



Cal Classic Schedule Announced

Cal will face Air Force, Mercyhurst, and Sacramento State.

For Immediate Release

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Princeton, N.J. –

The Gazelle Group is pleased to announce that Cal will play host to Air Force, Mercyhurst, and Sacramento State in the Cal Classic, a three game round-robin tournament.

All three home games for Cal will take place in Haas Pavilion. In addition to playing at Cal, Air Force will host Mercyhurst (Nov. 24th) and Sacramento State (Nov. 27th). Sacramento State will host Mercyhurst (Nov. 30th).

Cal: Mark Madsen returns for his second season in charge of the Golden Bears. Madsen won 13 games in his first season at Cal and hopes for his impressive transfer class, ranked 5th in the ACC by 247 Sports, to propel his roster. Andrej Stojakovic, BJ Omot, Mady Sissoko, and Rytis Petraitis highlight the incoming transfer class which includes nine potential contributors. Madsen's first year included several highlights including wins over Colorado, Oregon, and Washington State, all of which made the NCAA Tournament.

[Air Force:](#) Joe Scott enters his 5th season of his second stint as the Head Coach of Air Force. Scott led the Falcons to one of their four NCAA Tournament appearances in its school history during his first stop at Air Force and hopes to propel the team back to those same heights. The Falcons return three starters in Beau Becker, Ethan Taylor, and Jeffrey Mills from the 2023-24 season. Air Force also returns six of their top eight scorers from last years team.

[Sacramento State:](#) Sacramento State will begin the 2024-25 season with Michael Czepil as its Interim Head Coach and nine returners from last season's team which made a run at the Big Sky Conference Tournament. Czepil spent the last two seasons as the Hornets' associate head coach and has his finger prints all over the program. That includes last year's team that won four of its final six games, and a 3 point loss in the Big Sky semifinals. The Hornets' nine returners will be joined by five newcomers. Among the returners are three players that started as freshmen a year ago in guards Emil Skytta and Alex Kovatchev, and center Bowyn Beatty.

[Mercyhurst:](#) Mercyhurst enters the 2024-25 season as one of the newest members of the Northeast Conference while joining the ranks of Division I. Head Coach Gary Manchel returns to the helm for his 22nd season with the Lakers and his 31st overall as a head coach, eclipsing 500 wins for his career a season ago in a triple overtime 93-85 win over Indiana (Pa.) at home on February 7th. The team returns several key pieces from a season ago in a year in which they finished 15-16 overall. Of those returners, graduate student Jeff Planutis looks to lead the way after a year in which he led Mercyhurst statistically in total minutes, minutes per game, field goals made, threes made, free throws made, free throw percentage, points, and points per game.

Below is the full schedule for the event:

Thursday Nov 21st:

Air Force at Cal 7:00 PM PT

Sunday Nov 24th:

Sacramento State at Cal 12:00 PM PT

Mercyhurst at Air Force 2:00 PM MT

Wednesday Nov 27th:

Sacramento State at Air Force 2:00 PM MT

Mercyhurst at Cal 7:00 PM PT

Saturday Nov 30th:

Mercyhurst at Sacramento State 1:00 PM PT

About the Gazelle Group

The Gazelle Group is a sports marketing firm, specializing in event production and management, client representation, and sponsorship consulting. Gazelle produces numerous nationally-recognized college sports events, such as the Empire Classic, Legends Classic, the Gotham Classic, the Sunshine Slam, the College Basketball Invitational, the Kwik Trip Holiday Face-Off, the Barstool Sports Invitational, the Boardwalk Battle, and the Jersey Jam as well as on-campus events at Duke, Kentucky, Ohio State, Marquette and other institutions across the country. For more information on the Gazelle Group, please visit www.gazellegroup.com.

About the Northeast Conference

The Northeast Conference (NEC) is the sponsoring conference of the Cal Classic. Now in its 43rd season, the NEC is a NCAA Division I collegiate athletic association consisting of 9 institutions of higher learning located throughout five states. For more information on the NEC, visit the official website at www.northeastconference.org or follow on Twitter [@NECsports](https://twitter.com/NECsports).