



## **Alabama, Gonzaga, Marquette, Memphis, Pittsburgh, St. John's, Saint Joseph's & Wake Forest to play in 2003 Coaches vs. Cancer Classic**

**Princeton, NJ (September 17, 2003)** - The Gazelle Group is pleased to announce the field and match-ups for the eighth annual Coaches vs. Cancer Classic to be held on November 13-14, 2003 at Madison Square Garden in New York City. For the second straight year the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic will feature eight teams, with each team playing a single game in a "showcase" style event.

Match-ups for the Event are as follows:

Thursday, November 13th- 7:00 PM EST

Memphis vs. Wake Forest

Marquette vs. St. John's

Friday, November 14th- 7:00 PM EST

Pittsburgh vs. Alabama

Gonzaga vs. Saint Joseph's

All four games will be televised nationally on ESPN2. This year's event will again feature eight of the top teams from around the country.

### • **Memphis vs. Wake Forest**

Memphis began last season by defeating eventual national champion Syracuse in the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic and finished with a 23-7 record. Wake Forest is the Atlantic Coast Conference defending champion (13-3 in 2002-2003) and returns four starters from a team that finished 25-6 overall.

### • **Marquette vs. St. John's**

Marquette's road to the Final Four began last year at the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic with a win over Villanova. St. John's, who has nine returning players, captured the 2003 NIT Championship, the sixth title in their history.

### • **Pittsburgh vs. Alabama**

Pittsburgh, the Big East defending champion, has a 63-12 record over the past two seasons and has been in the Sweet Sixteen both years. Alabama made their second consecutive NCAA Tournament last season with the help of the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic where Alabama beat Oklahoma en route to a #1 ranking.

### • **Gonzaga vs. Saint Joseph's**

Who is the best "Non-Power Conference" team? This match-up of Top 20 teams will determine it. Gonzaga has been in the NCAA Tournament five straight seasons, including an Elite Eight appearance in 1999 and Sweet Sixteen appearances in 2000 and 2001. Saint Joseph's is coming off a 23-7 season and is

looking to earn its third NCAA appearance in the last four years.

Tickets for the 2003 Coaches vs. Cancer Classic will go on sale Thursday, September 18th, at 12 PM at the Madison Square Garden Box Office, TicketMaster by phone at (212) 307-7171, or by logging on to [www.Ticketmaster.com](http://www.Ticketmaster.com).

For more information about the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic, please contact Michael Matkowski at (609) 921-1300 or [mmatkowski@gazellegroup.com](mailto:mmatkowski@gazellegroup.com). General information about the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic can be found by logging on to [www.cvcclassic.com](http://www.cvcclassic.com). Members of the media can also visit the Media Page for event history and records, logos, and photos.

Last year's Coaches vs. Cancer Classic field included three eventual Final Four teams from the 2003 NCAA Tournament- Marquette, Syracuse, and Texas. In addition to featuring 14 preseason Top 20 teams over the past four years, the event has opened the season with the last two eventual national champions competing at the Garden (Maryland in 2001-2002 and Syracuse in 2002-2003).

Since 1995, Gazelle, producer of the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic, has raised over \$2 million for Coaches vs. Cancer ®. The Coaches vs. Cancer ® program, created by the American Cancer Society and the National Association of Basketball Coaches exists to leverage the strength, community leadership and celebrity of our country's basketball coaches to raise awareness and in turn, reduce cancer risk through education programs while raising funds for the American Cancer Society.



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