

*For immediate release*

April 9, 2008

*Class B athletes converge on N.I.T. this weekend*

NEGAUNEE—N.I.T. basketball action heats up this weekend with competition in Class B, featuring many former college and high school stars. Fans can get their post-March Madness basketball fix beginning at 2:00 p.m. on Friday at the Lakeview Memorial Gymnasium with great talent and the U.P. Insurance/AAA Class B Three-Point Shootout at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday.

“We’ve got a great Class B field again this year,” tournament director John Basolo said. “There will be some excellent match-ups in this double-elimination class.”

The first game begins at 2:00 p.m., and features I-Build/St. Onge Insurance of Ishpeming and Toby’s of Carney. I-Build features Ishpeming High School grads Kyle Rundman, Jason Lawson and Jason Charbonneau, as well as Westwood High School grads Boone Bell and Ryan Reichel join Jake Suardini (NMU/Gwinn) and Tim Strom (Michigan Tech/MSHS). Former NMU players Mike Polfus and Daren Jones will lead Toby’s, as well as Brock Bower from Lake State (2007 Class B All-Tournament Team) and Adam Lemerand of UWGB.

The 3:15 p.m. match-up has McNeil’s Oilers of Crystal Falls meeting Nelson Painting of Manistique. Former Gogebic players Darrin Kudwa and Terry Klemett will lead McNeil’s, as well as Mike Hammil (LSSU), Mark Dellangelo (NMU) and Tucker Thoreson (Finlandia). Former Manistique players Dave Kaiser, Steve Kaiser, Dave Winkel, Dan Giles and Greg Nelson are on Nelson Painting’s roster.

Milwaukee Stormers will take on J&M Builders of Escanaba at 4:30 p.m. The Stormers will be lead by 2007 All-Tournament Team selection Andrew Tobias, Angelo Griffin

(Whitewater), Charles Grafton (Lakeland) and former MATC players Nathan Fraction and Jason Bailey (6'9"). Shane Wallin, Casey Goodman, Carl Dolhopf (Northland), Eric Spindler (Olivet), Dave Florinski (Alma) and Andrew Harvey (Michigan State) are on the roster for J&M Builders.

Four-time reigning champion 41 Steakhouse of Ishpeming will face Esky Globetrotters at 5:45 p.m. The team will be lead by 2007 Class B MVP Dan Waterman (MTU), former NMU players Billy Hill, Matt Wonders (2006 Class B MVP) and Dan Olkkonen, Heath Eliason, Mike O'Donnell (Finlandia), Steve MacDonald (2007 Class B All-Tournament Team) and Jake Polfus (Finlandia). For the Globetrotters, Bark River's Steve Cocorikis and Eddy Thoune are on the roster, as well as Brian Haack, and former Escanaba players Jeff Possi and Chris Carter.

At 7:00 p.m., U.P. Insurance of Negaunee meets McDaddy's Pub of Menominee. U.P. Insurance will be lead by Negaunee seniors Travis Swanson, Nick Benaglio and Anthony Katona, Escanaba seniors Garrick Fisher and Tom Erickson, Menominee seniors Thomas Janson and Dave Mellon and Houghton seniors Taylor Brule and Chad Larson. Steve Schahzenski (Minn-Duluth) and former Menominee players Paul Gregoire, Drew Buyarski, Nick Nerat and Derek Butler will lead McDaddy's Pub.

The 2007 runner-up Appleton Hawks take on Team Gogebic of Ironwood at 8:15 p.m. The Hawks will be lead by 2007 All-Tournament team selections Chandler Collins and Jeff Becker, Mike Lusardi (Ishpeming/Alma), DeVante Blanks (UWGB) and Justin Matsick (Rochester). Team Gogebic will look to Nik Patrick (Ironwood/Gogebic), Mike Pawlak (Ironwood/Gogebic), Mike Swartz (Hurley), J.J. Aspinwall (Bessemer), Tyler Lloyd (L'Anse/Finlandia) and T.J. Sanders (Milwaukee-Vincent). Pawlak was U.P. ABC Player of the Year, and Patrick, Swartz and Aspinwall were All-Conference in high school.

The 9:30 p.m. game will see the The Abbey of DePere match-up against Prentice Pine Devils. Former St. Norbert players Jordan Micklow (Negaunee), Austin Washington, John Suberlack, Seth Mulholland and Dustin Katona (Negaunee) are on the roster for The Abbey. Prentice Pine Devils will look to 2004 All-Tourney team selection Nikki Heikkinen and 2006 All-Tourney team selection Cameron Heikkinen to lead their team.

In the final match-up of the evening, Clancey Electric of Ishpeming faces the Iron Inn of Negaunee. Finlandia players Kyle Miron (Ishpeming), Ryan Artley (Baraga), Victor Harrington (Chassel) and Josh Harju (Westwood) are on Clancey's roster. Negaunee's Ryan Ward and Luke Cody, Ishpeming nKyle Schinella and Hoghton's Cole Berryman are on the Iron Inn team.

Admission is \$3 a day and a concession stand is available. For details, visit [www.negauneeinvitational.com](http://www.negauneeinvitational.com)

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*Call John at (906)458-6419 for details.*