

AUGUSTA STATE GAMEDAY UPDATE

No. 10 AUGUSTA STATE Jaguars (27-6) vs. No. 3 WINONA STATE Warriors (37-1)

**Saturday, March 29, 2008 ❖ 2:30 p.m. ❖ CBS
MassMutual Center (6,677) ❖ Springfield, Mass.**

THE FACTS ... National Ranking: No. 10 (Final NABC poll) ... Current Record: 27-6 ... Regular Season Record: 22-5 ... Peach Belt Conference Record: 17-3 ... Last Five Games: 5-0 ... Last 10 Games: 8-2 ... Last 15 Games: 13-2 ... At Home: 14-1 ... On The Road: 10-4 ... At Neutral Sites: 3-1 ... At Home In The PBC: 9-1 ... On The Road In The PBC: 8-2 ... Under Head Coach Dip Metress: 85-37 (.697) ... At Home Under Metress: 43-8 (.843) ... On The Road Under Metress: 32-22 (.593) ... At Neutral Sites Under Metress: 8-7 (.533) ... At Home In The PBC Under Metress: 29-7 (.806) ... On The Road In The PBC Under Metress: 23-13 (.639) ... In The NCAA Tournament All Time: 7-5 (.583) ... In The NCAA Tournament Under Metress: 6-1 (.857) ... vs. Nationally-Ranked Opponents Under Metress: 11-3 (.786) ... vs. Nationally-Ranked Opponents This Season: 4-0 (1.000)

LAST TIME OUT ... No. 10 Augusta State advanced to the National Championship game Thursday with a hard-fought 56-50 win over Alaska-Anchorage in the semifinals of the Elite Eight ... The Jaguars (27-6) stormed out of the gate, racing to a 21-5 lead as the Seawolves (29-6) went over six minutes without a point ... ASU hit its first four shots from the field and outrebounded UAA 23-14 in the half ... The Seawolves, ranked No. 4 in the nation, hit only one of 12 three-point attempts in the first 20 minutes ... Senior All-American AJ Bowman led the Jaguars with 18 points and nine rebounds on 7-of-15 shooting from the floor and he also added three assists ... Junior center Garret Siler finished with 17 points and seven boards in just 22 minutes while sophomore point guard Daniel Dixon added seven points, two assists and four steals ... ASU shot 40 percent (20-50) from the field and outrebounded Seawolves 36-30 ... With the win, ASU defeated the second-highest nationally-ranked opponent in school history ... The Jaguars upset No. 2 Fayetteville State 86-83 during the 1991-92 season in Augusta at Christenberry Fieldhouse under current ASU Director of Athletics and former head coach Clint Bryant.

UNCHARTERED TERRITORY ... The Jags are making their first-ever appearance in the Elite Eight, the Final Four and the national championship game ... ASU improved to 5-5 all-time in the Big Dance after capturing the South Atlantic Regional on their home floor in Augusta, Ga. ... ASU is making its fifth appearance in the NCAA Tournament and its fourth in the last eight seasons ... The Jags qualified in 2001 and returned in 2002 ... In 2001, ASU defeated Catawba 96-84 as a No. 6 seed before falling to Winston-Salem State 65-48 in the round of 32 in Charlotte, N.C. ... In 2002, the Jags were eliminated 73-70 by Johnson C. Smith in Jefferson City, Tenn. ... ASU defeated Elizabeth City State 79-53 in the quarterfinals of the 2007 South Atlantic Regional in Christenberry Fieldhouse before being upset 79-78 by Wingate in the semifinals ... The Jags went 0-2 in the 1978 South Regional, falling to Central Florida and Livingston.

ABOUT WINONA STATE ... The Warriors (37-1), the No. 3-ranked team in the nation, upended No.1 and previously undefeated Bentley 86-75 Thursday night in the second national semifinal game ... Winona State is making its third consecutive appearance in the national title game ... The Warriors captured the 2006 national championship with a 73-61 victory over Virginia Union ... Winona then lost a heartbreaker to Barton last season 77-75 at the buzzer on a layup by Barton's Anthony Atkinson ... The Warriors feature a pair of first-team All-Americans in senior center John Smith and senior forward Jonte Flowers.

