

# HOME OF CHAMPIONS

## 27-TIME NJCAA CHAMPS

**SPC basketball still has plenty to play for as the Texans and Lady Texans visit Howard**

February 21, 2012

LEVELLAND – The South Plains College Texan and Lady Texan basketball teams are each only one win away from clinching, though what each team is trying to clinch is slightly different. For the NJCAA top-ranked Texans, defeating Howard College Thursday night would clinch their first Western Junior College Athletic Conference (WJCAC) championship since the 2006-07 season and 11th in school history. A win for the Lady Texans would put them into the post-season.

Losses by either team, however, could set-up a very interesting final week to the regular season.

The Texans (26-0, 11-0) currently own a two game lead over the Hawks (20-5, 9-2) in the WJCAC standings with three games remaining for both teams. A Howard win would decrease the Texan lead in the conference to only a single game entering the final week of league play.

South Plains narrowly defeated Howard 65-62 when they hosted the Hawks at the Texan Dome January 30. Both teams have been red hot since that match-up as Howard has reeled off six consecutive wins and the Texans have not scored less than 83 points since being held to their second lowest scoring output of the season against the Hawks.

Stingy defense has been the key to Howard's success; while a steady dose of offensive and defensive success has helped the No. 1 ranked Texans remain undefeated.

SPC's 12th year head coach Steve Green says Howard's style of play could pose some problems for the Texans.

"They've got very good players and they play a methodical style which we don't necessarily like," Green said. "We struggled with it (Howard's play) here but were fortunate to get ahead and hold on for dear life."

Through 11 conference games the Texans average a WJCAC best of 86 points per game – 10 points better than anyone else in the conference and nearly 13 better than Howard – and rank second behind the Hawks in scoring defense allowing only 66 points per game. Howard's opponents have scored an average of only 62 points per contest.

Green has had mixed results against the Hawks, posting a 14-13 record as head coach of the Texans. His team was involved in a tight contest against New Mexico Thursday night before ending the game on a 17-0 run to win 85-60.

Thursday will mark the ninth game the Texans have played as the No. 1 team in the NJCAA.

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The Lady Texans (8-18, 5-5) played conference leading New Mexico tough for the first half before succumbing to the Lady T-Birds Thursday night at the Texan Dome. The loss did little to hurt South Plains' post-season opportunities as they remain 1 1/2 games ahead of Western Texas College (14-12, 3-6) after the Lady Westerners were thumped 75-50 to Midland College Monday night in Midland. Not only is South Plains facing a Howard team already eliminated from post-season play, they defeated the Lady Hawks 43-36 late last month. A win or a Western Texas loss would ensure the Lady Texans a return to the Region 5 tournament for the 10th consecutive season.

The Lady Texans hold a 14-2 record over the Lady Hawks in Michelle Wyatt's seven seasons as head coach. SPC has won the last two matchups, but lost the last time they traveled to Big Spring January 10, 2011.

A live video broadcast of both the Texan and Lady Texan games will be available at [www.spctexans.com](http://www.spctexans.com) with KLVTV's Michael Wiest calling the courtside action. Wiest can also be heard by turning the radio dial to KLVTV 1230 AM or by visiting [www.klvtradio.com](http://www.klvtradio.com).

### GAME NOTES

South Plains College Texans and Lady Texans at Howard (Big Spring, Texas)

5:45 p.m. Lady Texans (8-18, 5-5) at Howard (16-11, 2-7)

7:45 p.m. No. 1 Texans (26-0, 11-0) at Howard (20-5, 9-2)

Live video streaming available at [www.spctexans.com](http://www.spctexans.com)

Live stats available at [www.spctexans.com](http://www.spctexans.com).

Radio: KLVTV 1230 AM and [www.klvtradio.com](http://www.klvtradio.com)

The SPC Texans are off to their best start ever at 26-0. Thursday's game will be their ninth playing as the No. 1 team in all of the NJCAA and they can clinch their first WJCAC championship since the 2006-07 season with a win. South Plains has 10 conference crowns to their credit.

12th year Head Coach Steve Green

Overall Record: 435-126 (.775)

SPC Record: 291-83 (.778)

Vs Howard (at SPC): 14-13 (.519)

### Players to Watch

No.	Name	Ht.	Year	Pos.	Stats
2	Yanick Moreira	6-10	FR	Fwd	12.1 points/game, 7.3 rebounds/game
10	Devonte Smith	5-10	FR	PG	3.6/1 Assist/Turnover ratio
11	Stanton Kidd	6-7	SO	Fwd	11 points/game, 6.3 rebounds/game
12	Marshall Henderson	6-2	SO	G	19.3 points/game, 90-209 (.431) 3-pt FGA

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The Lady Texans can clinch a berth to the Region 5 tournament with a victory or Western Texas loss.

7th year Head Coach Michelle Wyatt

Overall Record: 153-56 (.732)

Vs Howard: 14-2 (.875)

Players to watch

No.	Name	Ht.	Year	Pos.	Stats
11	Ashley Roberts	5-7	SO	G	16.6 points/game
51	Sydney Hearn	5-9	FR	P	5.7 points, 4.8 rebounds/game
55	Stephanie Moore	6-1	SO	P	9.4 points, 7.2 rebounds/game

*South Plains College*