



## **Duke, Wisconsin, Georgetown, VCU Headline Stellar 2015 2K Classic Field**

**Tickets go on sale Friday for Championship Round games at Madison Square Garden**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PRINCETON, N.J.** - National powers **Duke, Wisconsin, Georgetown,** and **VCU** highlight one of the strongest fields ever for the 21st annual **2K Classic benefiting Wounded Warrior Project**, which returns to Madison Square Garden this coming November.

Tickets for the Championship Rounds of the 2K Classic benefiting Wounded Warrior Project go on sale Friday, March 13. All four games of the Championship Rounds will be televised on ESPN networks.

**TICKET INFORMATION:** Tickets for Championship Round games of the 2K Classic benefiting Wounded Warrior Project at Madison Square Garden will go on sale to the general public on Friday, March 13, and may be purchased by calling Ticketmaster at 866-448-7849 or through [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com).

No. 2 Duke, No. 6/5 Wisconsin, No. 23 Georgetown, and VCU combine for a 98-24 record this season and 100 NCAA Tournament appearances, including 23 Final Fours. Each of these four teams will host a pair of regional round games on campus before heading to the World's Most Famous Arena for the Championship Rounds on Nov. 20 & 22.

### **No. 2/2 Duke Blue Devils - Head Coach: Mike Krzyzewski (Atlantic Coast Conference)**

Hall of Fame head coach Mike Krzyzewski, the winningest coach in college basketball history with over 1,000 wins, has led the Blue Devils to a 28-3 record and a 15-3 mark in the ACC...second-ranked Duke has a roster boasting only one senior and could return nine letterwinners next year...the Blue Devils currently have eight McDonald's All-Americans on their roster and will welcome two more (Luke Kennard and Chase Jeter) to next year's squad...Duke will be making its third appearance in the 2K Classic benefiting Wounded Warrior Project (1999 and 2008), winning the 2008 title.

### **No. 6/5 Wisconsin Badgers - Head Coach: Bo Ryan (Big Ten Conference)**

Head coach Bo Ryan is a finalist for Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame induction...he is Wisconsin's all-time leader in wins, amassing nearly 350 victories in just 14 seasons...the sixth/fifth-ranked Badgers claimed the Big Ten regular-season title with a 16-2 league mark to go along with a 28-3 overall record...12 players, including three starters, are expected to return in 2015-16, led by junior forward Sam Dekker (13.1 ppg, 5.5 rpg) and sophomore forward Nigel Hayes (12.0 ppg, 6.4 rpg)...Wisconsin will be making its first 2K Classic appearance.

### **No. 23/23 Georgetown Hoyas - Head Coach: John Thompson III (Big East Conference)**

The Hoyas are 20-9 under the direction of head coach John Thompson III, who, in his 11th season at Georgetown, has won nearly 315 games...the Hoyas feature a roster with 10 players expected to return next season, including a trio of starters...junior guard D'Vauntes Smith-Rivera leads Georgetown with a 16.0 ppg average as well as with 92 assists...freshman forward Isaac Copeland

averages 6.7 ppg and 3.8 rpg...this will be Georgetown's first 2K Classic appearance since 1998.

**VCU Rams - Head Coach: Shaka Smart (Atlantic 10 Conference)**

Head coach Shaka Smart has guided the Rams to a 22-9 record...now in his sixth season, Smart's teams have never won less than 26 games in any campaign and have recorded 159 wins in those six seasons...VCU boasts a roster featuring 10 players expected to return next season, including three starters...among those expected to return are junior guard Melvin Johnson (12.1 ppg, 56 assists) as well as sophomore forward Mo Alie-Cox (7.0 ppg, 5.5 rpg)...this is the Rams' first ever 2K Classic appearance.

Matchups for the Championship Rounds, as well as the entire bracket for the 2015 2K Classic, will be announced at a later date.

In the championship game of the **2014 2K Classic benefiting Wounded Warrior Project**, Jonathan Holmes amassed 21 points, 13 rebounds, and two blocked shots as then-No. 10 Texas beat California, 71-55. For his efforts, Holmes was named the tournament's MVP.

Wounded Warrior Project is the beneficiary of the 2K Classic. 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 Classic benefiting Wounded Warrior Project 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 Legends Classic, the Gotham Classic, the College Basketball Invitational, and the All-American Championship. For more information on the Gazelle Group, please visit [gazellegroup.com](http://gazellegroup.com).

The Northeast Conference (NEC) is the sponsoring conference of the 2K Classic benefiting Wounded Warrior Project. Now in 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](http://www.northeastconference.org) or follow on Twitter @NECsports.



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