

Here's the BUZZ

Honda
Campus
All-Star
Challenge

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2007 HCASC
Scrapbook

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HCASC Moments

'07-'08 Timeline

Tennessee State Captures Historic First Title



Tennessee State celebrates their first championship (l to r): Coleman McGinnis, Ismaila Badjie, Dwayne Morrow Jr., Larry Cook, Milton Rice, Team Captain & All-Star David Macias, Coach John Miglietta

For the first time in HCASC history, the Tennessee State Tigers have captured the Honda Campus All-Star Challenge National Championship and a \$50,000 grant for their university.

The Tigers triumphed in a highly competitive field, advancing through the playoffs with victories over North Carolina Central, Grambling, and Tuskegee before reaching their finals series against Florida A&M. All of TSU's opponents fought valiantly, but the men from Nashville were playing at their peak, interrupting toss-ups and answering bonuses with ease.

The hard-fought playoffs were indicative of an NCT in which all 64 teams brought their "A" game. Several divisions were fiercely contested and the sweet 16 was packed with title contenders. It was exciting to see new schools develop playoff-level teams, while others continued their traditions of excellence.

This excitement marks the "evolution" of the HCASC program. Thanks to year-round preparation, online games, webinars, active campus clubs and well-run Pre-NCT

tournaments, the playing field is more even than ever before. To make the journey from campus to Orlando requires intense dedication and the Tigers deserve to be lauded for establishing a solid program that not only "got out of the room," but made it to the Sunday morning stage. Their hard work has been rewarded with a national championship.

The closing awards banquet celebrated the achievements of all participants. Highlights of the evening included surprise performances by American Idol Ruben Studdard and Def Jam Poet Black Ice. Nine All-Stars, another HCASC first, took the stage, as did all of the semifinalist teams. The 2007 Ernie Jones Sportsperson, Breanna Henderson of Norfolk State, was applauded for her enthusiastic gameplay and her efforts to make "friends for life" throughout the NCT weekend.

As HCASC 2007 came to a close, participants left with a comforting feeling, resonant of experiencing a special NCT. For players, coaches, volunteers, and supporters alike, the 2008 season has already begun.



Crooner Ruben Studdard entertained the closing awards banquet crowd with a blend of uplifting, smooth R&B.



The 2007 All-Stars, the first field of nine, as two players tied in the Turner division



Khalifa Jordan and Charmaine Tutson, of semifinalist Tuskegee University, receive their team's trophy from Eric Conn.



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Evolution of a **CHAMPION** **2007**

Hall of Fame Class of '07

When HCASC marked its 15th year, the Program Advisory Committee established a program to honor former players who have succeeded in their careers and life paths: the Honda Campus All-Star Challenge Hall of Fame.

Hall of Fame honorees are invited to Orlando for the National Championship Tournament (NCT). They are honored at the opening ceremony, and spend the weekend volunteering as game officials and mentoring the current class of HCASC players.



(l-r) *Clint Holmes, Shayla Thomas-Patton, Brian Ross, Dr. Stephen Nurse-Findlay, Eric Conn. Not pictured: Dr. Marvin Young*

Shayla Thomas-Patton is an Alcorn State grad who specializes in Oncology. Serving Home Health Care of Mississippi, she ensures patients receive quality care. Shayla participated in HCASC's inaugural year, 1990.

Brian Ross, a Florida A&M alumnus, practices private law. After playing HCASC from 1991-1994, he served in the U.S. Army, before earning his juris doctorate. He handles cases ranging from family law to criminal defense.

Dr. Stephen Nurse-Findlay works as a medical consultant. He is active in community advocacy and research, and served on the Baldrige Healthcare Award review committee. Dr. Nurse-Findlay played for Tuskegee from 1991-1995.

Dr. Marvin Young played for Prairie View A&M in 1990. He is one of southern Florida's most noted urologists. Actively published in medical journals, he volunteers in the community on issues of men's health.

HCASC Moments

I joined the Honda Campus All-Star Challenge team at Florida A&M in my freshman year and I have loved every minute of it. My first memory is of the campus tournament. There were so many people and teams there it was almost overwhelming. But the thing that stayed in my memory is how everyone there seemed genuinely interested in my success in this game. It is an extremely supportive group. Being on the team renewed my excitement for learning.



Gabrielle McMahan and teammate Michael Ware, after a Florida A&M round robin match against Fayetteville State.

I came to FAMU all the way from Virginia. I knew one other person in Tallahassee and only two people within four hours of FAMU. Participating in HCASC has been a huge blessing because my teammates have truly turned into my extended family. To go from knowing no one to having a close group of friends is amazing. I greatly value their presence in my life, and I don't think my HCASC or my college experience would have been the same without them.

In addition to gaining an extended family I have learned so much through my time in HCASC. I have learned about myself and all the potential I have. I've learned about the world, about politics, history, art, movies, you name it. And I have also learned more about competition than I ever expected. Participating on the HCASC team genuinely has been one of the best experiences of my life, and I believe that next year will be even better.

Gabrielle McMahan
2nd Year HCASC Player

HCASC 2007-08 Program Timeline

The 19th HCASC Season has already started and the first deadline is right around the corner: program enrollment. Other key dates are outlined below.

JUNE 30, 2007

Confirm enrollment in HCASC for the 2007-08 season. President names a faculty/staff member to serve as Campus Coordinator.

SEPTEMBER 15 - DECEMBER 7, 2007

Campus Tournament dates are selected and tournaments are held. An early start offers the best chance of completing the Qualification Process.

DECEMBER 7, 2007

Deadline to submit Qualification Materials Part 1. All but one component may be completed online.

JANUARY 18, 2008

Deadline for Qualification Materials Part 2. The Strong 64 will be selected based on submission and approval of qualification materials and past NCT performance. *Begin* the submission process as soon as possible. Do not wait to submit the whole package at once.

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