



Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame Announces Inaugural Basketball Hall of Fame Holiday Showcase Friday, December 9th at the MassMutual Center - Monday August 15 -

Event features match-ups from all three NCAA Divisions, headlined by regional collegiate programs

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. –The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame announced today that it has partnered with the University of Massachusetts, American International College (AIC) and Springfield College to host the inaugural **Basketball Hall of Fame Holiday Showcase** at the MassMutual Center on Friday, December 9th. The tripleheader will include featured match-ups from all three NCAA Divisions, highlighted by the UMass-Siena contest in the final game.

“We are excited to work in conjunction with three of our neighbor institutions to develop a great celebration of college basketball for Western Massachusetts,” said John L. Doleva, President & CEO of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. “The Hall of Fame hopes that the Holiday Showcase becomes an annual mainstay in our basketball community.”

The **Basketball Hall of Fame Holiday Showcase** will tip-off with Division III schools Springfield College and Trinity College at 4:00 pm, followed by a Division II showdown between AIC and Philadelphia University at 6:00 pm. Philadelphia is coached by Herb Magee, the all-time NCAA wins leader at any level and who is also being inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame this August. UMass will then battle Siena in the nightcap at 8:00 pm.

The **Basketball Hall of Fame Holiday Showcase** also introduces Siena College from the MAAC to Springfield. The MassMutual Center and the Basketball Hall of Fame will co-host the MAAC Basketball Championships for three years, beginning in March 2012.

Tickets will be priced at \$20 and \$10. Tickets will be good for all three games and will go on-sale shortly via the MassMutual Center Box Office and Ticketmaster outlets.

About the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame:

Located in Springfield, Massachusetts, the city where basketball was invented, the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame promotes and preserves the game of basketball at every level – professional, collegiate and high school, for both men and women on the global stage.

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HEAD COACH COMMENTS....

"We are very happy to be playing in the Hall of Fame Holiday Showcase. We are always proud to be affiliated with the Hall of Fame and to play in what we consider our second home, the MassMutual Center. We look forward to reaching out and playing in front of our great fans in my hometown of Springfield."

– **Derek Kellogg, Head Coach, University of Massachusetts**

"We're very excited about the prospect of playing UMass at a great facility like the MassMutual Center. All 10 MAAC schools are really looking forward to the conference tournament in March moving to Springfield, and this will be a great chance for our student athletes to experience the venue. I anxiously await the 2011 Basketball Hall of Fame Holiday Showcase." – **Mitch Buonaguro, Head Coach, Siena College**

"It's great to be involved in the Basketball Hall of Fame Holiday Showcase, the event has such strong local flavor and AIC is happy to be part of it. Playing at the MassMutual Center is a huge thrill for our players and it's such an obvious fit for AIC to be the local Division II entry. The true college hoop fan can see solid programs from all three levels of college basketball in the same evening in the same building, which I don't think you can do anywhere else in the country." – **Art Luptowski, Head Coach, AIC**

"It's a tremendous honor to be enshrined in the Hall of Fame for me personally. Now that my team has the chance to play in the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame Showcase game- that's something they're honored to be a part of," said Coach Magee. "It's really exciting for our players to have this opportunity and they'll also get to tour the Hall of Fame while we're there." – **Herb Magee, Head Coach, Philadelphia University**

"We are elated that the Hall of Fame continues to include local teams in yet another of their premier events. The MassMutual Center will once again serve as a great venue for all three of these games and I know our team is really looking forward to this exciting opportunity."

– **Charlie Brock, Head Coach, Springfield College**

"We are very excited to be playing in such a prestigious tournament. The Hall of Fame Holiday Showcase looks to be a great day of college basketball and Trinity College is thrilled to be a part of it."

– **James Cosgrove, Head Coach, Trinity College**