



September 4, 2008  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Contacts: John Paquette, Chuck Sullivan 401-453-0660

**BIG EAST MEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE  
INCLUDES EVERY LEAGUE GAME ON TELEVISION FOR SECOND STRAIGHT YEAR**

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – For the second straight season, the BIG EAST Conference men's basketball schedule includes a record number of national television appearances and all 144 regular-season league games on television.

The league also announced its schedule of non-conference games which will be televised on national networks. At least 27 games will receive national exposure.

A record 44 conference contests will be carried on ESPN or ESPN2. CBS will televise 10 more games involving BIG EAST teams. ESPN will continue to televise The BIG EAST Championship from Madison Square Garden in New York. The dates are March 10-14.

In total, 48 of the 144 regular-season BIG EAST games (or 32 percent) will be on national television. The remaining games will be carried on ESPNU, ESPN360 or ESPN Regional/BIG EAST Network.

"We're tremendously excited about this year's schedule," said BIG EAST Commissioner Michael Tranghese. "For all 144 conference games to be televised again is terrific for BIG EAST basketball fans. We also have some very exciting intersectional matchups. We believe we're going to have plenty of teams that will be worthy of national attention."

The BIG EAST has always been acknowledged as a leader in college sports television. Twelve of the 16 conference schools are located in the top 34 media markets in the country.

ESPN and the BIG EAST again will partner in the network's Big Monday format. The league also will make regular appearances on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

In addition, the BIG EAST and ESPN Regional Television will present the BIG EAST Network Game of the Week on Saturdays, mostly at noon, Eastern time. The syndicated package, the largest in college basketball, reaches more than one-third of the nation's homes.

Some of the highlights of the 2008-09 schedule include:

**Big Monday** – All eight BIG EAST teams that earned berths in the NCAA Tournament last year will make appearances. The first Monday appearance is Georgetown at Connecticut on Dec. 29. Notre Dame plays at Louisville on Jan. 12. The Big Monday series concludes with Villanova at Notre Dame on March 2. No other conference appears on Mondays on ESPN more than the BIG EAST. The Big Monday package also includes Louisville at Georgetown on Feb. 23. That game will be a rematch of last season's regular-season finale that decided the league's regular-season champion. Georgetown took the regular-season league crown. Louisville advanced the farthest in the NCAA tourney, reaching the Elite Eight.

**Wednesdays** -- ESPN or ESPN2 will show 10 games involving BIG EAST teams during the 10-week conference season. The weekly Wednesday schedule includes a BIG EAST staple, Syracuse at Georgetown on Jan. 14.

**Thursdays** -- ESPN or ESPN2 will televise nine games that will include 11 BIG EAST squads. The weekly Thursday night package begins with Connecticut at St. John's on Jan. 15.

**Saturdays** -- Fifteen games will include BIG EAST teams during the conference season on ESPN or ESPN2. Also, the BIG EAST Network Game of the Week package continues, mostly at noon, Eastern time. The Game of the Week package reaches over one-third of the nation and is the largest syndicated college basketball package in the nation.

**CBS Sports** -- The 10-game schedule on CBS Sports, which includes four league contests, will showcase nine BIG EAST teams. The CBS slate starts with Georgetown hosting Memphis on Dec. 13. The first league game on CBS will be Villanova at Syracuse on Feb. 22. The BIG EAST/CBS schedule concludes with Connecticut at Pittsburgh on March 7. The BIG EAST and CBS have been formal television partners since 1985, the longest relationship of any conference and national network.

**ESPN GameDay** -- ESPN will take its signature GameDay production to the BIG EAST twice, the only conference that will have two campus appearances. Notre Dame hosts Connecticut on Jan. 24 and West Virginia hosts Louisville on March 7.

**ESPN Rivalry Week** -- No conference will appear more times than the BIG EAST. A league team will appear every night between Feb. 9 and Feb. 16, which will encompass eight league games. On Feb. 9, West Virginia travels to Pittsburgh. The week concludes with Pittsburgh at Connecticut on Feb. 16.

