



News Release

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NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S BASKETBALL COMMITTEE SELECTS 2012-16 MEN'S FINAL FOUR SITES

INDIANAPOLIS---A process that Division I Men's Basketball Committee Chair and Southeastern Conference Commissioner Mike Slive indicated was as grueling and competitive as selecting teams for the men's basketball championship concluded Wednesday with the announcement of the following host cities for the 2012-16 Men's Final Fours:

Date	City, State	Facility
March 31/April 2, 2012	New Orleans, LA	Louisiana Superdome
April 6/8, 2013	Atlanta, GA	Georgia Dome
April 5/7, 2014	North Texas (Arlington/ Dallas/ Fort Worth)	Cowboys Stadium
April 4/6, 2015	Indianapolis, IN	Lucas Oil Stadium
April 2/4, 2016	Houston, TX	Reliant Stadium

The announcement brings the year-long selection process to a conclusion, returning the Final Four to two sites (New Orleans, Atlanta) after several years, one new site (North Texas) and two cities (Indianapolis, Houston) already slated to host in the next three years. The committee received bid proposals from 10 cities – Atlanta, Detroit, Houston, Indianapolis, Minneapolis, New Orleans, North Texas, Phoenix/Glendale, San Antonio and St. Louis, all of which were named finalists. Reflective of the high quality of the presentations received, the committee also decided that the five cities not

awarded a bid are guaranteed an opportunity to host preliminary rounds of the championship during this cycle.

New Orleans previously hosted the event in the Louisiana Superdome in 1982, '87, '93 and 2003, each time producing memorable Final Four moments that include heroic performances by freshmen Michael Jordan and Carmelo Anthony, as well as Keith Smart's game-winning jumper and legendary coach Dean Smith's last national championship. The Superdome will host its fifth Final Four in 2012.

"Our teams and fans have always had a special experience in New Orleans," said Slive. "The city's overall recovery efforts as well as the extensive renovations to the Superdome following Hurricane Katrina make it sensible for us to return the Final Four to New Orleans once again. We believe this award serves as another important step in the recovery process."

Atlanta, a third city with plenty of recent experience in hosting the Final Four, was selected to host in 2013, which will be the 75th anniversary of the event. The Final Four was first held in Atlanta in 1977. The city also hosted the Final Four in 2002 and '07 at the Georgia Dome.

"The Georgia Dome did a great job with the Final Four twice this decade, and the people in Atlanta have answered the call each time they have put on major events, including the Super Bowl and Olympics," Slive said. "They are well-equipped to serve as host for the 75th anniversary. It will be the culmination of a season-long celebration of the wonderful history of the Final Four."

The 2014 Final Four will take place in North Texas, with Cowboys Stadium serving as the competition venue. It will be the second Final Four for the area. Dallas' Reunion Arena was where another freshman shined on the national stage, with Pervis Ellison winning Most Outstanding Player honors in 1986.

"When finished, the new stadium in Arlington will create a flexible "canvas" for the Final Four. We think the venue offers exciting opportunities and a unique experience for everyone involved," said Slive.

Indianapolis will host the Men's Final Four for what will be the seventh time in the city's history. Market Square Arena was the site of the 1980 Final Four, while the RCA Dome hosted in 1991, '97, 2000 and '06. Recently-constructed Lucas Oil Stadium, previously picked to host the 2010 Men's Final Four, will also be the site for the 2015 event. The stadium is also slated to host the 2009 Men's Regional and 2011 and '16 Women's Final Fours.

"Indianapolis will be a fixture for hosting future Final Fours and those behind the bid took nothing for granted," Slive said.

Houston was selected to host the 2016 Men's Final Four at Reliant Stadium. The city was previously selected to host the 2011 Final Four, and also hosted the 1971 event at the Astrodome.

"Reliant Stadium is an outstanding complex with a management group which, when combined with its transportation plan and the overall vision of the Final Four, distinguished itself in the minds of the committee. We saw an example of what Houston has to offer during the 2008 South Regional and have every reason to think that their future events will be special," said Slive.

NCAA President Dr. Myles Brand commended the committee for its selection of sites that will host the Association's premier event.

"These individuals are leading administrators in the profession and in addition to handling their day-to-day responsibilities, they were charged with making important decisions about the future of the Final Four," Brand said. "When President-elect Barack Obama was asked which sporting event he would attend if he could choose just one, he said the Final Four. That speaks volumes about the growing popularity of this championship. That's further illustrated in the quality of bids received and the number of new facilities that will host fans who will visit these cities. One million fans will attend the Final Four sessions in this bid cycle, including thousands of students from campuses who will be courtside for only a few dollars per game. Now and for the foreseeable future, we'll have at least 70,000 fans in the venue and tens of thousands more visitors in the host cities to experience the atmosphere and events that accompany the three basketball games. It is a wonderful spectacle that continues to grow into one of the world's premier sporting events."

NCAA Executive Vice President Tom Jernstedt, who has presided over every men’s basketball tournament since 1973, compared choosing the Final Four sites to the other selection process for which the committee is more commonly known.

“In many ways, the site selection process is very similar to selecting at-large teams for the championship,” Jernstedt said. “The basketball committee is armed with the best information available, be it about a team’s résumé in March, or a prospective city’s bid for serving as host for the Final Four. And just as there are always more quality teams than there are at-large bids available for championship selection, there were more quality hosts than there were bids to award for this process. Ultimately though, committee members reached a consensus on which five cities to choose and we believe they did a tremendous job.

“This was the most extensive deliberation in the history of the championship. The seriousness with which the committee approached its work was evident throughout the process, making sure that each proposal was thoroughly considered.”

Date, Year	City, State	Facility	Host(s)	City’s Men’s Final Four Hosting History
March 31/ April 2, 2012	New Orleans, LA	Louisiana Superdome	Tulane University	1982, 1987, 1993, 2003
April 6/8, 2013	Atlanta, GA	Georgia Dome	Georgia Institute of Technology	1977, 2002, 2007
April 5/7, 2014	North Texas (Arlington/ Dallas/ Fort Worth)	Cowboys Stadium	Big 12 Conference	1986
April 4/6, 2015	Indianapolis, IN	Lucas Oil Stadium	Butler University, Horizon League, IUPUI	1980, 1991, 1997, 2000, 2006, 2010
April 2/4, 2016	Houston, TX	Reliant Stadium	University of Houston, Rice University	1971, 2011