

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT NEW ORLEANS

CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

FEBRUARY 2024



JAMAL GIBSON



NAIA PLAYER OF THE WEEK

JANUARY 16, 2024



STATS IN TWO GAMES

50 POINTS

49 REBOUNDS

8 BLOCKS

SCHOOL RECORD 17

DOUBLE-DOUBLES

HELPED THE KNIGHTS TIE THE
RECORD FOR SINGLE GAME
TEAM REBOUNDS WITH 64
VS. OAKWOOD

JAMAL GIBSON NAMED NATIONAL PLAYER OF THE WEEK

When he arrived at Southern University at New Orleans, freshman forward Jamal Gibson knew what he wanted – to be the best player in the nation. Tuesday, Gibson proved that, as he was named National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Men's Basketball Player of the Week.

The honor comes after a record-setting week against Gulf Coast Athletic Conference foes Oakwood (Ala.) and Fisk (Tenn.). In the game against Oakwood, Gibson set a program record (as of available records since the 2003-04 season) of 25 rebounds in a single game and followed up with a 24-rebound performance against Fisk. Gibson's 25 rebounds helped the Knights tie a program record for most team rebounds in a single game (64). He averaged 25 points per game, 24.5 rebounds per game, shot 62.9 percent from the floor, and came two blocks short of a triple-double. Gibson is now averaging a double-double this season, setting another program record of 17 double-doubles in one season.



"This is the first time in school history that we've had a men's basketball national player of the week, so this is really exciting," said Matthews. "This is a special accomplishment and exceptional achievement by an exceptional young man. I couldn't be happier for whom it happened." Gibson has had his taste of weekly honors before winning NAIA Player of the Week. The New Orleans native has won GCAC Player of the Week six times, GCAC Newcomer of the Week six times, and swept the awards four times this year. With ten games remaining in the regular season, the young man affectionately known as "Tall" shows no signs of slowing down.

"I feel great about winning national player of the week," said Gibson. "I honestly wasn't thinking about national player of the week because I was kind of caught up thinking about winning conference player of the week again. When Coach [Matthews] called me, I was just like, wow, this is crazy."

The shock is unsurprising to Matthews, who describes Gibson as the humblest young man he has coached. "He's the one who calls and checks on me after games, picks up food from the dining hall for the team when we are on break, and always separates himself from anything negative."

Matthews is building a family with the program, and Tall's award has provided a push for him and his teammates. The excitement has also given the team more momentum heading into another week of conference play against Philander Smith (Ark.) and Wiley (Texas), who narrowly defeated the Knights earlier in the season in SUNO's home gym "The Castle."

Gibson remains focused on the task at hand – winning.

And he's a silent leader. So much so that at a recent game, the opposition began chanting "overrated." It did not take long for everyone in the gym to realize that Gibson is every bit of what his stats portray, and he rakes in the numbers with play often described as a silent attack.

Gibson has a great eye for the game, a high basketball IQ, and has, as he says, "that dog in him," so no matter who the opponent is, he plays his best and leaves his all on the court.

"Everyone gets the same Tall," Gibson said. "I don't focus on who we play, I focus on how I play."

Having never played organized basketball before, to see Tall's game-by-game improvement is a sight to behold. SUNO alum and current assistant coach Kevin Dorsey provides individual and position workouts for the Knights, a tactic that is playing out on the court for Tall.

"This young man is very special," said Matthews. "From being a father to a teammate, he is always the uplifter. He's the considerate and thoughtful one who always wants to do for others. So, winning NAIA Player of the Week couldn't have happened to a better person."

The Knights continue a tough month of road games, traveling to Philander Smith, Wiley, crosstown rival Dillard, and the University of the Virgin Islands before returning home on January 29 to play the top-ranked team in the GCAC Talladega.

Regardless of the competition and where the games are played, it is certain that Jamal "Tall" Gibson will confirm why he was named NAIA Player of the Week.

DID YOU KNOW? JAMAL GIBSON HAS ALSO WON THE GULF COAST ATHLETIC CONFERENCE PLAYER OF THE WEEK AND NEWCOMER OF THE WEEK 8 TIMES THIS SEASON!

