

# TEAM OVERVIEW FOR THE 2009 MEN'S U. S. VIRGIN ISLANDS PARADISE JAM

## Men's Field Announced for 2009 Paradise Jam Basketball Tournament

**Seattle, Washington** – The U.S. Virgin Islands Paradise Jam tournament directors released the 2009 men's basketball tournament field and bracket today. The eight NCAA division I men's basketball teams participating in the 10th annual event include Boston College, DePaul, East Carolina, Northern Iowa, Purdue, Saint Joseph's, South Dakota State, and Tennessee. The tournament is held annually in November at the University of the Virgin Islands in St. Thomas, USVI.

Four of this year's tournament entrants, Purdue, Tennessee, Boston College and Northern Iowa, earned berths to the NCAA tournament in March. Purdue advanced to the Sweet Sixteen before falling to Connecticut, which won the 2008 Paradise Jam championship and advanced to the NCAA tournament's Final Four. Tennessee, Boston College and Northern Iowa all lost in the first round. Additionally, former Paradise Jam tournament champion Boston College will be returning to islands to defend their 2003 tournament title. Although these four NCAA tournament-hardened squads bring high expectations to the islands this November, they will be hard-pressed by the other four teams also seeking early season success, making the Paradise Jam one of the most competitive, neutral-court, early-season tournaments in America.

The 2009 Paradise Jam will tip off November 20 with Northern Iowa playing DePaul at 2:00 pm, followed by Tennessee vs East Carolina at 4:30 pm, Boston College vs. Saint Joseph's at 7:00 PM and South Dakota State battling Purdue at 9:30 PM. All game times are Atlantic Standard Time (one hour ahead of Eastern Standard Time). Two games will be played daily on November 21 (losing teams from Nov. 20th) and November 22 (winning teams from Nov. 20th) at 7:00pm and 9:30pm. The final day of competition on November 23 will be structured similar to the first day, with game times set for 2:00 pm (7th & 8th place), 4:30 pm (4th & 6th place), and 7:00 pm (3rd & 5th place) with the championship game at 9:30 pm. All games will be played at the state-of-the-art University of the Virgin Islands Sports and Fitness Center in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas.

In 2008 Paradise Jam action, Connecticut defeated Wisconsin for the Paradise Jam championship. Miami (FL) beat San Diego to take third place, Southern Mississippi edged out Iona in the final seconds to capture fourth place, and La Salle edged Valparaiso for 7th place. At least four of the games will be broadcast nationally by Fox Sports.