



Gotham Classic Starts Saturday

Play opens at Richmond

NC State, West Virginia, Richmond & Pepperdine to play in MSG doubleheader on Dec. 20

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRINCETON, N.J. - The third annual Gotham Classic tips off on Saturday (Dec. 13) with the first of nine home games.

Richmond will host Howard in a 6:00pm (ET) start on Saturday. Both the Spiders and Pepperdine will host three games and play each other at Madison Square Garden on Saturday, December 20, in the Gotham Classic Showcase Round. In the other half of the MSG doubleheader, NC State will face No. 22/21 West Virginia.

TICKET INFORMATION: Tickets for the NC State-West Virginia, Richmond-Pepperdine doubleheader at Madison Square Garden on December 20 go on sale and may be purchased by calling **Ticketmaster** at **866-448-7849** or through Ticketmaster.com.

---- SCHEDULE ----

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|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------|---|
| Dec. 13 - | Howard at Richmond | Dec. 20 - | Richmond vs. Pepperdine (MSG, ESPN3) |
| Dec. 15 - | IUPUI at Howard | Dec. 20 - | NC State vs. West Virginia (MSG, ESPN2) |
| Dec. 15 - | South Alabama at Pepperdine | Dec. 20 - | South Alabama at IUPUI (ESPN3) |
| Dec. 17 - | Howard at Pepperdine | Dec. 23 - | IUPUI at Richmond |
| Dec. 18 - | South Alabama at Richmond | Dec. 23 - | Howard at South Alabama |
| | | Dec. 27 - | IUPUI at Pepperdine |

[CLICK HERE](#) for the complete tournament schedule.

Rounding out the Gotham Classic field are Howard, IUPUI, and South Alabama.

Last season, Lenzelle Smith, Jr. scored seven of his nine points in the final 33 seconds as No. 2 Ohio State rallied from an eight-point deficit with 58 seconds to play to beat Notre Dame, 64-61. The Buckeyes closed the game on a 14-3 run and Smith was the key to the closing spurt.

LaQuinton Ross led the Buckeyes with 16 points and 11 rebounds to garner most outstanding player honors.

NC STATE WOLFPACK - *Head Coach: Mark Gottfried (Atlantic Coast Conference)*

The Wolfpack are 7-1 with wins over two Top 30 RPI teams this season (Boise State, Richmond)...posted a 22-14 record en route to a third straight NCAA Tournament bid last season...eight players, including four of the top 15 scorers from a year ago, return, led by Trevor Lacey (16.8 ppg, 5.5 rpg) and Ralston Turner (12.9 ppg)...head coach Mark Gottfried is just the third coach in league history to take his first three teams to the NCAA Tournament...NC State has been to the NAAs 25 times, including three Final Fours, and has won two National Championships.

No. 22/21 WEST VIRGINIA MOUNTAINEERS - *Head Coach: Bob Huggins (Big 12 Conference)*

The No. 22/21 Mountaineers are 8-1 with wins over Boston College and defending national champion Connecticut on their resume...last year WVU won 17 games and earned a berth in the NIT...that marked WVU's 10th postseason appearance in the last 11 years, including seven NCAA bids and a trip to the 2010 Final Four...West Virginia returns nine players and four starters, headlined by first-team All-Big 12 honoree Juwan Staten (15.0 ppg, 38 assists) and Jonathan Hilton (11.6 ppg, 8.0 rpg, 19 steals)...head coach Bob Huggins has

won 748 games in his career and has taken WVU and Cincinnati to the Final Four...West Virginia has made 25 NCAA Tournament appearances, twice going to the Final Four.

RICHMOND SPIDERS - *Head Coach: Chris Mooney (Atlantic 10 Conference)*

The Spiders are 3-4...last season marked the fifth time in six years UR won at least 19 games in posting a 19-14 mark...this season 11 players, including four starters, return, led by second-team All-Atlantic 10 selection Kendall Anthony (15.9 ppg) and Terry Allen (10.4 ppg, 5.0 rpg)...head coach Chris Mooney, who ranks fourth all-time at Richmond in wins, has led the Spiders to the second-most league wins of any current A-10 team over the last seven seasons...Richmond has made nine NCAA Tournament appearances.

PEPPERDINE WAVES - *Head Coach: Marty Wilson (West Coast Conference)*

The Waves are 5-1, including wins over Fresno State and San Jose State...head coach Marty Wilson welcomes back eight players and three starters from a team that recorded 15 victories last season - the most since the 2004-05 season...in fact, the Waves have increased their win total each of the last three seasons with Wilson at the helm...leading the Waves is Stacy Davis, a first-team All-WCC selection who is averaging 14.5 ppg and 8.7 rpg this season...Jett Raines is averaging 12.2 ppg and 7.8 rpg...Pepperdine has been to 13 NCAA Tournaments.

HOWARD BISON - *Head Coach: Kevin Nickelberry (Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference)*

The Bison are 5-5 and with the second-most wins in the MEAC this season...head coach Kevin Nickelberry's reputation as a strong recruiter has proved true as he rebuilds the Bison...guard James Daniel (15.4 ppg, 19 assists, 19 steals) is the reigning MEAC Rookie of the Year...four of the five starters return, along with highly-touted transfer James "JC" Carlton (10.7 ppg, 8.0 rpg).

IUPUI JAGUARS - *Head Coach: Jason Gardner (Summit League)*

The Jaguars are under the direction of first-year head coach Jason Gardner, who comes to IUPUI after a season as an assistant at Memphis...Gardner inherits a team that returns seven letterwinners, paced by Marcellus Barkdale (10.0 ppg, 19 assists, 14 steals) and P.J. Boutte (8.8 ppg, 36 assists)...the Jags are playing in the renovated Fairgrounds Coliseum this season, which just underwent a 22-month, \$63 million make-over...IUPUI is 2-6 this year.

SOUTH ALABAMA JAGUARS - *Head Coach: Matthew Graves (Sun Belt Conference)*

Six players, including a pair of starters, return for second-year head coach Matthew Graves...South Alabama, which posted 11 wins a year ago, is led by Ken Williams (11.5 ppg) and Taishaun Johnson (10.8 ppg)...the Jaguars are 2-4 on the year.

The Gotham Classic is produced by the Gazelle Group of Princeton, N.J. The Gazelle Group is a sports marketing firm, specializing in event production and management, client representation, and sponsorship consulting. Gazelle produces numerous nationally-recognized events, such as the 2K Classic benefiting Wounded Warrior Project, Progressive Legends Classic, the College Basketball Invitational, and the All-American Championship. For more information on the Gazelle Group, please visit gazellegroup.com.

The Northeast Conference (NEC) is the sponsoring conference of the Gotham Classic. Now in its 34th season, the NEC is a NCAA Division I collegiate athletic association consisting of 10 institutions of higher learning located throughout six states. For more information on the NEC, visit the official website at www.northeastconference.org or follow on Twitter @NECsports.



