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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**IHSA Boys State Basketball Tournament Set to Play at State Farm Center**

Champaign, IL—Returning with a new format, over 37,000 fans are expected to attend the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Boys State Basketball Tournament at the State Farm Center in Champaign, **March 13–15**. Sixteen teams representing four classes will compete across sixteen games over three action-packed days of basketball.

“We’re thrilled to once again host the best in the state at State Farm Center,” exclaims Jayne DeLuce, President & CEO of Experience Champaign-Urbana. “With contributions from our community sponsors, the University of Illinois Division of Intercollegiate Athletics, and the State Farm Center, we are able to provide these student-athletes, their families, and their fans with memories that will last a lifetime.”

The tournament will kick off on Thursday, March 13, with a new format. The semi-finals for classes 1A–3A will all take place on Thursday, with the 1A semi-finals at 9:30 a.m. and the second game starting 30 minutes after the conclusion of the first game; the 2A semi-finals beginning at 2:00 p.m.; and the 3A semi-finals starting at 6:30 p.m. The class 4A semi-finals will be held Friday night, starting at **6:00 p.m.** The third-place games for 1A–3A will occur on Friday morning, starting at 9:30 a.m., and the 4A third place game will be on Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m. All championship games will be held on Saturday, March 15, starting at 1:00 p.m.

Teams competing include:

**Class 1A:** St. Anthony High School vs. C. Hope Academy; Peoria Christian High School vs. Eastland High School

**Class 2A:** Althoff Catholic High School vs. Christ the King Jesuit College Prep; Dyett High School vs. Manual High School

**Class 3A:** Brother Rice High School vs. St. Patrick High School; DePaul College Prep vs. Glenwood High School

**Class 4A:** Benet Academy vs. Evanston Township High School; Rich Township High School vs. Warren Township High School

The complete schedule is available at <https://legendsplayhere.com/ihsa-boys-basketball/>.

In addition to the Boys State Basketball Tournament, the IHSA-Special Olympics of Illinois (SOILL) Unified Basketball State Tournament and the IHSA Wheelchair Basketball State Championships will be held at the Activities & Recreation Center (ARC) on the University of Illinois campus. The Unified Basketball Tournament will take place on Friday, March 14, beginning at **12:30 p.m.**, and on Saturday, March 15, starting at 8:30 a.m. The Wheelchair Basketball Tournament is scheduled for March 15, kicking off at **10:15 a.m.**, featuring five teams competing. These games are free and open to the public.



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“We’re excited to implement the new schedule with IHSA,” explains Mark Brown, Director of **Event Services & Film** for Experience Champaign-Urbana. “Teams will have at least one overnight stay, increasing the economic impact of the event.”

The Experience Champaign-Urbana team ensures that student athletes, coaches, and fans have a brilliant experience the moment they come into town. From police escorts to the arena, to community hosts that will be their dedicated guide, teams will experience the hospitality of the Champaign-Urbana area before they even take to the courts.

In addition to the nail-biting competition, fans will be treated to several amenities throughout the State Farm Center. For the kids in attendance, they can take part in various activities at the All Star Zone, located in the Traditions Club. Among the planned activities, you’ll find face-painting with Wild Style Design Company, caricatures by Dan Wild, and an interactive basketball experience with Dick’s House of Sport, button-making, life-size games, and photo opportunities.

There is no additional fee for any of the events beyond the cost of admission to the tournament.

“Based on past attendance, we anticipate that the tournament will provide over \$4 million in economic impact to the community,” explains Brown. “From accommodations to dining and shopping to the many services being provided to create a hospitable environment, the tournament will support our local businesses, supporting our frontline hospitality staff, and generating local tax dollars to be re-invested in our communities.”

Tickets are available for purchase for single sessions or a for a season pass for 1A/2A or 3A/4A games at [statefarmcenter.com](http://statefarmcenter.com) or by calling 866-ILLINI-1. Details on the tournament and all surrounding activities can be found at [legendsplayhere.com/ihsa-boys-basketball](http://legendsplayhere.com/ihsa-boys-basketball).

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