

August 3, 2011

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

 Share

## **2K Sports Classic Semifinal Match-ups Set** **ESPN2 to televise all four Championship Round games**

**PRINCETON, N.J.** - The start of the college basketball season will once again begin with the **2K Sports Classic**, culminating with the Championship Rounds at Madison Square Garden, November 17-18.

In the first game of the semifinal doubleheader on Thursday, November 17, **Texas A&M** will meet **Mississippi State** in a 7:00 p.m. (EST) tip. That game will be followed by **St. John's** taking on **Arizona** in the nightcap. Both games will be aired live on ESPN2.

The semifinal round winners will meet for the 2K Sports Classic crown the next night, preceded by the consolation game at 4:30 p.m. (EST). Once again, both games will be televised live on ESPN2.

The complete bracket for the 2011 2K Sports Classic 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 **Ticketmaster** at **866-448-7849** or on-line at [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com).

### **---- CHAMPIONSHIP ROUNDS ----**

#### **Semifinal Doubleheader**

*Madison Square Garden - New York, N.Y.*  
**Thursday, November 17 - 7:00 PM EST**  
Texas A&M vs. Mississippi State (ESPN2)  
St. John's vs. Arizona (ESPN2)

#### **Championship Doubleheader**

*Madison Square Garden - New York, N.Y.*  
**Friday, November 18 - 4:30 PM EST**  
Consolation Game (ESPN2)  
Championship Game (ESPN2)

**St. John's** - Has been to the NCAA Tournament 27 times, including this past season when the Red Storm posted a 21-12 record and tied for third in the Big East Conference...that record was augmented by a 7-1 record at Madison Square Garden, six wins against Top 25 teams, and four wins against Top 10 teams...the Red Storm also experienced a 38.1 percent increase in home attendance in 2010-11 - the fourth-highest increase in the nation...under the direction of second-year head coach Steve Lavin, St. John's welcomes a recruiting class that ranks among the top three nationally.

**Arizona** - Has been to the NCAA Tournament 26 of the last 27 years...the Wildcats have recorded 24 20-win seasons since 1984 and have won 678 games in that span...in just his second season, head coach Sean Miller, the 2010-11 Pac-10 Coach of the Year, guided Arizona to a 30-8 record and the Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament...the Wildcats return 10 players and three starters from last year's squad, including senior guard Kyle Fogg (8.1 ppg, 99 assists) and junior forward Solomon Hill (8.0 ppg)...Miller and his staff also bring in a Top 10 recruiting class in 2011-12.

**Texas A&M** - New head coach Bill Kennedy inherits a team that went 24-9 en route to their sixth straight NCAA Tournament this past season...Texas A&M is one of only 12 programs in the nation to participate in each of the last six NCAA Tournaments...three starters and six of the top eight scorers from last season return...headlining the returning stars are second-team all-Big 12 selection Khris Middleton, a junior forward who led the Aggies in scoring (14.4 ppg) a year ago...also back is senior forward David Loubeau (11.8 ppg), who earned third-team all-conference honors.

**Mississippi State** - Has gone to nine postseason tournaments and has eight 20-win seasons over the last 11 years...return 12 players, including two of the top three scorers, from a team that posted a 17-14 record last

season...senior guard Dee Bost averaged 15.3 ppg and handed out a team-best 106 assists last season...junior forward Renardo Sidney netted 14.2 ppg and had a team-high 7.6 rpg average...head coach Rick Stansbury, MSU's all-time winningest coach, is in his 14th season at the helm of the Bulldogs' program.

In the 2010 2K Sports Classic, Pittsburgh's Ashton Gibbs scored 24 points to lead the then No. 4 Panthers to a thrilling 68-66 win over then No. 22 Texas. Both teams used their 2K Sports Classic success to jump start tremendous seasons as both teams reached a high of No. 2 in the national polls.

2K Sports, known for delivering the most innovative and realistic sports simulation experience available, is the title sponsor of the event for the seventh 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 Coaches vs. Cancer program, a nationwide collaboration between the American Cancer Society and National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC), exists to leverage the strength and community leadership of the nation's basketball coaches to raise awareness and reduce the risk of cancer while raising funds for the American Cancer Society's fight to save lives from cancer. **Since 1995, the event has raised nearly \$5 million for the benefit of Coaches vs. Cancer.**

Beginning in 2012, Wounded Warrior Project will become 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.

The 2K Sports 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 CBE Classic, TicketCity Legends 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 [www.gazellegroup.com](http://www.gazellegroup.com).