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NSIC ANNOUNCES MEN'S & WOMEN'S BASKETBALL HOLIDAY HOOPSFEST

Sioux Falls, S.D. - Representatives from the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference and the Sioux Falls Sports Authority announced today that beginning in 2008, the NSIC Holiday HoopsFest will be held in Sioux Falls during the Thanksgiving weekend.

The Holiday HoopsFest will feature the men's and women's teams from 8 NSIC schools playing 16 non-conference games. The games will be played at the Sioux Falls Arena and the Elmen Center, located on the Augustana College campus. Four games will be played at each location each day.

The 2008 Holiday Hoopsfest will be held on Saturday, November 29 and Sunday, November 30, with game times scheduled for 1, 3, 6 and 8 p.m. The event will be held on the corresponding dates after Thanksgiving each year.

To ensure strong attendance at the event, the men's and women's teams from Augustana College and Northern State University will play in the event each year, and will play their games at the Arena. The additional 6 NSIC schools will rotate every other year. Pairings will be set up so that teams will play games against teams they do not play a second time in NSIC play.

The Sioux Falls Sports Authority will work cooperatively with the NSIC office and the Sioux Falls Convention and Visitors Bureau in putting on a first-class event each year. The Sports Authority and the NSIC office will also work closely with the management of the Sioux Falls Arena and the Elmen Center on plans and organization for this event each year.

The Sioux Falls Sports Authority, working cooperatively with the NSIC Office, will enlist corporate sponsorship from the Sioux Falls business community and the surrounding region to assist in supporting this event each year.

As part of the Holiday HoopsFest, a banquet will be held on the Friday after Thanksgiving each year. All participating teams and representatives from the Sioux Falls Sports Authority, Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the NSIC will be in attendance. After that banquet, teams are welcome to attend the "Parade of Lights" pre-Christmas celebration in downtown Sioux Falls or the Sioux Falls Skyforce home opener, if it is scheduled at the Arena that night.

The Holiday HoopsFest is expected to benefit both the NSIC and the city of Sioux Falls. As the NSIC expands to 14 teams in 2008-09, this event will assist in promoting the league as a premier NCAA Division II conference doing great things in the Upper Midwest. In addition, 16 Upper Midwest basketball teams and their fans, all within 7 hours or less driving distance, will converge in Sioux Falls each year. The NSIC Holiday HoopsFest is expected to have an economic impact of \$1,000,000 or more per year for the city each year. This event will also showcase Sioux Falls to people from the Upper Midwest region each year.

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The NSIC is a 10-team, 17-sport, NCAA Division II Conference with teams located in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota.

Bemidji State • Concordia - St. Paul • Univ. of Mary • Minnesota, Crookston • Minnesota State Moorhead • Northern State • SW Minnesota State • Upper Iowa • Wayne State • Winona State





Below are the pairings for the first two years of the NSIC Holiday HoopsFest:

2008 NSIC HOLIDAY HOOPSFEST

Saturday, November 29

at Sioux Falls Arena

- 1 p.m. Northern State Women vs. Minnesota-Duluth Women
- 3 p.m. Northern State Men vs. Minnesota-Duluth Men
- 6 p.m. Augustana College Women vs. Southwest Minnesota State Women
- 8 p.m. Augustana College Men vs. Southwest Minnesota State Men

at Elmen Center

- 1 p.m. Upper Iowa University Women vs. Bemidji State Women
- 3 p.m. Upper Iowa University Men vs. Bemidji State Men
- 6 p.m. Minnesota State-Moorhead Women vs. Wayne State Women
- 8 p.m. Minnesota State-Moorhead Men vs. Wayne State Men

Sunday, November 30

at Sioux Falls Arena

- 1 p.m. Northern State Women vs. Bemidji State Women
- 3 p.m. Northern State Men vs. Bemidji State Men
- 6 p.m. Augustana Women vs. Minnesota State-Moorhead Women
- 8 p.m. Augustana Men vs. Minnesota State-Moorhead Men

at Elmen Center

- 1 p.m. Upper Iowa Women vs. Southwest Minnesota State Women
- 3 p.m. Upper Iowa Men vs. Southwest Minnesota State Men
- 6 p.m. Minnesota-Duluth Women vs. Wayne State Women
- 8 p.m. Minnesota-Duluth Men vs. Wayne State Men

2009 NSIC HOLIDAY HOOPSFEST

Saturday, November 28

at Sioux Falls Arena

- 1 p.m. Northern State Women vs. Minnesota State-Mankato Women
- 3 p.m. Northern State Men vs. Minnesota State-Mankato Men
- 6 p.m. Augustana Women vs. Concordia-St. Paul Women
- 8 p.m. Augustana Men vs. Concordia-St. Paul Men

at Elmen Center

- 1 p.m. Winona State Women vs. Minnesota-Crookston Women
- 3 p.m. Winona State Men vs. Minnesota-Crookston Men
- 6 p.m. St. Cloud State Women vs. University of Mary Women
- 8 p.m. St. Cloud State Men vs. University of Mary Men

Sunday, November 29

at Sioux Falls Arena

- 1 p.m. Northern State Women vs. Minnesota-Crookston Women
- 3 p.m. Northern State Men vs. Minnesota-Crookston Men
- 6 p.m. Augustana Women vs. St. Cloud State Women
- 8 p.m. Augustana Men vs. St. Cloud State Men

at Elmen Center

- 1 p.m. Winona State Women vs. Minnesota State-Mankato Women
- 3 p.m. Winona State Men vs. Minnesota State-Mankato Men
- 6 p.m. University of Mary Women vs. Concordia-St. Paul Women
- 8 p.m. University of Mary Men vs. Concordia-St. Paul Men

