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

Champaign, IL—Over 34,000 fans are expected to attend the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Boys State Basketball Tournament at the State Farm Center in Champaign, March 12–14. Sixteen teams representing four classes will compete across sixteen games over three action-packed days of basketball.

“We’re excited to bring sixteen of the top teams in Illinois to compete for the title at the 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 12. The semi-finals for classes 1A & 2A will take place on Thursday, with the 3A & 4A semi-finals on Friday. Games on both days begin at 10:00 a.m., and the second game starts 30 minutes after the conclusion of the first game. Consolation games will be played for 1A & 2A on Thursday evening beginning at 7:00 p.m., and 3A & 4A on Friday evening at 7:00 p.m.. All championship games will be held on Saturday, March 15, starting at 10:00 a.m.

Teams competing include:

Class 1A: Goreville vs. Lawrenceville; Eastland vs. Marshall

Class 2A: Peoria Manual vs. Unity; Quincy Notre Dame vs. Farragut Career Academy

Class 3A: Deerfield vs. Kaneland; Chicago Leo vs. East St. Louis

Class 4A: Marist vs. York; Benet Academy vs. DePaul Prep

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 13, beginning at **1:00 p.m.**, and on Saturday, March 14, starting at 9:00 a.m. The Wheelchair Basketball Tournament is scheduled for March 14, kicking off at **10:15 a.m.**, featuring five teams competing. These games are free and open to the public.

“Based on past attendance, we anticipate that the tournament will provide over \$6 million in economic impact to the community,” explains Brown. “From accommodations to dining and shopping to the many services being provided to create a welcoming atmosphere, the tournament will support our local businesses, supporting our frontline hospitality staff, and generating local tax



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dollars to be re-invested in our communities.”

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.

Tickets are available for purchase for single sessions or a for a season pass for 1A/2A or 3A/4A games at 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.

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