

# 2018 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Y E L L O W J A C K E T P R I D E



### H<sub>0</sub>OP **DREAMS**

### The Grind

▶ We think of NCAA's March Madness, but honestly the NAIA's championship is even more intense.

The NAIA's version is truly nuts: 32 teams, seven days and one shared hotel. It is a virtual assembly line of college basketball. and for the true hoops fanatic it is basketball paradise. 500 players and coaches jammed into one place, for one very special week.

**David Waldstein** NY Times (3.17.18)

Champions of Character

The team

performed

a routine of

engaged in

a Q&A and

then signed

autographs at

this community

service event

at Crossroads

Charter School

Academy

lavups, spoke

of core values.

#### Champions Banquet

watched highlight videos, honored the Champions of Character recipients including Graceland senior Jeremy Deemer #24 from Lamoni — and heard the two Kansas City mayors and NAIA

#### The Parade of Champions

the tournament, all the players. coaches. officials and the tournament committee marched into the stadium Olympic style and packed themselves in, standing shoulder to

Texas Wesleyan University

### 70-61

GAME 1

The Yellowjackets earned their firstever NAIA National Tournament win in their debut game on the national tournament stage against the defending national champions. They were just getting

University GAME 2

Langston

**67-59** 

Getting off to a slow start in the first half, the Yellowjackets put forth a big effort against a tough defensive team. LT Davis #2 scored 29 points leading Graceland to the win.

#### University of Montana Western **OUARTERFINALS**

University players

scored more than

20 points each to

to the win, earning

Graceland a spot

in the Fab Four.

lead the Yellowjackets

His team is very disciplined.

86-82 Four. Three Graceland

▶ These men love basketball. By the time they

get to the March tournament they have put in

long hours. But Coach Doty counted on that.

The clinic was a great experience. To give back to the community is an awesome thing to do. This project filled my Sunday with happiness.



**★CHAMPIONSHIP** POSTSEASON GAME

1st win

**★CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS** 

1st team

IN THE CONFERENCE

TO WIN ★CHAMPIONSHIP

IOWA

IN THE STATE

TO WIN ★CHAMPIONSHIP

★2018 NAIA Division I

National Championship

the Municipal Auditorium "Closson South" and brought down busloads of Lamoni students to create a home-court advantage. LSUS had been to the national tournament 14 times and was ready to win, but Graceland believed. In the locker room, Coach Doty said, "We're not done yet!" and they came out at halftime a changed team.

RELIVE THE NATIONAL

View a photo gallery and recap video online:

**CHAMPIONSHIP MAGIC** 

graceland.edu/2018Champs



DETERMINATION The Yellowiackets gave us five straight



played with heart and poise over only six days



#### Special Olympics Clinic

The team took part in a community service event for the Fab

MAR 18

Alec Peña



Louisiana State University-Shreveport SEMIFINALS

### 87-80

Gracelanders dubbed The final game was crowd of 6,377 fans.

University-Alexandria

**83-80** (OT

Louisiana State

one for the movies. The tie-breaking, buzzer-beater. overtime, 3-point shot for the win will be repeated in history's best shots, and Graceland University has newly found basketball fame Graceland won against LSU-Alexandria with a record-breaking

#### THE TOURNAMENT WEEK

MEN'S BASK

DIVISION

Thirty-two teams

president speak.

A trademark of

shoulder.

started.

The games began Thursday. The first three days included 24 games with only 10-minute breaks between, which left no practice time for teams.

The road to the

championship

is an amazing

feat in and

With 32 regular season and

(Heart) games, which does

tournament, Graceland's

basketball season is

very long.

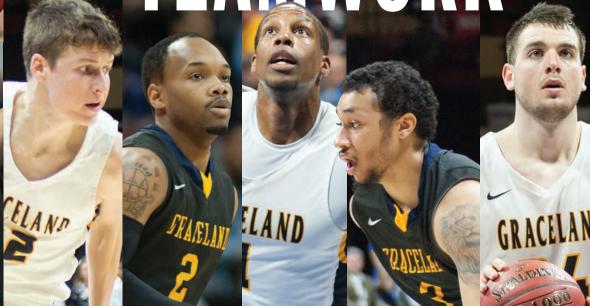
not include the post-season

exhibition games and 19 Heart

of America Athletic Conference

of itself.