**Holiday Week** -- The BIG EAST league schedule begins in late December with Georgetown traveling to Connecticut Dec. 29. On New Year's Eve, DePaul hosts Notre Dame. On New Year's Day, it is Villanova at Marquette. Each game will be carried on ESPN or ESPN2.

**Jimmy V Classic** -- The BIG EAST will participate in both games of the doubleheader at the Jimmy V Classic, Dec. 9 at Madison Square Garden. ESPN will show West Virginia vs. Davidson at 7 p.m. followed by Villanova vs. Texas.

**SEC/BIG EAST Invitational** -- The second annual meeting between the two conferences will be carried by ESPN and ESPN2. On Dec. 16 in Nashville, USF plays Vanderbilt at 7 p.m. followed by Marquette versus Tennessee. On Dec. 18 in Cincinnati, Louisville battles Mississippi at 7 p.m. followed by Cincinnati against Mississippi State.

**NBA All-Star Weekend Game** -- Again, the BIG EAST will be featured on the Friday of the NBA All-Star Weekend when Villanova visits West Virginia in a battle of NCAA Sweet 16 teams from last year, on Feb. 13 at 9 p.m.

**Saturday, January 17** -- A prime example of a day loaded with BIG EAST action. Notre Dame at Syracuse on ESPN at noon. Georgetown at Duke on CBS at 1:30 p.m. In the evening, Pittsburgh at Louisville at 6 p.m. on ESPN and Marquette at Providence at 9 p.m. on ESPN2. The BIG EAST Game of the Week selection will be made at a later date.

ESPNU, ESPN.360 and BIG EAST Network local telecast schedules will be announced in the near future.

-BIG EAST-

**2008-09 BIG EAST CONFERENCE COMPOSITE MEN'S BASKETBALL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**

Monday, Dec. 29	Georgetown at Connecticut	7 p.m.	ESPN2
Tuesday, Dec. 30	Seton Hall at Syracuse		
Wednesday, Dec. 31	Notre Dame at DePaul St. John's at Providence Pittsburgh at Rutgers	8 p.m.	ESPN2
Thursday, Jan. 1	Villanova at Marquette	2:30 p.m.	ESPN
Friday, Jan. 2	Syracuse at USF	8:30 p.m.	ESPN
Saturday, Jan. 3	Pittsburgh at Georgetown Rutgers at Connecticut DePaul at Providence Notre Dame at St. John's West Virginia at Seton Hall	7 p.m.	ESPN
Sunday, Jan. 4	Cincinnati at Marquette		
Monday, Jan. 5	Georgetown at Notre Dame	7 p.m.	ESPN
Tuesday, Jan. 6	Villanova at Seton Hall Connecticut at West Virginia		
Wednesday, Jan. 7	Louisville at USF Providence at Cincinnati Marquette at Rutgers DePaul at Syracuse	7 p.m.	ESPN2
Saturday, Jan. 10	Louisville at Villanova Connecticut at Cincinnati USF at DePaul West Virginia at Marquette Seton Hall at Notre Dame Syracuse at Rutgers		ESPN
Sunday, Jan. 11	St. John's at Pittsburgh Providence at Georgetown		
Monday, Jan. 12	Notre Dame at Louisville	7 p.m.	ESPN
Wednesday, Jan. 14	Syracuse at Georgetown Rutgers at Cincinnati USF at Pittsburgh	7 p.m.	ESPN2

