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Gotham Classic Schedule Announced

Richmond vs. Pepperdine and NC State vs. West Virginia to play in MSG doubleheader on Dec. 20; Tickets on sale tomorrow

PRINCETON, N.J. - NC State will play West Virginia and Richmond will square off with Pepperdine in a December 20 doubleheader at New York's Madison Square Garden.

TICKET INFORMATION: Tickets for the NC State-West Virginia, Richmond-Pepperdine doubleheader at Madison Square Garden on December 20 go on sale tomorrow (August 27) and may be purchased by calling **Ticketmaster** at **866-448-7849** or through Ticketmaster.com.

Rounding out the field in the Gotham Classic are Howard, IUPUI, and South Alabama.

Both the Spiders and Waves will host three games and play each other at Madison Square Garden on Saturday, December 20 in the Gotham Classic. In the other half of the MSG doubleheader, NC State will face West Virginia.

NC State, which is coming off its 25th NCAA Tournament appearance and third straight under head coach Mark Gottfried, went 22-14 a year ago and returns four of its top five scorers from that team. West Virginia, which won 17 games in earning its 10th postseason bid in 11 years while going to the NIT, returns four starters and is led by head coach Bob Huggins, who has guided WVU and Cincinnati to the Final Four. The Wolfpack and Mountaineers have combined to play in 50 NCAA Tournaments and five Final Fours with the Wolfpack winning two National Championships.

Richmond earned 19 wins last season, the fifth time in six years that head coach Chris Mooney has guided the Spiders to at least 19 wins. All five starters return looking to keep that streak intact. Pepperdine head coach Marty Wilson will welcome back three starters from a team that recorded its most wins since the 2004-05 season. The Spiders and Waves combine for 22 NCAA Tournament appearances.

Last season, then No. 2 Ohio State outscored Notre Dame 14-3 over the final 51 seconds to earn a 64-61 win in the Gotham Classic Showcase Game.

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Dec. 13 - Howard at Richmond	Dec. 20 - Richmond vs. Pepperdine (MSG, ESPN3)
Dec. 15 - IUPUI at Howard	Dec. 20 - NC State vs. West Virginia (MSG, ESPN2)
Dec. 15 - South Alabama at Pepperdine	Dec. 20 - South Alabama at IUPUI
Dec. 17 - Howard at Pepperdine	Dec. 23 - IUPUI at Richmond
Dec. 18 - South Alabama at Richmond	Dec. 23 - Howard at South Alabama
	Dec. 27 - IUPUI at Pepperdine

RICHMOND SPIDERS - Head Coach: Chris Mooney (Atlantic 10 Conference)

For the fifth time in six years, the Spiders won at least 19 games in posting a 19-14 mark in 2013-14...this season, 11 players, including four starters, return, led by second-team All-Atlantic 10 selection Kendall Anthony (15.9 ppg)...head coach Chris Mooney, who ranks fourth all-time at Richmond in wins, has led the Spiders to the second-most league wins of any current A-10 team over the last seven seasons...Richmond has made nine NCAA Tournament appearances.

PEPPERDINE WAVES - Head Coach: Marty Wilson (West Coast Conference)

Head coach Marty Wilson welcomes back eight players and three starters from a team that recorded 15 victories last season - the most since the 2004-05 season...in fact, the Waves have increased their win total each of the last three seasons with Wilson at the helm...leading the Waves is Stacy Davis, a first-team All-WCC selection who paced the squad in scoring (15.1 ppg) and rebounding (7.6 rpg) a year ago...Pepperdine has been to 13 NCAA Tournaments.

NC STATE WOLFPACK - Head Coach: Mark Gottfried (Atlantic Coast Conference)

The Wolfpack posted a 22-14 record en route to a third straight NCAA Tournament bid last season...eight players, including four of the top five scorers from a year ago, return, led by Ralston Turner, NC State's second-leading scorer (10.5 ppg) and top three-point threat (77)...head coach Mark Gottfried is just the third coach in league history to take his first three teams to the NCAA Tournament...NC State has been to the NAAs 25 times, including three Final Fours, and has won two National

Championships.

WEST VIRGINIA MOUNTAINEERS - Head Coach Bob Huggins (Big 12 Conference)

The Mountaineers won 17 games and earned a berth in the NIT a year ago...that marked WVU's 10th postseason bid in the last 11 years, including seven NCAA bids and a trip to the 2010 Final Four...West Virginia returns nine players and four starters from 2013-14, headlined by first-team All-Big 12 honoree Juwan Staten (18.1 ppg, 5.6 rpg)...head coach Bob Huggins has won 740 games in his career and has taken WVU and Cincinnati to the Final Four...West Virginia has made 25 NCAA Tournament appearances, twice going to the Final Four.

HOWARD BISON - Head Coach: Kevin Nickelberry (Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference)

Head coach Kevin Nickelberry's reputation as a strong recruiter has proved true as he rebuilds the Bison...guard James Daniel (21.0 ppg) led Howard in scoring a season ago en route to earning MEAC Rookie of the Year honors and being named a finalist for the Kyle Macy National Freshman of the Year award...four of the five starters return, along with highly-touted transfer James "JC" Carlton.

IUPUI JAGUARS - Head Coach: Jason Gardner (Summit League)

The Jaguars are under the direction of first-year head coach Jason Gardner, who comes to IUPUI after a season as an assistant at Memphis...Gardner inherits a team that returns seven letterwinners, including two starters - guards Khufu Najee (9.9 ppg) and Marcellus Barkdale (8.6 ppg, 117 assists)...the Jags will move into the renovated Fairgrounds Coliseum this season, which just underwent a 22-month, \$63 million make-over.

SOUTH ALABAMA JAGUARS - Head Coach: Matthew Graves (Sun Belt Conference)

Six players, including a pair of starters, return as head coach Matthew Graves enters his second season at the helm of the Jaguars...South Alabama, which posted 11 wins a year ago, will be led by the backcourt of Ken Williams and Barrington Stevens...Williams tallied 9.1 ppg as a freshman last season while Stevens netted 7.2 ppg in his sophomore season.

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 Classic benefiting Wounded Warrior Project, the Legends Classic, the College Basketball Invitational, and the All-American Championship. For more information on the Gazelle Group, please visit gazellegroup.com.

The Northeast Conference (NEC) is the sponsoring conference of the Gotham Classic. Entering its 34th season, the NEC is a NCAA Division I collegiate athletic association consisting of 10 institutions of higher learning located throughout six states. For more information on the NEC, visit the official website at www.northeastconference.org or follow on Twitter @NECsports.