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Semifinal Match-ups Announced for 2K Sports Classic ESPN Networks to televise all four Championship Round games

PRINCETON, N.J. - Once again Madison Square Garden will be the site of the **2K Sports Classic benefiting Wounded Warrior Project** as Villanova, Purdue, Alabama, and Oregon State will compete in the Championship Rounds in the 18th renewal of one of the nation's most prestigious early-season men's college basketball events.

In the first game of the semifinal doubleheader at the World's Most Famous Arena on Thursday, November 15, Alabama will take on Oregon State in a 7:00 p.m. (ET) tip. In the nightcap, Villanova will tangle with Purdue. Both semifinal match-ups will air live on ESPN2.

The semifinal round winners will meet on Friday, November 16 for the 2K Sports Classic championship on ESPN2, preceded by the consolation game at 5:00 p.m. (ET) on ESPNU.

In all, the four schools advancing to Madison Square Garden have combined for **93 trips to the NCAA Tournament**.

The complete bracket for the 2012 2K Sports Classic benefiting Wounded Warrior Project will be announced at a later date.

Tickets for Championship Round games at Madison Square Garden are on sale and may be purchased by calling **800-745-3000** or **ON-LINE**.

----- CHAMPIONSHIP ROUNDS -----

Semifinal Doubleheader

Madison Square Garden - New York, N.Y.
Thursday, November 15 - 7:00 P.M. ET
Alabama vs. Oregon State (ESPN2)
Villanova vs. Purdue (ESPN2)

Championship Doubleheader

Madison Square Garden - New York, N.Y.
Friday, November 16 - 5:00 P.M. ET
Consolation Game (ESPNU)
Championship Game (ESPN2)

Villanova - Has been to 32 NCAA Tournaments, including the 2009 Final Four...returns eight players from last year's team...head coach Jay Wright welcomes back six of his top eight scorers from this past season, headed by senior Mouphtaou Yarou, junior James Bell, and sophomore JayVaughn Pinkston.

Purdue - Has appeared in 26 NCAA Tournaments, including each of the last six...the Boilermakers have won at least 20 games each of the last six seasons under the guidance of head coach Matt Painter...features a roster which is expected to return 10 players this season, including senior D.J. Byrd and junior Terone Johnson.

Alabama - Has made 19 NCAA Tournament appearances in its history...the Crimson Tide won 21 games in advancing to the 2012 NCAA Tournament...head coach Anthony Grant returns the bulk of his team this season, led by senior Andrew Steele, junior Trevor Releford, and sophomore Trevor Lacey.

Oregon State - In going 21-15, the Beavers posted their first winning season since 2004-05 and only their second since 1989-90...the 21 wins were the most since a 22-win season in 1989-90...head coach Craig Robinson welcomes back 12 players this season, including four starters, led by senior Angus Brandt, juniors Devon Collier and Ahmad Starks, and sophomore Eric Morleand.

In the 2011 2K Sports Classic, Mississippi State's Arnett Moultrie garnered MVP honors after posting 19 points and 10 rebounds in leading the Bulldogs to a 67-57 upset of then-No. 16 Arizona. Mississippi State used its 2K

Sports Classic success to jump start a run of 12 consecutive weeks in the Top 25 polls.

Over the last nine years, 34 teams that participated in the event have gone on to compete in the NCAA Tournament that season.

Beginning with this year's event, Wounded Warrior Project is the beneficiary of the event. The mission of Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) is to honor and empower wounded warriors. WWP's purpose is to raise awareness and to enlist the public's aid for the needs of injured service members, to help injured servicemen and women aid and assist each other, and to provide unique, direct programs and services to meet their needs. WWP is a national, nonpartisan organization headquartered in Jacksonville, Fla.

2K Sports, known for delivering the most innovative and realistic sports simulation experience available, is the title sponsor of the event for the eighth consecutive year. 2K Sports develops and publishes the popular and highly acclaimed NBA 2K series - the top selling and highest rated next-generation basketball video game on the market.

The 2K Sports 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 Legends Classic, the Gotham 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.