

May 18, 2011

Contact: Ray Cella (rcella@gazellegroup.com), 609-921-1300

 Share

Texas, Vanderbilt, NC State & Oregon State to Play in Championship Rounds of the Legends Classic

Tickets are now on sale for games played at IZOD Center

PRINCETON, N.J. – Texas, Vanderbilt, NC State, and Oregon State will compete in the 2011 **Legends Classic**, which culminates with the Championship Rounds at IZOD Center in the New Jersey Meadowlands Sports Complex, Nov. 19 & 21. Championship Round tickets go **ON SALE** at noon tomorrow (Thursday, May 19).

TICKET INFORMATION: Tickets for Championship Round games at IZOD Center go **ON SALE** at noon tomorrow (Thursday, May 19) and may be purchased by calling **Ticketmaster** at **800-745-3000** or through Ticketmaster.com.

The format for the 2011 Legends Classic, which has fast become one of the nation's premier early-season college basketball tournaments, features 12 teams from across the nation competing in the fifth annual event with Texas, Vanderbilt, NC State, and Oregon State hosting regional round games from Nov. 13-17. The four hosts will then advance to the Championship Rounds on Nov. 19 & 21 at IZOD Center, while the remainder of the field will participate in subregionals held at campus sites.

Match-ups for the Championship Rounds, television details, and the entire bracket for the 2011 Legends Classic will be announced at a later date.

The four schools advancing to IZOD Center have combined for 77 trips to the NCAA Tournament.

Texas - Has appeared in each of the last 13 NCAA Tournaments - tied for the fourth-longest streak in the country...Texas, ranked No. 8 in the final Associated Press poll, posted a 28-8 record in 2010-11 with the 28 wins being the third most in school history...the Longhorns have won 20 or more games each of the last 12 seasons...junior guard J'Covan Brown (10.4 ppg) leads a team that welcomes a Top 10 recruiting class in 2011...head coach Rick Barnes has won over 500 games during his career...Texas won the inaugural Legends Classic in 2007.

Vanderbilt - Has posted 20-win seasons six of the last eight years, including going 23-11 in 2010-11...the Commodores have gone to the NCAA Tournament four of the last five seasons...ended the season ranked No. 25 by the Associated Press...Vandy returns 11 of 13 players from last year's team, including all five starters...among the key returning players are junior guard John Jenkins (19.5 ppg), a SEC first-team selection, and senior center Festus Ezeli (13.0 ppg, 6.3 rpg), a second-team all-league choice...head coach Kevin Stallings has led the Commodores to unparalleled heights in his 12 years in Nashville.

NC State - Enters the 2011-12 season under the direction of new head coach Mark Gottfried, who previously coached at Murray State and Alabama, leading the Crimson Tide to the Elite Eight in 2004...the Wolfpack return 10 players from last season, including sophomore forward CJ Leslie (11.0 ppg, 7.2 rpg), a member of the ACC all-freshman team, and junior forward Scott Wood (9.7 ppg), who has more three-pointers (135) after his sophomore season than any player in school history after two seasons.

Oregon State - Has won 43 games over the last three seasons - the most over any three-year span in nearly 20 years...the Beavers won the 2009 College Basketball Invitational in head coach Craig Robinson's first season at OSU...11 players return for the 2011-12 season, including four starters...leading the way is junior guard Jared Cunningham, a second-team All-Pac-10 selection who led OSU in scoring (14.2 ppg) a year ago...sophomore Ahmad Starks (7.8 ppg) joins Cunningham in the Beavers' backcourt.

In the first four years of its existence, the Legends Classic has featured six teams that went on to advance to at least the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament. Additionally, Texas (2008) and Pittsburgh (2009) advanced to the Elite Eight and Michigan State (2010) played in the Final Four.

The Legends Classic is produced by The Gazelle Group in 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 CBE Classic, the CBI presented by Zebra Pen, and

the All-American Championship. The Gazelle Group is a member of USA Basketball. For more information on the Gazelle Group, please visit gazellegroup.com.

The Northeast Conference (NEC) is the sponsoring conference of the Legends Classic. Entering its 31st season, the NEC is a NCAA Division I collegiate athletic association consisting of 12 institutions of higher learning located throughout six states. For more information on the NEC, visit www.northeastconference.org.