

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECEMBER 8, 2008

The Gonzaga DC Classic 20th Anniversary Tournament: A Score of Great Basketball Supporting Good Works

The best in boys high school basketball is coming to Washington, D.C. as some of the premier programs in the country will compete in the 20th Annual Gonzaga DC Classic Basketball Tournament from December 12-14, 2008. Gonzaga College High School has been nationally ranked for the last two years and will host local and national teams and players from Massachusetts, New York, and the local Baltimore-Washington areas. Additionally, the New York State Champion Archbishop Molloy Girls' Dance Team will perform their routines on the courts at the Tournament.

Now in its 20th year, the Tournament is sponsored by the Gonzaga Fathers' Club (www.gonzagafathers.com), with proceeds directly benefiting charitable efforts ranging from Washington, D.C. community service projects such as So Others Might Eat ("SOME") to service projects in Appalachia, Camden, NJ, at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, and in the Dominican Republic and Guatemala. Over the years the Tournament has raised in excess of \$500,000 for these service projects which help to build "Men for Others" in the Jesuit tradition. The Gonzaga DC Classic theme is "great basketball supporting good works." For more information on the Tournament and Gonzaga Service Programs, see www.gonzagadcclassic.org.

The Tournament will be played at Gonzaga College High School's Carmody Center on Friday, December 12 and at American University's Bender Arena on December 13-14.

PRESS PASSES AND PRESS INFORMATION ARE AVAILABLE BY CONTACTING FLOYD ADAGIO, TOURNAMENT INFORMATION DIRECTOR, (703) 406-4001, FLOYD.ADAGIO@ORIONNETWORK.NET. DURING THE TOURNAMENT, INFORMATION AND GAME RESULTS WILL BE E-MAILED TO MEMBERS OF THE PRESS IF CONTACT INFORMATION IS PROVIDED. THE TOURNAMENT WEB SITE (www.gonzagadcclassic.org) WILL BE UPDATED DAILY WITH TOURNAMENT RESULTS. IN ADDITION, STREAMING AUDIO AND VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TOURNAMENT WILL BE AVAILABLE VIA A LINK ON THE SAME WEBSITE.

PAIRING SCHEDULE:

Friday, December 12, 2008 Carmody Center (Gonzaga College High School)

3:15 P.M. Game 1. St. John's (Shrewsbury, MA) vs. Bullis (Potomac, MD)
5:00 P.M. Game 2. Gonzaga (Wash, DC) vs. Mount St. Joseph (Baltimore, MD)
6:45 P.M. Game 3. Archbishop Molloy (Briarwood, NY) vs. St. John's (Wash, DC)
8:30 P.M. Game 4. Benedictine (Richmond, VA) vs. Coolidge (Wash, DC)

Saturday, December 13, 2008 Bender Arena (American University)

3:15 P.M. Consolation 1. L - Game 1 vs. L - Game 2
5:00 P.M. Consolation 2. L - Game 3 vs. L - Game 4
6:45 P.M. Semi-final 1. W - Game 1 vs. W - Game 2
8:30 P.M. Semi-final 2. W - Game 3 vs. W - Game 4

Sunday, December 14, 2008 Bender Arena (American University)

1:00 P.M. Seventh & Eighth Places
2:45 P.M. Fifth & Sixth Places
4:30 P.M. Third & Fourth Places
6:15 P.M. Championship

Team Information:

The Bullis School (Potomac, MD)

Coach **Bruce Kelley** returns for his fifth season. The Bulldogs ended the 2007/2008 regular season in a tie for first place in the Interstate Athletic Conference (IAC) with their second league title under the direction of Coach Kelley. Having lost three starters from last years squad, the Bulldogs will look to current seniors **Warren Flood** and **Robert McPherson** for leadership. There will be many new faces on the floor for the Bulldogs this year, but Coach Kelley is excited about the potential of this year's team. For more information on Bullis see www.bullis.org.

Benedictine High School (Richmond, VA)

Last year's Virginia prep champion, Benedictine makes it first appearance in the DC Classic. Last year the Cadets beat Bishop O'Connell to take the Virginia state prep championship (VISAA-Div) and end the season with a 28-7 record. In a hard fought regular season game last year, Benedictine lost to Gonzaga by 6 points. Leading the Cadets this year is senior guard **Darien Brothers** 6-3 who averaged 10 pts, 5 rebounds and 3 assists. Brothers is headed to the University of Richmond. At the other guard is 6-0 sophomore **Erik Moody**, 6 points, 5 assists, who started as a freshman last year. Junior **Kevin Gill**, 6-1, 6 points, 3 assists, and 6-2 senior **Brendan Connor**, 4 points, will man the wing positions this year. Junior Robert Thurston, 6-5, is the center. Up from the JV is 6-0 sophomore guard, R.J. Price. For more information on Benedictine see www.benedictinehighschool.org.

