

August 20, 2009

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## **2K Sports Classic Semifinal Match-ups Announced**

***Syracuse vs. Cal and North Carolina vs. Ohio State***

**Princeton, N.J.** – The semifinal match-ups are set for the **2009 2K Sports Classic benefiting Coaches vs. Cancer** men's college basketball tournament.

**Syracuse, North Carolina, Ohio State** and **Cal** will serve as the four Regional Round hosts for the event. The tournament will begin with Regional Round action, November 9-12, with the four host schools automatically advancing to the Championship Rounds at Madison Square Garden on November 19-20.

The full bracket, including subregionals and television schedule, will be announced in the near future.

Outlined below are the dates, times, locations and match-ups for the Championship Rounds.

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

#### **Semifinal Doubleheader**

*Madison Square Garden - New York, N.Y.*

**November 19th - 7:00 PM EST**

Syracuse vs. Cal

North Carolina vs. Ohio State

#### **Championship Doubleheader**

*Madison Square Garden - New York, N.Y.*

**November 20th - 5:00 PM EST**

Consolation Game

Championship Game

**TICKET INFORMATION:** Championship Round tickets are currently **ON SALE** and can be purchased by visiting [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com) or calling Ticketmaster at **866.448.7849**.

**Syracuse:** Jim Boeheim and the Orange return for their fourth appearance in the 2K Sports Classic benefiting Coaches vs. Cancer. Syracuse defeated Memphis to win the 2004 Championship. The Orange return Arinze Onuaku, Andy Rautins and transfer Wesley Johnson along with a solid recruiting class. This will be the Orange's first time back to Madison Square Garden since the Big East Tournament, where they beat UConn in the historic six overtime quarterfinal game.

**North Carolina:** Roy Williams brings his defending National Champion Tar Heels to the 2K Sports Classic for the first time in school history. The Tar Heels return Deon Thompson, Ed Davis, Tyler Zeller and Marcus Ginyard along with one of the nation's highest rated recruiting classes.

**Ohio State:** Thad Matta returns all five starters from a team that went 22-11 last season. Evan Turner led the Buckeyes and the Big Ten in scoring with an average of 17.3 points per game. Jon Diebler and Dallas Lauderdale will also be key components on a veteran team that is expected to contend for a Big Ten Championship.

**Cal:** In his second year, Mike Montgomery returns four starters to a team that produced 22 wins a season ago. The Golden Bears will look for talented point guard Jerome Randle to help improve upon last year's success. The Golden Bears are expected to be ranked in the Top 10 of most preseason polls.

Last year, the Duke Blue Devils defeated the Michigan Wolverines in the Championship Game, 71-56. Since 2002, three NCAA Tournament Champions have begun their seasons in the 2K Sports Classic benefiting Coaches vs. Cancer, including Maryland (2001-02), Syracuse (2003-04) and Florida (2004-05).

2K Sports will be the title sponsor of the event for the fifth consecutive year. 2K Sports develops and publishes the popular and highly acclaimed 2K series of sports video games including the "NBA 2K" franchise - the best selling and best rated basketball videogame on the market.\* 2K Sports is known for delivering the most innovative and realistic sports simulation gaming experience to fans every year. \*according to 2008-09 [gamerankings.com](http://gamerankings.com) and NPD data.

The Coaches vs. Cancer program, a collaboration between the [American Cancer Society](http://AmericanCancerSociety.org) and [National](http://NationalBasketballAssociation.com)

Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC), exists to leverage the strength, community leadership and celebrity status of the nation's basketball coaches, to raise awareness and reduce cancer risk through education programs while raising funds for the American Cancer Society's vision of a world with less cancer and more birthdays. **Since 1995, the event has raised more than \$4.5 million for the benefit of Coaches vs. Cancer.**

The 2K Sports Classic benefiting Coaches vs. Cancer 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 O'Reilly Auto Parts CBE Classic, the Legends Classic and the College Basketball Invitational (CBI). For more information on the Gazelle Group, please visit [gazellegroup.com](http://gazellegroup.com).

Visit [coachesvscancer.com](http://coachesvscancer.com) for more information on the 2K Sports Classic benefiting Coaches vs. Cancer.