



2025 WOLVERINE-DEACON CHALLENGE

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www.gazellegroup.com/main/wdc/



Michigan Wolverines

mgoblue.com

Twitter/Instagram: @umichbbball

Head Coach: Dusty May

Sports Information Director: Tom Wywrot



Wake Forest Demon Deacons

godeacs.com

Twitter/Instagram: @WakeMBB

Head Coach: Steve Forbes

Sports Information Director: Stephen Czarda

ON THE AIR...



Play-by-Play: Jason Benetti

Analyst: Bill Raftery



The inaugural matchup took place on November 10, 2024, at the First Horizon Coliseum in Greensboro, North Carolina, where Wake Forest edged Michigan 72–70 in a tightly contested game. Hunter Sallis sealed the win by hitting three of four free throws in the final nine seconds, while Tre'von Spillers' dunk with 38 seconds remaining provided the decisive basket. Michigan, despite staying close throughout, failed to score a field goal in the final minutes, while Wake Forest's 10 offensive rebounds in the first half underscored their hustle. The event, the first of a two-game neutral-site series, revisited a matchup last seen in the 2000 ACC/Big Ten Challenge—also won by Wake Forest. The game served as a signature early-season win for the Deacons and a learning experience for the Wolverines, showcasing the excitement and competitiveness that such non-conference challenges bring to college basketball.



2025-26 EVENTS SCHEDULE



RO GREENSBORO INVITATIONAL

NOVEMBER 4, 2025
NC STATE(W) vs TENNESSEE(W)
FIRST HORIZON COLISEUM; GREENSBORO, N.C.



VILLANOVA CHALLENGE

NOVEMBER 7-15, 2025
VILLANOVA, DUQUESNE, SACRED HEART, QUEENS



WATERKEEPER® ALLIANCE INVITATIONAL

NOVEMBER 9, 2025
INDIANA vs MARQUETTE
UNITED CENTER; CHICAGO, ILL.



WOLVERINE-DEACON CHALLENGE

NOVEMBER 11, 2025
MICHIGAN vs WAKE FOREST
LITTLE CAESARS ARENA; DETROIT, MI.



LEGENDS CLASSIC

NOVEMBER 20, 2025
PITT vs UCF
OCEAN CENTER; DAYTONA BEACH, FL.



BOARDWALK BATTLE

NOVEMBER 20 & 22, 2025
HIGH POINT, SOUTHERN INDIANA, UIC, UIW
OCEAN CENTER; DAYTONA BEACH, FL.



PORTLAND INVITATIONAL

NOVEMBER 21-23, 2025
PORTLAND, NORTHERN COLORADO, ST. THOMAS, FULLERTON



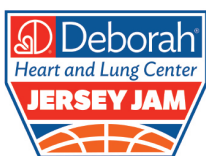
SUNSHINE SLAM

NOVEMBER 24-25, 2025
FAU, GEORGE MASON, LMU, OHIO, BETHUNE-COOKMAN, JACKSONVILLE, PACIFIC, STONY BROOK
OCEAN CENTER; DAYTONA BEACH, FL.



MIZZEN+MAIN EMPIRE CLASSIC

NOVEMBER 25, 2025
UCLA vs CAL
CHASE CENTER; SAN FRANCISCO, CA.



JERSEY JAM

NOVEMBER 30, 2025
CURE INSURANCE ARENA; TRENTON, NJ.



HOLIDAY HOOPFEST

PRESENTED BY CHARLESTON W.V. CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

DECEMBER 6, 2025
WEST VIRGINIA vs WAKE FOREST
CHARLESTON COLISEUM; CHARLESTON, WV.



KWIK TRIP HOLIDAY FACE-OFF

(MEN'S ICE HOCKEY)

DECEMBER 28-29, 2025
BOSTON COLLEGE, WESTERN MICHIGAN, WISCONSIN, LAKE SUPERIOR
FISERV FORUM; MILWAUKEE, WI.



DUEL IN THE DISTRICT

FEBRUARY 21, 2026
DUKE vs MICHIGAN
CAPITAL ONE ARENA; WASHINGTON, D.C.



PURPLE CBI

TBA, 2026
2025 CHAMPIONS: ILLINOIS STATE
LOCATION TBA

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WHO WE ARE...

The Gazelle Group is a sports marketing firm located in Princeton, N.J., specializing in event production/management, client representation, and sponsorship consulting. Gazelle has the expertise and is committed to developing prioritized business plans that achieve its clients' marketing and financial goals. Since its formation in 1994, The Gazelle Group has established itself as a leader in the sports marketing industry.

WHAT WE DO...

Companies, organizations, and individuals achieve maximum results with the integration of services and resources offered by Gazelle:

- sponsorship representation and sales
- coach representation
- advertising, promotions and publicity
- program production and advertising sales
- corporate endorsements
- personal appearances and motivational speaking
- merchandising and licensing
- TV rights, packaging, representation, and sales
- conceptualization and development of individual events and series
- creation and/or maintenance of Internet presence
- rights acquisition
- hospitality implementation and sales • project and event implementation
- signage and electronic imaging

Gazelle's operating philosophy is based upon the belief that, in the rapidly changing sports marketplace, corporations and sports organizations require a customized approach and strategy to develop and implement effective programs. This market-oriented approach enables a client to reach business objectives through a cost-efficient program designed specifically for that client. The client's individual needs are always the priority at Gazelle.

DID YOU KNOW ...

RICK GILES founded The Gazelle Group in 1994 after spending eight years at Trans World International, the world's largest independent source and distributor of televised sports and a division of International Management Group (IMG), the world's largest sports management company. Giles is a graduate of Princeton University and the Stern School of Business at New York University.