READY FOR PRIME TIME PLAYERS ... ASU will be appearing in a nationally televised game for the first time in school history ... Saturday's title game will air live on CBS at 2:30 p.m. ... Live statistics and a video stream of the entire Elite Eight is available at NCAA.com or www.aug.edu/athletics ... The Jaguars have played under the bright lights several times this season, however ... ASU went 1-2 against Division I opponents this season unofficially ... The Jags opened their 2007-08 schedule with a 65-63 exhibition victory at College of Charleston on Nov. 1 ... ASU then traveled to Clemson, falling to the Tigers 79-66 in a Nov. 4 exhibition without the services of senior All-American forward AJ Bowman for either game ... The Jags took on Georgia during the regular season in Athens on Dec. 3 ... ASU led by four with three minutes remaining before the Bulldogs rallied for an 81-74 victory.

WITH A WIN ... ASU will capture a national championship for the first time in any sport in school history ... The Jags will set a new school record for victories in a season with 28. ... ASU will become the second Peach Belt Conference member institution to claim a national title in men's basketball, joining former PBC member Kennesaw State, which captured the 2004 national championship over Southern Indiana.

THIS AND THAT ... With a team-high 18 points vs. Alaska-Anchorage, senior All-American forward Tyrekus "AJ" Bowman cracked the 1,800-point barrier and now stands at 1,801 career points, second all-time in school history and Peach Belt Conference history ... With 17 points vs. UAA, junior center Garret Siler eclipsed the 1,000-point mark in his career and now stands at 1,013 ... Siler became the 22nd player in school history to reach the milestone ... With eight points, sophomore forward Ben Madgen (992 career points) will reach the 1,000-point plateau as well ... With Thursday night's 56-50 win over Alaska-Anchorage, ASU is 12-1 since the insertion of senior guard Demetrius Howard (in place of sophomore guard Daniel Dixon) into the starting lineup on Feb. 2 vs. Georgia College & State ... The Jags' 106 points scored in their 106-104 double overtime quarterfinal victory over Central Oklahoma were the most since a 115-47 victory over Carver Bible College on Nov. 21, 2004 in Aiken, S.C. ... The double overtime contest was the first ASU has played in since Dec. 16, 2002 in an 87-80 loss at Winston-Salem State ... ASU is 3-0 in overtime games this season after going 0-2 in the extra frame last season ... The Jags are 8-3 this season in games decided by five points or less and 16-5 in games decided by 10 points or less.

WINNER, WINNER, CHICKEN DINNER ... With their 56-50 victory over Alaska-Anchorage in Thursday's national semifinals, the Jaguars improved to 27-6, matching the school record for wins in a season ... With its 89-72 victory over Clayton State in the South Atlantic Regional Championship victory over Clayton State, ASU improved to 25-6 and recorded the second-winningest season in school history ... Only the 1969-70 edition of the Jags won more games in a season (27-3) ... The Jags have won 22 or more games for the third time in the last eight years (2001-02: 22-8, 2006-07: 24-7) and for the fifth time in school history ... ASU's 51 combined wins in 2007 and 2008 are the most wins over a two-year span in school history (the previous record was 49 wins in 1970-71 [27-3 in 1970, 22 in 1971]).

POLL POSITION ... ASU was ranked in all 15 national polls this season ... The Jags began the year ranked No. 6, climbed as high as No. 5, slipped to 14th, then to No. 22, moved back up to No. 18, then up to No. 13, inched up to No. 10, slid back to 16th, jumped back up to No. 12, moved up to No. 8 for two weeks and have been at No. 10 the last three weeks.

METRESS MARKS MAJOR MILESTONE ... ASU's eighth win of the season – a 72-49 PBC victory at UNC Pembroke on Jan. 9 -- marked a major milestone in the career of Jaguar head coach Dip Metress ... The win over the Braves was his 200th career victory ... The winningest coach in Jaguar history in terms of winning percentage, Metress also recorded more wins in his first 100 games than any other coach in the program's 42-year history ... Including this season, he has also posted 10 straight seasons of 15 or more wins, and seven campaigns of 17 or more victories.

AUGUSTA STATE HEAD COACH DIP METRESS ... is 85-37 (.697) and in his fourth season at the helm of the Jaguar program and 219-130 (.628) in his 12th season overall as a head coach ... Metress is 7-3 all-time in four trips to the NCAA Tournament (1-2 with Belmont Abbey, 6-1 with ASU) ... Metress was named the fifth head coach in the program's 42-year history on May 10, 2004 ... A former Jaguar assistant from 1989-1995, Metress returned to Augusta following a highly successful eight-year stint at Belmont Abbey College in Belmont, N.C. ... In eight seasons at BAC, Metress guided the Crusaders to a 134-93 (.590) record, including a 117-56 (.676) mark the last six years ... In his last four seasons at The Abbey, Metress averaged 21 wins a year, posting an 84-35 (.706) record ... In the last six years (last three at BAC, first three at ASU), he was 126-54 (.700), an average record of 21-9 per season.