Thursday, Jan. 15	Connecticut at St. John's	7 p.m.	ESPN/ESPN2
Saturday, Jan. 17	Notre Dame at Syracuse	Noon	ESPN
	Pittsburgh at Louisville	6 p.m.	ESPN
	Marquette at Providence	9 p.m.	ESPN2
	Cincinnati at DePaul		
	USF at West Virginia		
Sunday, Jan. 18	St. John's at Villanova		
	Seton Hall at Connecticut		
Monday, Jan. 19	Syracuse at Pittsburgh	7 p.m.	ESPN
	Cincinnati at Providence		
Wednesday, Jan. 21	Villanova at Connecticut	7 p.m.	ESPN
	Louisville at Rutgers		
	DePaul at USF		
Thursday, Jan. 22	West Virginia at Georgetown	7 p.m.	ESPN/ESPN2
	Cincinnati at St. John's		
	Providence at Seton Hall		
Saturday, Jan. 24	Villanova at USF	2 p.m.	ESPN2
	DePaul at Marquette	7 p.m.	ESPN
	Connecticut at Notre Dame		
	Rutgers at St. John's		
Sunday, Jan. 25	Georgetown at Seton Hall		
	Louisville at Syracuse		
	Pittsburgh at West Virginia		
Monday, Jan. 26	Marquette at Notre Dame	7 p.m.	ESPN
Wednesday, Jan. 28	Pittsburgh at Villanova		
	Georgetown at Cincinnati		
	Connecticut at DePaul		
	USF at Louisville		
	Syracuse at Providence		
	St. John's at West Virginia		
Thursday, Jan. 29	Rutgers at Seton Hall	9 p.m.	ESPN/ESPN2
Saturday, Jan. 31	Notre Dame at Pittsburgh	Noon	ESPN
	Providence at Connecticut		
	West Virginia at Louisville		
	Georgetown at Marquette		
	DePaul at Rutgers		
Sunday, Feb. 1	USF at St. John's		

Cincinnati at Villanova		
Monday, Feb. 2	Connecticut at Louisville	7 p.m. ESPN
Tuesday, Feb. 3	Marquette at DePaul Rutgers at Georgetown	
Wednesday, Feb. 4	West Virginia at Syracuse Notre Dame at Cincinnati Villanova at Providence	7 p.m. ESPN
Thursday, Feb. 5	St. John's at Seton Hall	9 p.m. ESPN/ESPN2
Friday, Feb. 6	Marquette at USF	
Saturday, Feb. 7	Cincinnati at Georgetown Syracuse at Villanova Pittsburgh at DePaul Providence at West Virginia	Noon ESPN
Sunday, Feb. 8	Seton Hall at Rutgers Louisville at St. John's	
Monday, Feb. 9	West Virginia at Pittsburgh	7 p.m. ESPN
Tuesday, Feb. 10	Marquette at Villanova Seton Hall at DePaul Providence at USF	7:30 p.m. ESPN2
Wednesday, Feb. 11	Syracuse at Connecticut St. John's at Cincinnati	7 p.m. ESPN
Thursday, Feb. 12	Louisville at Notre Dame	7 p.m. ESPN/ESPN2
Friday, Feb. 13	Villanova at West Virginia	9 p.m. ESPN
Saturday, Feb. 14	Georgetown at Syracuse Cincinnati at Pittsburgh St. John's at Marquette Rutgers at Providence Connecticut at Seton Hall	Noon ESPN 4 p.m. ESPN
Sunday, Feb. 15	DePaul at Louisville USF at Notre Dame	
Monday, Feb. 16	Pittsburgh at Connecticut	7 p.m. ESPN

Tuesday, Feb. 17		
Seton Hall at Marquette		
Wednesday, Feb. 18		
Notre Dame at West Virginia	7:30 p.m.	ESPN2
Providence at Louisville		
Georgetown at USF		
Thursday, Feb. 19		
Rutgers at Villanova	9 p.m.	ESPN/ESPN2
Saturday, Feb. 21		
Marquette at Georgetown		
Louisville at Cincinnati		
USF at Connecticut		
DePaul at Pittsburgh		
Notre Dame at Providence		
Sunday, Feb. 22		
Villanova at Syracuse	1 p.m.	CBS
West Virginia at Rutgers		
Seton Hall at St. John's		
Monday, Feb. 23		
Louisville at Georgetown	7 p.m.	ESPN
Tuesday, Feb. 24		
Pittsburgh at Providence		
Syracuse at St. John's		
Wednesday, Feb. 25		
Connecticut at Marquette	7 p.m.	ESPN
Villanova at DePaul		
Rutgers at Notre Dame		
USF at Seton Hall		
Thursday, Feb. 26		
West Virginia at Cincinnati	7 p.m.	ESPN/ESPN2
Saturday, Feb. 28		
Georgetown at Villanova	Noon	ESPN
Notre Dame at Connecticut	2 p.m.	CBS
St. John's at DePaul		
Pittsburgh at Seton Hall		
Sunday, March 1		
Marquette at Louisville	Noon	CBS
Providence at Rutgers		
West Virginia at USF		
Cincinnati at Syracuse		
Monday, March 2		
Villanova at Notre Dame	7 p.m.	ESPN
Tuesday, March 3		
Georgetown at St. John's		
Rutgers at Syracuse		
Wednesday, March 4		
Marquette at Pittsburgh	7:30 p.m.	ESPN2
Seton Hall at Louisville		
Cincinnati at USF		

