

Field Set for Inaugural Gotham Classic

Event highlighted by Dec. 22 Syracuse-Temple Match-up at Madison Square Garden; ESPN Networks to televise two games

PRINCETON, N.J. - Syracuse and Temple, two of the winningest programs in college basketball history, highlight the field of the inaugural **Gotham Classic**.

Joining the Orange and Owls, who combine for 65 NCAA Tournament appearances between them, are 2012 NCAA Tournament participant Detroit, Canisius, and Alcorn State.

Syracuse, the fifth winningest team in NCAA history, and Temple, the sixth winningest team all-time, will square off against each other on Saturday, December 22 at Madison Square Garden in New York City. The game, which will be televised on ESPN2 at noon (ET), will mark the 30th meeting between these two teams with Syracuse owning a 16-13 edge in the series.

TICKET INFORMATION: Tickets for the Gotham Classic featuring Syracuse vs. Temple at Madison Square Garden are on sale now and may be purchased by calling **Ticketmaster** at **866-448-7849** or through Ticketmaster.com.

The format of the inaugural Gotham Classic features 10 games with all five teams playing each other. The schedule for the inaugural Gotham Classic is:

Dec. 15 - Canisius at Syracuse	Dec. 22- Syracuse vs. Temple (at MSG/ESPN2)
Dec. 17 - Alcorn State at Temple	Dec. 27 - Alcorn State at Canisius
Dec. 17 - Detroit at Syracuse (ESPNU)	Dec. 28- Detroit at Temple
Dec. 19 - Canisius at Temple	Dec. 29 - Alcorn State at Syracuse
Dec. 19 - Detroit at Alcorn State	Dec. 30 - Canisius at Detroit

In addition to the Syracuse-Temple game, ESPN Networks will televise the Dec. 17 game between Syracuse and Detroit at the Carrier Dome. ESPNU will air the game at 7:00 p.m. (ET).

Syracuse - Made its eighth NCAA Elite 8 appearance in 2011-12...has been to the NCAA Tournament 35 times...under Hall of Fame head coach Jim Boeheim, Syracuse has gone to the postseason 35 times in 36 years...won a school record 34 games in 2011-12...earned the Big East regular season championship...expected to return two starters from last year's team...senior guard Brandon Triche netted 9.4 ppg to go along with 95 assists...junior forward C.J. Fair added 8.5 ppg and led the team with 199 rebounds.

Temple - Earned a trip to the NCAA Tournament for the 30th time in 2011-12...compiled a 24-8 record and won the Atlantic 10 regular season championship...in his six previous seasons at Temple, head coach Fran Dunphy has taken the Owls to the NCAA Tournament five times...two starters are expected back from last year's squad, led by senior guard Khalif Wyatt, who tallied 17.1 ppg and handed out 103 assists...senior forward Rahlir Hollis-Jefferson put up averages of 9.3 points and 6.6 rebounds a game.

Alcorn State - Second-year head coach Luther Riley continues to rebuild the Braves' program...last year Alcorn registered a six-win improvement from the previous season as the Braves posted 10 victories...this year's team is paced by a pair of senior guards - Anthony Nieves (10.9 ppg) and Twann Oakley (10.5 ppg) - who combined to average over 21 points a game last season.

Canisius - With 390 career wins and eight 20-win seasons on his coaching resume, Jim Baron assumes the reins at Canisius...the senior backcourt of Harold Washington (17.0 ppg, 4.3 rpg) and Alshawn Hynes (15.4 ppg) highlights a team which returns four starters and five of its top six scorers from a year ago...in fact, the Golden Griffins return nearly 80 percent of last year's offense.

Detroit - The Titans went 22-14 and won the Horizon League championship last season...Detroit is coming off its sixth NCAA Tournament appearance and first since 1999...head coach Ray McCallum's squad will be led by his dynamic backcourt of junior Ray McCallum, who led the Titans in scoring (15.4 ppg), assists (143), and steals (57), and senior Jason Calliste, who netted 10.2 ppg to go with 59 assists.

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 Sports Classic, the Legends Classic, the CBI presented by Zebra Pen, and the All-American Championship. For more information on the Gazelle Group, please visit gazellegroup.com.