



Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame Announces 2011 Tip-Off Teams and Schedule -- Mohegan Sun Arena to host Hall of Fame Event --

March 16, 2011 – Springfield, MA – The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame today announced the field of teams and game schedule for the 2011 Basketball Hall of Fame’s Tip-Off Tournament, an annual NCAA men’s basketball exempt tournament sponsored by the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference. The Basketball Hall of Fame Tip-Off will take place on **Saturday, November 19th**, and **Sunday, November 20th** at the **Mohegan Sun Arena** in Uncasville, Connecticut. Eight schools will compete in two four-team brackets over the weekend at one of the premier destinations in New England.

Teams scheduled to compete in the 2011 Basketball Hall of Fame Tip-Off are: **Long Island University** (Northeast), **Marist College** (MAAC), **Old Dominion University** (CAA), **Penn State University** (Big Ten), **Radford University** (Big South), **University of Kentucky** (SEC), **University of South Florida** (Big East) and the **University of Vermont** (America East).

“The 2011 Hall of Fame Tip-Off will showcase excellent basketball at one of the finest facilities in New England,” said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Basketball Hall of Fame. “The participating schools are rich in basketball tradition and we look forward to welcoming each of them to this exciting tournament and the Basketball Hall of Fame in November.”

The game schedule at Mohegan Sun opens with four games on November 19th – separated into two sessions. In first round action of Bracket 1, Long Island University takes on Radford University and the University of Vermont battles Marist College. First round action of Bracket 2 will feature Old Dominion University taking on the University of South Florida while the University of Kentucky will face Penn State University.

Games conclude on Sunday, November 20th with four games – consolation and championship games of Bracket 1 and Bracket 2. Game times and sessions for both rounds will be announced at a later date.

“We are thrilled to be continuing our relationship with the Basketball Hall of Fame and to be hosting the Tip-Off Tournament here at Mohegan Sun this coming November,” said Jeff Hartmann, President and Chief Executive Officer for Mohegan Sun. “As one of the top-ranked entertainment venues in the world, we have hosted some of the best sporting events around and the Tip-Off event is no exception.”

In addition to the games at Mohegan Sun Arena, **Old Dominion University**, **Penn State University**, **University of Kentucky** and the **University of South Florida** will each host two campus site games as part of the Basketball Hall of Fame Tip-Off. Those games are scheduled between November 11 and November 23, 2011.

Four of the games from Mohegan Sun will be televised by ESPN networks. Television details will be announced at a later date.

“ESPN is thrilled to partner with the Basketball Hall of Fame to bring exciting early season college basketball competition to fans of these great universities across the country,” said Nick Dawson, Director of Programming and Acquisitions at ESPN. “We share the Hall of Fame’s passion for the sport of college basketball and look forward to a great event in November.”

The Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference will serve as the host conference for the annual event. The MAAC will host the men’s and women’s basketball championships at the MassMutual Center in Springfield beginning in March 2012 and has developed a strong partnership with the Basketball Hall of Fame, including the opening of a MAAC exhibit in the Hall of Fame museum that will be unveiled in the fall.

“The MAAC is excited to extend its support of the Basketball Hall of Fame’s Tip-Off Tournament again in 2011,” said Rich Ensor, Commissioner of the MAAC. “The MAAC and the Hall of Fame continue to expand its relationship and we look forward to working together in the future on many projects, including the Tip-Off Tournament.”

Tickets for the 2011 Basketball Hall of Fame Tip-Off at Mohegan Sun Arena will go on-sale in the near future. For more information on the Hall of Fame Tip-Off, ticket packages and hospitality packages for the weekend games, log onto www.halloffametipoff.com

About the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame:

Located in Springfield, Massachusetts, the Birthplace of Basketball, the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame promotes and preserves the game of basketball at every level – professional, collegiate, men and women. For more information on these and other upcoming events, please visit our website at www.hoophall.com or call 413-781-6500.