### RISE TO THE OCCASION



ON AND **OFF THE COURT** 

### Class Act

I had a first row seat for the entire men's basketball season, and what a season it was. The student-athletes and coaches on this team taught us what is possible with hard work, determination. trust, attention to detail and teamwork. Witnessing their behavior on and off the court was a gift. Their kindness and humility, while being intensely competitive and committed to the excellence needed for a national championship,

are models for our everyday work.

President Draves Graceland University As each game progressed, one unexpected win after the next, Graceland's secret sauce would slowly be exposed to the world. On paper, there were more talented and experienced teams in the tournament. But Coach Doty and his staff preached repeatedly that despite the odds being against them, by staying disciplined and playing together, they would Scott Thompson do great things. And that they did. Honorary Coach





Coach Doty remarked, "Our bench from top to bottom was committed to helping each other. This is the toughest national tournament to win in all of college basketball, as we had to win five games in six days to win it all. Thanks to my staff for staying up until 3 a.m. preparing scouting reports, thanks to my administration, and thanks to our students and fans, who single-handedly changed the culture of our program from the stands."



COMMEMORATIVE EDITION

## **Award Recipients**

Coach Doty and players were recognized for their outstanding performance after a season of working together to overcome adversity and achieve victory.



LEFT TO RIGHT Will Nelson, LT Davis, Jeremy Deemer

#### **National Tournament Honors**

LT Davis, Jeremy Deemer and Will Nelson each made the 2018 NAIA Division I Men's Basketball National Championship All-Tournament Team. Davis was also named the Chuck Taylor Most Valuable Player.

Nelson, a junior small forward. averaged 19.20 ppg in the tournament. The Kansas City, MO native averaged a career-high 30 points in the title game of the tournament. Nelson totaled 44 rebounds in the tournament to average 8.8 rpg.

Davis, a five-foot-11-inch guard from Rockford, IL. averaged 23.6 ppg. Known for his ability to hit the three Davis shot 42.9 percent from beyond

CHUCK **TAYLOR** MVP

Deemer, a senior center from Lamoni, IA, shot 61.4 percent (27-of-44) in the tournament. He averaged 13.8 ppg and recorded a double-double in all five games of the tournament.

#### All-Americans

Players were selected by the NAIA Men's Basketball **Coaches Association** All-America Committee. Graceland University's LT Davis and Jeremy **Deemer** earned NAIA

All-American recognition.

Davis was named to second team, while Deemer was honorable mention for the second time in his career. Since moving to NAIA Division I. Graceland now has a total of four men's basketball players to receive the honor.

#### **Scholar-Athlete**

Jeremy Deemer was one of 63 NAIA Division I men's basketball student-athletes to be named a Daktronics NAIA Scholar-Athlete for the 2017-18 season.

In order to be nominated, a student-athlete must maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale and must have achieved a junior academic status to qualify for this honor.

### **Team Honors AT A GLANCE**



5 HEART ALL-CONFERENCE ATHLETES



**DAKTRONICS NAIA** SCHOLAR-ATHLETE

> CoSIDA ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICAN

PRESEASON HONORABLE MENTION ALL-AMERICAN

HEART PLAYER OF THE WEEK Feb. 5, 2018

NABC TEAM OF THE WEEK Jan. 29 - Feb. 4, 2018



#### Coach of the Year

Just two years after being hired as head coach, Craig Doty put together the most historic season in Graceland's basketball history. Doty has guided his teams to a national tournament appearance four out of the last five years, with three chamionship titles: 2014, 2016 and 2018. He highlights his appreciation for the support of his wife, Alexys, and son, Braylon, who have traveled the national championship road with him each time.

Our commitment is to maintain a competitive men's basketball program that is focused on recruiting, retaining and graduating the best student-athletes in the nation. Working together with Doty, we won a conference and national championship in only his second year. As we move forward, there is conf that the future is bright.