DePaul at West Virginia

Thursday, March 5

Providence at Villanova

7 p.m.

ESPN/ESPN2

Friday, March 6

St. John's at Notre Dame

Saturday, March 7

Connecticut at Pittsburgh

Noon

CBS

Louisville at West Virginia

ESPN

9 p.m.

Seton Hall at Cincinnati

DePaul at Georgetown

Syracuse at Marquette

USF at Rutgers

**Note:** All conference games not listed with CBS, ESPN or ESPN2 above will be televised either by ESPNU, ESPN Regional/BIG EAST Network, or ESPN 360. Games listed as 'ESPN/ESPN2' will be selected to either ESPN or ESPN2, but the start time will not change.

**2008-09 BIG EAST CONFERENCE MEN'S BASKETBALL NONCONFERENCE GAMES ON CBS, ESPN, ESPN2 AND FSN**

Monday, Nov. 24	Notre Dame vs. Indiana	5:30 p.m.	ESPN2	Maui Invitational
Thursday, Nov. 27	Georgetown vs. Wichita State	2 p.m.	ESPN2	Old Spice Classic
	Providence vs. Baylor	11:30 p.m.	ESPN2	Anaheim Classic
Tuesday, Dec. 9	West Virginia vs. Davidson	7 p.m.	ESPN	Jimmy V Classic
	Villanova vs. Texas	9 p.m.	ESPN	Jimmy V Classic
Thursday, Dec. 11	St. Joseph's at Villanova	TBA	ESPN2	
Saturday, Dec. 13	Memphis at Georgetown	2 p.m.	CBS	
	Xavier at Cincinnati	8 p.m.	ESPN2	
Tuesday, Dec. 16	USF vs. Vanderbilt	7 p.m.	ESPN2	SEC/BIG EAST Invitational
	Marquette vs. Tennessee	9:30 p.m.	ESPN	SEC/BIG EAST Invitational
Wednesday, Dec. 17	Siena at Pittsburgh	9:30 p.m.	ESPN/ESPN2	
Thursday, Dec. 18	Cincinnati vs. Mississippi State	6:30 p.m.	ESPN2	SEC/BIG EAST Invitational
	Louisville vs. Mississippi	9 p.m.	ESPN	SEC/BIG EAST Invitational
Saturday, Dec. 20	Louisville vs. Minnesota	2 p.m.	FSN	
	Connecticut at Gonzaga	4 p.m.	CBS	
	Syracuse at Memphis	6 p.m.	ESPN	
Sunday, Dec. 21	Pittsburgh at Florida State	5:30 p.m.	FSN	
Saturday, Dec. 27	Alabama-Birmingham at Louisville	4 p.m.	ESPN2	
	West Virginia at Ohio State	4 p.m.	CBS	
Sunday, Dec. 28	Rutgers at North Carolina	7:45 p.m.	FSN	
Monday, Dec. 29	Cincinnati at Memphis	9 p.m.	ESPN2	
Wednesday, Dec. 31	UNLV at Louisville	6 p.m.	ESPN2	
Sunday, Jan. 4	Kentucky at Louisville	4:30 p.m.	CBS	
Saturday, Jan. 17	Georgetown at Duke	1:30 p.m.	CBS	
Saturday, Feb. 7	Notre Dame at UCLA	1 p.m.	CBS	
	Michigan at Connecticut	6 p.m.	ESPN	

Thursday, Feb. 19  
Duke at St. John's

7 p.m.

ESPN/ESPN2

All times Eastern