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT NEW ORLEANS

SCHOOL OF NURSING



The School of Nursing is preparing for a joint site visit with the Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN) and The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) to seek accreditation for the program. The scheduled site visits are March 4, 2024- March 6, 2024.



KICKING OFF SPRING 2024

SPRING '24 NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION *WELCOMING OUR NEWEST KNIGHTS*



Southern University at New Orleans hosted an in-person Spring New Student Orientation and a Saturday Registration and Enrollment Blitz to support first-year, first-time transfer, and readmit students with campus onboarding.

Over the two days, the Division of Enrollment Management and campus partners assisted over 200 students and families, including continuing students.

Students received SUNO gear, and 55 first-year and first-time transfer students were pinned and recited the Knight's Creed and Franklin Covey's 7 Habits.

SPRING '24 UNIVERSITY PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE

January 8-9, 2024

Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) kicked off its Spring 2024 University-wide Professional Conference on January 8, 2024, with a continental breakfast in the University Gymnasium. The Conference, moderated by Dr. Brenda Jackson, Vice Chancellor for Research/Strategic Initiatives and Executive Director for Title III Programs, focused on Pathway to Knighthood: “Student Performance and Successful Community Service Relationships and Outcomes.”

Chancellor James H. Ammons, Jr. opened the Conference with a very informative State of the University Address followed by a presentation on the SACSCOC Fifth Year Interim Report by Dr. Joseph H. Silver, Sr., President of Silver and Associates and SUNO’s Accreditation Consultant.

Additional presentations included SUNO’s Strategic Plan and Mission, presented by Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs - Dr. Eurmon Hervey; the University Budget Overview and Status, presented by Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance -Mrs. Arlene Wehle; the Pathway to Knighthood, along with

Enrollment and Registration Procedures, presented by Vice Chancellor for Enrollment and Student Success – Dr. Zackeus Johnson; and rounding out the morning session was the Technology – Canvas and Banner Updates, presented by On-Line Director – Ms. Melinda Perry, LMS Manager -Ms. Shelia Wood and ITC Director – Mr. Peter Bonnee’.

Due to the inclement weather, the Conference ended at noon on January 8 and reconvened on January 9 in the gymnasium with lunch and the continuation of the conference agenda. The remaining activities included presentations on the Campus Quality Enhancement Plan, Human Resources Updates; Title IX/Sexual Harassment, Campus Safety, Accomplishments and Spring Semester Plans by the Vice Chancellors, and Goals for Increasing Enrollment, Retention Rate, Persistence Rate, Graduation Rate and Professional Studies Placement by the Deans.

Conference feedback was positive. Participants felt that the Conference was well-planned and that the presentations were informative, helpful and valuable.



2024 LIVING LEGENDS CEREMONY

SPONSORED BY HANCOCK WHITNEY



Fred J. Johnson Jr. Honored with the 2024 Living Legends Award for Community Activism in New Orleans

Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) celebrated the achievements of Mr. Fred J. Johnson, Jr., awarding him the 2024 Living Legends Award on January 12. This accolade, presented by the Center for African and African American Studies (CAAAS) alongside the Living Legends Award Committee and the Lyceum at SUNO, recognizes individuals for their exceptional contributions to community activism and development in New Orleans.

As a respected community activist and cultural advocate, Mr. Johnson has dedicated his life to advancing the city's social and cultural landscape. His leadership as the current president of the Black Men of Labor, Inc., a society committed to honoring the role of African American men in the workforce and preserving traditional jazz music, exemplifies his commitment to cultural preservation and community empowerment.

The award, initiated in 2018 by CAAAS Director Dr. Clyde Robertson, annually honors local African American leaders who have significantly impacted New Orleans. Mr. Johnson joins the ranks of past awardees, such as Malik Rahim and Dr. Keith Ferdinand, who have also championed community improvement and cultural enrichment.

Mr. Johnson's recognition with the 2024 Living Legends Award highlights his enduring contributions to New Orleans. His work embodies the spirit of resilience and heritage the award seeks to honor, celebrating those who lead by example in enhancing their community and safeguarding its unique cultural identity.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO NEXT MONTH'S UPDATES!

**SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
AT NEW ORLEANS**

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