

Duke Headlines NIT Season Tip-Off Field

Written by Staff Reports

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Arizona (Pac-12), Duke (ACC), Alabama (SEC) and Rutgers (American Athletic) are the top four seeds for the 2013 NIT Season Tip-Off field, as announced by NIT selection committee chair C.M. Newton.

The first and second-round doubleheaders will be played Nov. 18 and 19 on the campuses of the four highest-seeded teams — Arizona, Duke, Alabama and Rutgers. The winners of the preliminary rounds advance to the semifinals at New York City's Madison Square Garden on Nov. 27. The consolation and championship games will be played Nov. 29.

The remaining teams will play third and fourth-round doubleheaders Nov. 25 and 26 on the campuses of the three highest remaining seeds. Participating teams will not play any team twice and the third and fourth-rounds will be assigned to the most geographically compatible site possible. The 29th annual tournament will also feature number five-seed Rhode Island (Atlantic 10), six-seed Elon (Southern), seven-seed East Carolina (Conference USA) and eight-seed Drexel (Colonial). Canisius (Metro Atlantic), Fairleigh Dickinson (Northeast), Georgia State (Sun Belt), McNeese State (Southland), Metro State (RMAC), Norfolk State (MEAC), UNC-Asheville (Big South) and Stillman (SIAC) complete the field.

NIT PRESEASON SCHEDULE

REGION LOCATION VENUE MATCHUPS

West Tucson, Ariz. McKale Center, Arizona vs. Fairleigh Dickinson | Rhode Island vs. Metro State

East Durham, N.C. Cameron Indoor Stadium, Duke vs. UNC-Asheville | East Carolina vs. Norfolk State

South Tuscaloosa, Ala. Coleman Coliseum, Alabama vs. Stillman | Georgia State vs. McNeese State

North Piscataway, N.J. Rutgers Athletic Center, Rutgers vs. Canisius | Elon vs. Drexel

The 2013 NIT Season Tip-Off will be carried by the ESPN networks, televising games on ESPN, ESPN2, ESPNU and ESPN3. All game broadcasts will also be available on WatchESPN.