About Mohegan Sun:

Mohegan Sun, owned by the Mohegan Tribe, is one of the largest, most distinctive and spectacular entertainment, gaming and shopping destinations in the United States. Situated on 240 acres along the Thames River in scenic southeastern Connecticut, Mohegan Sun is within easy access of New York, Boston, Hartford and Providence and located 15 minutes from the museums, antique shops and waterfront of Mystic Country. More information is available by calling 1.888.226.7711 or visiting mohegansun.com. Connect with us on facebook.com/mohegansun, follow us on twitter.com/mohegansun and view us on youtube.com/mohegansunvideos.

About the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference

The MAAC, headquartered in Edison, N.J., consists of 10 member institutions: Canisius College, Fairfield University, Iona College, Loyola University Maryland, Manhattan College, Marist College, Niagara University, Rider University, Saint Peter's College and Siena College. For more on the conference, please visit www.maacsports.com.

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2011 BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME TIP-OFF TOURNAMENT – MOHEGAN SUN SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19th – Split into two sessions of two games

Bracket 1:

Radford University vs. Long Island University

University of Vermont vs. Marist College

Bracket 2:

University of South Florida vs. Old Dominion University

University of Kentucky vs. Penn State University

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20th - Split into two sessions of two games

Bracket 1 Consolation

Bracket 1 Championship

Bracket 2 Consolation

Bracket 2 Championship

2011 BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME TIP-OFF TOURNAMENT – CAMPUS ROUND SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Marist College at University of Kentucky

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

University of Vermont at University of South Florida

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Radford University at Penn State University

Long Island University at Old Dominion University

Marist College at University of South Florida

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Long Island University at Penn State University

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Radford University at University of Kentucky

University of Vermont at Old Dominion University



HEAD COACH COMMENTS....

"It's an honor to play and coach in the Hall of Fame Classic once again. I would tell everyone, get to those games because they are going to be fun. It's going to be a special time in New England and we are really looking forward to playing in the Classic." – **John Calipari, Head Coach, University of Kentucky**

"We're excited to be a part of the Tip-Off Classic. We are looking forward to the opportunity to compete against some outstanding programs. Anytime you can be involved with an event that is connected to the history of the game, it's a great opportunity for the program and players. We're really honored and excited to be a part of this event." – **Jim Ferry, Head Coach, Long Island University**

"We're extremely excited to be a part of the Hall of Fame Tip-Off Tournament. It's a tremendous opportunity for our up-and-coming team. This tournament has a terrific field, and we're thrilled to be affiliated with it and the Basketball Hall of Fame." – **Chuck Martin, Head Coach, Marist College**

"We are delighted about playing in this event. The field includes teams that are having really good seasons this year. We are going to be in a very exciting site where our players and fans will greatly enjoy. These tournaments have become a year-to-year fun experience for both fans and student athletes alike. The hosts always do a really nice job, and there is some really outstanding basketball being played. If you can rise through the field and have some success, it can certainly fuel the rest of your season."
– **Blaine Taylor, Head Coach, Old Dominion University**

"We are looking forward to four games of great competition in the 2011 Basketball Hall of Fame Tip-Off. In particular, I'm looking forward to facing my good friend and fellow Western Pennsylvania native John Calipari and Kentucky." – **Ed DeChellis, Head Coach, Penn State University**

"We're excited to be in the Hall of Fame Classic. It's an opportunity to play on the road at Penn State and Kentucky. And we will be part of a four team tournament in New England with a visit to the Basketball Hall of Fame as part of the event. It's an honor to be included in the field. "
– **Brad Greenberg, Head Coach, Radford University**

"We're excited to be a part of the Tip-Off Classic. Throughout the years it has been one of the premiere opening events for men's college basketball. There have always been terrific basketball teams as part of that tournament and we're looking forward to the challenge of the event. The experience our student-athletes will gain from being not only on the court but also off the court will be extremely valuable."
Stan Heath, Head Coach, University of South Florida

"We are very excited to be playing in the 2011 Hall of Fame Tip-Off Tournament. We have enjoyed participating in exempt events in the past and this one is especially attractive because our players will get a tour of the new Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. I was fortunate enough to participate in the 2004 Hall of Fame Tip-Off Classic as an assistant at Maryland. We beat John Calipari's Memphis Tigers in what was then a single game event. It was a great experience for our players, staff and fans. I am sure many of our great Catamount fans will make the trip to support our team. It should be a great event."
-- **Mike Lonergan, Head Coach, University of Vermont**