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Men's Field Announced for 2011 Paradise Jam Basketball Tournament

Seattle, Washington – The U.S. Virgin Islands Paradise Jam tournament directors released the 2011 men's basketball tournament field and bracket today. The eight NCAA division I men's basketball teams participating in the 12th annual event include Marquette, Mississippi, Virginia, Drexel, Drake, TCU, Winthrop and Norfolk State. The tournament is held annually in November at the University of the Virgin Islands in St. Thomas, USVI.

Two of this year's tournament entrants, Marquette and Mississippi, earned berths to post season tournaments in March. Marquette, the only tournament participant to reach the NCAA tournament, advanced to the Sweet Sixteen before falling to North Carolina. Mississippi was invited to participate in the NIT. The Rebels fell to California in the first round. Although these two post-season tournament-hardened squads bring high expectations to the islands this November, they will be hard-pressed by the other six teams also seeking early season success, making the Paradise Jam one of the most competitive, neutral-court, early-season tournaments in America.

The 2011 field also includes a two schools returning to the island for the Paradise Jam. Winthrop is the first two time alumnae of the Paradise Jam, placing 3rd in 2004 and as runner-up in 2007. Norfolk State finished 6th in the 2005 Paradise Jam.

For the first time in 2011, the Paradise Jam will kick off with two opening round games on the mainland. In the first game Marquette will host Norfolk State on November 14, 2011 (time TBD). The next night Winthrop will travel to Virginia to take on the Cavaliers in a 7:00 PM EDT matchup.

Action in the US Virgin Islands will tip off November 18 with Norfolk State playing Drexel at 2:00 pm, followed by Drake vs Mississippi at 4:30 pm, TCU vs. Virginia at 7:00 PM and Winthrop battling Marquette at 9:30 PM. Games in the US Virgin Islands use Atlantic Standard Time (one hour ahead of Eastern Standard Time). Two games will be played daily on November 19 (losing teams from Nov. 18th) and two more on November 20th (winning teams from Nov. 18th). The games on November 19th will be at 4:30 PM and 7:00 PM, followed at 9:30 PM by a local game pitting the University of the Virgin Islands against a university team from Puerto Rico. The winner's bracket games on November 20th will be played at 7:00 PM and 9:30 PM. The final day of competition on November 21 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. Games in the USVI will be played at the state-of-the-art University of the Virgin Islands Sports and Fitness Center in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas.

In 2010 Paradise Jam action, Old Dominion defeated Xavier for the Paradise Jam championship. Clemson beat Seton Hall to take third place, Long Beach State overcame Iowa in the final minutes to capture fourth place, and St. Peter's edged Alabama for 7th place.