

NEWS RELEASE

Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau



Rockford Region to Welcome Big Ten Universities Rugby Championship for the 1st Year

Tournament is expected to generate an estimated \$58,500

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 12, 2014

ROCKFORD, IL — The Rockford Region will host the 2014 BTU Rugby Big Ten Universities Conference Championship at Sportscore Two, in Loves Park, IL. The championship will take place on Saturday, November 15 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

There are 9 teams represented from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Michigan State, Minnesota, Purdue, Ohio State and Wisconsin. This is the third year for the BTU Rugby Conference overall and the first year a B team championship has participated. The public is encouraged to attend; general admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Games will be streamed on coachesaid.com, a pay per view site. This tournament is expected to draw more than 1,000 players, coaches and fans to the Rockford Region. An estimated 325 hotel room nights will be booked and visitors will spend an estimated \$58,500.

"We're very excited to have our championship event in Rockford this year. It's a centrally located city for all of our teams to travel to, the Rockford Park District has great facilities for our teams to play on, and they've got a nice downtown area that our fans and alumni can take advantage of," said Tom Rooney, Director of OSU Rugby. "It's exactly what we were looking for and the Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, Rockford Park District and the local Rockford Ravens Men's Rugby Club have been a pleasure to work with and we couldn't ask for more."

Schedule of Games

Field 1 (all games streamed on coachesaid.com)

10:00 a.m. – Minnesota vs. Michigan State (5th place)
11:30 a.m. – Ohio State B vs. Indiana B (B Championship)
1:00 p.m. – Michigan State vs. Iowa (3rd place)
3:00 p.m. – Ohio State vs. Wisconsin (BTU Championship)

Field 2

11:00 a.m. – Michigan B vs. Wisconsin B (B 3rd place)
1:00 p.m. – Purdue vs. Illinois (7th place)

"Our sales team continues to establish long-term partnerships with key connections in the sports tournament industry," states John Groh, RACVB president/CEO. "Bringing the Big Ten Universities Rugby Championship to the Rockford Region for the first time is a direct result of their hard work and collaborative efforts with other local organizations. We look forward to growing this partnership with the Big Ten Universities and its affiliates."

For additional information regarding the BTU Rugby Conference visit bturugby.com. The BTU Rugby Conference is not affiliated with, endorsed by or sponsored by the official Big Ten Conference.

The Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau drives quality of life and economic growth for our citizens through tourism marketing and destination development. gorockford.com

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