742	11-28-39	8	18	6	7
Alabama State	58	23-59	.390	3-19	.158	9-16	.563	13-15-28	7	18	1	12
at Ole Miss	74	28-49	.571	4-12	.333	14-18	.778	8-28-36	18	20	5	7

2002-03 Ole Miss Basketball
Ole Miss Combined Team Statistics (as of Nov 27, 2002)
All games

RECORD:	OVERALL	HOME	AWAY	NEUTRAL
ALL GAMES	(1-1)	(1-0)	(0-1)	(0-0)
CONFERENCE	(0-0)	(0-0)	(0-0)	(0-0)
NON-CONFERENCE	(1-1)	(1-0)	(0-1)	(0-0)

## Player	GP-GS	---TOTAL---		---3-PTS---		----REBOUNDS----						PF FO		A TO		Blk Stl		Pts Avg		
		Min--Avg	FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off	Def	Tot	Avg								
31 GUNN, John.....	1-1	17 17.0	8-11	.727	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	1	3	4	4.0	3	0	0	2	1	0	16	16.0
01 HARPER, Aaron.....	2-2	62 31.0	11-17	.647	4-8	.500	1-2	.500	1	8	9	4.5	6	0	6	7	0	3	27	13.5
15 SANDERS, David.....	2-2	65 32.5	8-10	.800	1-2	.500	6-7	.857	2	4	6	3.0	5	0	9	7	2	1	23	11.5
23 REED, Justin.....	2-1	50 25.0	9-20	.450	1-3	.333	4-5	.800	3	10	13	6.5	7	0	2	4	3	0	23	11.5
02 PEARSON, Trey.....	2-2	56 28.0	4-9	.444	3-4	.750	2-3	.667	1	6	7	3.5	6	0	8	2	0	1	13	6.5
40 ALLEN, Derrick.....	2-1	46 23.0	5-18	.278	0-0	.000	3-4	.750	4	6	10	5.0	4	0	1	2	0	1	13	6.5
32 WADE, Emmanuel.....	2-0	49 24.5	3-8	.375	0-3	.000	5-6	.833	2	5	7	3.5	4	0	4	4	0	2	11	5.5
04 FOX, Kendrick.....	2-1	14 7.0	1-4	.250	0-3	.000	2-2	1.000	0	1	1	0.5	2	0	1	2	0	1	4	2.0
44 LOE, Jonathan.....	1-0	14 14.0	1-4	.250	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	1	0	1	1.0	1	0	0	3	0	1	2	2.0
33 RHODES, Chris.....	2-0	7 3.5	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	0.5	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.0
21 NUNNERY, Cavadas...	2-0	4 2.0	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	2	2	1.0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.0
12 JOHNSON, Justin.....	2-0	16 8.0	0-2	.000	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	0.5	3	0	1	2	0	0	0	0.0
TEAM.....									1	3	4	2.0	0			1				

Total.....	2	400	50-104	.481	9-27	.333	23-29	.793	16	50	66	33.0	44	0	32	38	6	10	132	66.0
Opponents.....	2	400	42-107	.393	7-33	.212	32-47	.681	24	43	67	33.5	41	-	15	36	7	19	123	61.5

TEAM STATISTICS	UM	OPP	DATE	OPPONENT	W/L	SCORE	ATTEND

SCORING.....	132	123	11/24/02	at East Carolina	L	58-65	6332
Points per game.....	66.0	61.5	11/27/02	ALABAMA STATE	W	74-58	3392
Scoring margin.....	+4.5	-					
FIELD GOALS-ATT.....	50-104	42-107					
Field goal pct.....	.481	.393					
3 POINT FG-ATT.....	9-27	7-33					
3-point FG pct.....	.333	.212					
3-pt FG made per game..	4.5	3.5					
FREE THROWS-ATT.....	23-29	32-47					
Free throw pct.....	.793	.681					
REBOUNDS.....	66	67					
Rebounds per game.....	33.0	33.5					
Rebounding margin.....	-0.5	-					
ASSISTS.....	32	15					
Assists per game.....	16.0	7.5					
TURNOVERS.....	38	36					
Turnovers per game.....	19.0	18.0					
Turnover margin.....	-1.0	-					
Assist/turnover ratio..	0.8	0.4					
STEALS.....	10	19					
Steals per game.....	5.0	9.5					
BLOCKS.....	6	7					
Blocks per game.....	3.0	3.5					
WINNING STREAK.....	1	-					
Home win streak.....	1	-					
ATTENDANCE.....	3392	6332					
Home games-Avg/Game....	1-3392	1-6332					
Neutral site-Avg/Game..	-	0-0					

SCORE BY PERIODS:	1st	2nd	Total

Ole Miss.....	59	73	- 132
Opponents.....	54	69	- 123