Coolidge High School (Washington, DC)

With a storied basketball history, the Coolidge Colts have won 2 City Titles and 7 Inter-High League Championships. During this past summer, Coolidge won the 1st Annual Merrill Lynch Summer League Championship and is highly favored in the District of Columbia Interscholastic Athletic Association (DCIAA) after last year's 23-10 performance and the first West Championship in 10 years. Coolidge players include a cast of seasoned players and are led by **Andre Mattison**, a 6-6 senior forward who has committed to Florida Atlantic University. **Derrick Washington**, a 6' senior guard all-league player, averaged 16 points, 4 rebounds and 4 assist per game. Last year's leading scorer, **Derrell Person**, a 6-3 senior forward, averaged 13 points per game. Coolidge's lineup also includes **Louis Stevens** a senior center with 10 points, 5 rebounds and 3 blocks, and newcomers **Antonio Smith** 6-3 sophomore guard. For more information concerning Coolidge and the Washington DC School District see <http://www.k12.dc.us>.

St. John's College High School (Washington, D.C.)

After recording his 500th win last season, Head Coach **Paul DeStefano** leads a young and talented squad in the tough Washington Catholic Athletic Conference (WCAC). The Cadets are led by senior forward **Derrick Thomas** 6-4 who is a Drexel and James Madison recruit. Junior guard **Tim Snyder** 6-1 was recognized last season as WCAC honorable mention and averaged 10 points per game. Snyder is being courted by Colgate. **Chris Martin** 6-1 sophomore wing, averaged 12 points per game and was selected by DC Sportsfan as the "Top Freshman in the DC Area" and honored as a 3rd Team All WCAC performer last season. After their appearance in the DC Classic, the Cadets will compete in the Bishop Gorman Tournament in Las Vegas. For more information on St. John's College High School in Washington D.C. see www.stjohns-chs.org.

St. John's High School (Shrewsbury, MA)

The St. John's Pioneers return four starters from the 2007/8 team that won the Central Massachusetts Conference Tournament in the post-season, and advanced to the Division I State Championship game finishing with a 21-7 record. The Pioneers are led by Coach Bob Foley, a head basketball coach for 46 years, who returns to St. John's for his 29th season, where his record is 503 wins and 143 losses. His career record of 709 wins and 307 losses makes him the winningest boys basketball coach in Massachusetts high school history. On the court, returning starters include 6-10 senior Matt LaBove, a Dartmouth College recruit who averaged 14.6 points, 9.2 rebounds, 1.1 assists, and 2.1 steals per game, and his brother, 6-6 junior power forward Chad LaBove. The starting backcourt returns intact, with 6-1 senior Anthony Trapasso, 10 points, 3.9 rebounds, and 2.5 assists per game, and 6' junior David White, 13.5 points, 4.3 rebounds, and 2.9 assists per game. Both Matt LaBove and David White were named Central Massachusetts Conference All-Stars. For more information on St. John's High School in Shrewsbury, MA see www.stjohnshigh.org.

Archbishop Molloy High School (Briarwood, NY)

Beginning this basketball season just two victories shy of a career 900 wins and in his 51st season, legendary coach **Jack Curran**, returns to the DC Classic with a veteran team eager to improve on last year's 13-13 record. The Stanners are senior-driven, led by 6-0 senior off guard, **Russell Smith**, who averaged 26 points per game last year. He will be paired in the backcourt with 5-9 senior point guard, **Israel Hoffman**, who was injured for most of last season. In the front court are senior forwards, **LeBrandon Smith** 6-4 and **Jin Hong** 6-7, who averaged 7 points and 7 rebounds. Up from the city champion JV squad is junior **Earnest Rouse**, 6-1, who will log a lot of minutes. The New York State award winning Archbishop Molloy Girls' Dance Team will also perform on the courts. For more information on Archbishop Molloy High School see www.molloyhs.org.

Mount Saint Joseph High School (Baltimore, MD)

Coach **Pat Clatchey** hopes to improve on last year's record where the Gaels recorded 31 wins and won regular season titles in both the MIAA "A" division and the prestigious Baltimore Catholic League. Two starters return; standout junior point guard **Eric Atkins**, 6-2, and senior forward **Gerald Hill** 6-5, and success this season will also depend on the younger members of Mount St. Joe's squad. Atkins will assume a leadership role as he begins his third season as the starting point guard and will be expected to pick up the scoring load for the Gaels. Junior **Ryley Beaumont**, a 6-6 swingman, returns after being injured most of last season and the Gaels will count on his scoring, rebounding, and toughness. Sophomore center **Trey Clinton** is a physical 6-6 post player who provides muscle and rebounding. For more information on Mount Saint Joe see www.msjnet.edu.

Gonzaga College High School (Washington, DC)

Host Coach **Steve Turner** and Eagles went 34-1 last season, winning the DC Classic for the seventh time. The Eagles went on to register four more championships for the season, including the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference (WCAC) Regular season and Tournament Championship games, the Washington, DC City Title Game, and the Alhambra Tournament championship. Last year Gonzaga was ranked No. 1 in the DC Metropolitan Area by the Washington Post and ranked nationally by USA Today (#10), ESPN (#4), and Sports Illustrated (#4). All-Met player **Ian Hummer** 6-6 returns for his senior season and looks forward to Princeton University next year. Standout junior guards include All-WCAC Honorable Mention **Cedrick Lindsay** 6-1 and **Tyler Thornton** 6-2 who has verbally committed to Duke. Senior center **Connor Ford** 6-8 is also expected to contribute on both ends of the court, and is being pursued by several universities for next year. Also watch for junior wing **Malcom Lemmons** 6-3 who had a high scoring summer season. For more information on Gonzaga College High School see www.gonzaga.org.