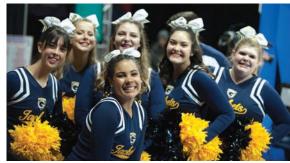
Scott Briell

2018 DON MEYER AWARD 2018 NAIA NATIONAL

HOOPDIRT.COM 2017-18 NAIA COACH OF THE YEAR & COACH OF THE WEEK presented by Just Play Solutions



# TOGETHER EYBA GRACELAND'S CHEERLEADERS How could it not feel like home for the Yellowiackets with thousands of supporters there







# **Support From Our** "Stingdom"

▶ Thanks to the generosity of alumni. Graceland students were provided bus rides, box lunches and free tickets.

#### **Attendance** Covered by Alumni **LAST THREE GAMES**

of the tournament



STUDENT

STUDENT

**PARKING** 

FINAL GAME of the tournament



534 STUDENT TICKETS

### **Record-Breaking** Attendance

**FINAL GAME** of the tournament



► Approximately 80% of the Lamoni campus was at the final game, cheering side by side with an army of Graceland alumni and friends.

LAMONI CAMPUS 80% LAMONI CAMPUS FAMILY PRESENT

A collective gasp. The buzzer sounds as the ball swishes through the net. And the Graceland crowd explodes as the Yellowjackets capture

the championship. at Graceland University. This is about a university: this is about a community; this is about an alumni base that is strong. The Power of Together!

THE HIVE

**IS ALIVE** 

**Fiercely** 

welcome-home celebration, **Coach Craig** 

Doty shared

In addition

to individual

players, he

Graceland

students.

family for

their support

tournament.

This is

bigger than

basketball

throughout the

also thanked

Lamoni and the

entire Graceland

tributes to key

his admiration.

Loval

Fans

▶ In the

Learning, wholeness, community — they were all on display for the entire world. It was a triumph on all fronts. I could not be more proud of my university.

Harry Ashenhurst

#### Yellowiacket Pride

Graceland Men's Basketball had an incredible season with incredible results. What was just as obvious to the team and the rest of the world was the incredible support created by the Graceland family. The Power of Together

is more than a slogan; it wins championships.

The NAIA announced that a tournament attendance record had been broken due largely to the number of Graceland students (current and future), employees, families and alumni who showed up to support their team.

Graceland alumni are largely to thank for this phenomenon, as many stepped up to donate money - as well as time - to pay for transportation and entry costs into the tournament for any current and prospective student of Graceland University. It was this effort that gave Graceland the "home-court advantage."

#### Far and Wide Comments came

The Power of Together expanded far beyond the Municipal had gathered with Auditorium in Kansas City, however. While it's true that we may never know the full breadth of support from our Graceland family, we did ask the question leading into the semifinals of the tournament, and the peek from work; on flights from Hawaii response was amazing! In more than 150 Facebook comments, Yellowjacket fans shared photos, videos and

words of well wishes from all over the country and the world: Hungary, Spain, Canada, Mexico, England; from Hawaii to New York, Florida to Washington, California to Texas, Minnesota to even Alexandria, Louisiana, where the team we ultimately beat was from

nave put it best

Shannon Kent-Dailey I kept hearing the term "family" and that's exactly what Graceland is. I wish the stats were able to show this team the true number of supporters that stood behind them yesterday ... Congratulations Yellowjackets!!!

from people who

other alumni or

were sneaking a

to the mainland.

on cruises in

the Caribbean

and vacations at

a casino in Las

Vegas, and even

while doing mission

work in Guatemala.

And that's just what

we know about.

Disney World; from

#### **Graceland Forever**

This season — this national title the entire experience has meant so much more to so many people than iust numbers on a scoreboard or stat sheet. This has been a family reunion in some ways.

The excitement of this display of Yellowjacket success has been a reminder for so many of the time they cherished and the people who meant so much. It provided the chance to once again feel perceptibly connected to a common home; one that is still here, on "the Hill" and in our hearts. And that is **The Power of Together.** 

Horizons | SPRING 2018



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**ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED** 

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

Q View more of this commemorative edition online: graceland.edu/2018Champs

