



HINSDALE CENTRAL HOLIDAY CLASSIC

HC SQUARED: It's The Best Game In Town

Vol. 7 Dates: December 23, 26, 27, 28, 2019 – www.hcholidayclassic.com

FIRST ROUND PAIRINGS ANNOUNCED

Opening round matchups for the 5th Annual Hinsdale Central Holiday Classic are set for the first day of the tournament on **Monday, December 23**.

Two HCHC charter members making their first ever appearance in the opening game will square off in Game One as Homewood-Flossmoor and Maine South will meet for the first time against each other at 9:30 am.

Offensive powerhouse Saint Charles East will face first-time HCHC entrant Lincoln-Way Central in the first day's second game at 11:00 am.

Game three sees Oswego East locking up with Rockford Auburn at 12:30 pm. Rockford's Josh Ausler is one of the state's top juniors.

The upper bracket concludes with number-one seed Stevenson meeting Glenbrook North in the 2:00 pm contest. The two teams have never met in HCHC competition.

Game five will pit Saint Rita and Willowbrook in the tournament's 3:45 pm first round game.

Defending HCHC champion Marian Catholic, and reigning Classic Most Valuable Player Ahron Ulis, plays tournament newcomer TF South in the 5:15 pm game on December 23.

Host Hinsdale Central faces Westinghouse in game seven of the first day at 7:00 pm.

The opening round concludes with DePaul Prep and Richards at 8:30 pm. These two teams have met only once in HCHC tournament play – in the Classic's first ever game in 2015.

After taking two days off for the holidays, the tournament continues with quarterfinal action on Thursday, December 26; semifinal rounds on Friday, December 27 and the final round on Saturday, December 28.

SIX HC CLASSIC PLAYERS SIGN WITH COLLEGES



Six players scheduled to participate in this year's Hinsdale Central Holiday Classic have signed National Letters of Intent to play collegiate basketball on the national signing date. 2018 HCHC Tournament MVP **Ahron Ulis** will play next year at the University of Iowa. Stevenson's **Matt Ambrose** will continue his career at Indianapolis University. Hinsdale Central's **Ryan Isaacson** signed with Merrimack College. Marian Catholic's **Elijah Jones** will play next year at Western Illinois. Saint Rita's four-year starter **Alec Millender** is inked to play at Wayne State and Homewood-Flossmoor's **RJ Ogom** will play next year at the College of Charleston. Profiles on many of the top players in this year's Hinsdale Central Holiday Classic can be found on the tournament website at:

<http://hcholidayclassic.com/2019-players.htm>

VISIT THE HC CLASSIC PHOTO GALLERY



Did you know that there are over a thousand pictures from the past four years of Hinsdale Central Holiday Classic competition only a click away? Visit our Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/hcholidayclassic/photos_all or go to our Tournament Multimedia Center at www.hcholidayclassic.com/multimedia.htm to see the photo galleries.

GET YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING DONE EARLY

You will want to make sure you have all of your holiday shopping completed by the weekend of December 21-22,



because this year's Opening Round of the Hinsdale Central Holiday Classic will tip-off on **Monday, December 23** – marking the first time in tournament history that part of the event will take place before the Christmas holiday. The HC Classic will resume with second round action on Thursday, December 26 and continues through the semifinal round on Friday, December 27; with the final round scheduled for Saturday, December 28. HC Squared: It's The Best Game In Town.

12 CHICAGOLAND TEAMS IN PRE-SEASON RANKINGS

This year's HC Classic field is the deepest in the history of the event. A record 12 teams of the Hinsdale Central Holiday Classic field's 15 Chicagoland area teams were ranked among the area's Top 76 teams in Joe Henricksen's City-Suburban pre-season listing. The Chicago Sun-Times prep guru Michael O'Brien rated five teams playing at this year's HCHC in his Top 25 pre-season rankings. The Chicago NBC Sports Top 25 also had four teams in their pre-season Top 20. A complete listing of those pre-season rankings can be found at: <http://www.hcholidayclassic.com/rankings.htm>

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