

NEWS RELEASE

Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau



Puma Cup Kicks Off Spring and Summer Tournament Seasons *Largest tournament brings in \$1.45 million in spending to the area*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 9, 2015

ROCKFORD, IL — The Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau (RACVB) welcomes the Rockford Raptors Soccer Club's Puma Cup to the Rockford Region for a 13th consecutive year. The Puma College Showcase and Tournament will take place Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 10-12. The Puma Champions Cup will take place Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 17-19. Both tournaments will be played at Sportscore One and Sportscore Two.

The Puma Cup includes over 600 teams traveling from across the Midwest including international visitors from Canada. This is the largest soccer tournament held in the Rockford Region with an estimated 27,000 attendees expected to have an economic impact of \$1.45 million.

The Puma College Showcase and Tournament includes 246 teams of U12-U19 year old athletes in men's and women's divisions. The high level of competition attracts approximately 50 college coaches to scout and recruit players. The Puma Champions Cup is a competition for 370 teams of mid to lower level boys' and girls' teams in the U8-U19 age range.

"It's a privilege to host the Puma Cup tournament in the Rockford Region. The success of this tournament is evident by the growing number of teams that continue to participate year after year," states RACVB President/CEO John Groh. "Our region's commitment to invest in premiere facilities and fields allows us to retain our place as the amateur sports capital of the Midwest. With the help of all of our community partners the future of sports tourism in our region is bright."

A complete schedule, including start times for specific games, can be found at rockfordraptors.org. Admission is free for spectators.

"The Rockford Raptors are extremely proud to host our 13th annual Puma Cup College Showcase and Champions Cup tournament. The opportunity to participate against some of the best teams from the Midwest - and even Canada - on our home turf is something these players will remember for the rest of their lives," said Puma Champions Cup tournament director Frank Mateus. "I want to thank our families and friends for all the work and time they put into making this a special event. This will be our biggest tournament gain yet for all of us and the Rockford Region. We are grateful for the support from the Rockford Area Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Rockford Park District."

RACVB exists to drive quality of life and economic growth for the citizens of Rockford and Winnebago County through tourism marketing and destination development. gorockford.com

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